

Western Sydney Historical Truck Club



March 2016

Club Christmas Party at Campbelltown Steam Museum - November 2015

Just for a change it was decided to hold the club's Christmas Party in the evening at the Campbelltown Steam Museum. The weather was cool and cloudy so no one suffered sunburn or got rained on. In fact it was a perfect day for a party. The venue was quite intriguing! I hadn't visited the museum for quite some time. So while the finishing touches for the evening's festivities were being finalised there was time for me to have a walk around the grounds. I had heard that Paul Dove was in his "Pantech" shed sorting out some of his stuff while looking for lubricators for his Sentinel Steam Wagon. On my search for Paul I came across some old relicts, steam traction engines, tractors, and a car chassis with engine etc. that had been abandoned where they had been parked without any possibility of them being restored. It was sad to see them just rusting away to nothing but they looked like they were at peace... I did find Paul and chatted with him for about 15 to 20 minutes by which time the sun had decided to descend slowly behind the hills.

Back at the station where all the action was at full steam ahead, I paid my dues and waited patiently for the door to the kitchen servery to open. The kitchen which was a converted "red rattler" train carriage set up canteen style. Diners lined up from one end of the carriage, and moved through the carriage to the other end as the plate was loaded with food. This was all ably done by members of the Air League.

The 'dining room' was an undercover 'carport style' annex between the carriage and an adjoining shed. There were two rows of five tables, each with 8 settings including all the Christmas trimmings, bonbons etc. - a real festive scene.



The party was a combination of members from WSHTC and the Campbelltown Steam Machinery Club. And like most parties there was a lot of chit-chat, tall stories and true lies etc wrapped up into one big noise. Everyone enjoyed themselves !!

Between main course and dessert there were a few formalities...The drawing of the “lucky door” prize and awarding of the “Presidents Choice Awards”. Gerry Phillips won the second lucky door - a previously loved toy truck!

President’s Choice Awards were given to Emily Dove - “Cooking Award”, Bob Miller - “Breakdown Award”, Bruce Brown - “Rice Burner Award”, Trevor “SuperTrucker” Ellwood - “Noise Award”, and Mike Dodds - “Editors Award”. But those in the know and behind the awards scene deemed it necessary to give an award to Andy Nash, because he always had a phone attached to each ear...”Mr Havachat Award”.

Everyone enjoyed good food, camaraderie and a lot of fun. The evening was a great success!!



Vineyard Hotel Truck Show - 29 November

This year’s show was a disappointment. It was not as well supported as in previous years. The number of trucks on display was considerably down even though the parking area



around the back that had been used for the vintage trucks previously, was barricaded. It was suggested that the overcast weather might have had a part in reduced participation.

Tuesday 5 January 2016 - 10pm

Sadly Bob Taylor passed away peacefully at home in Grenfell, NSW surrounded by family on Tuesday 5 January 2016. Several club members paid their respects at Bob's funeral. Bob was a member of the WSHTC for several years and later with the help of Brad Dwyer, he set up the Western Districts Truck Club



First Breaky for 2016 at Warragamba

What better way to kick off the 2016 Western Sydney Historical Truck Club calendar of events than to enjoy breakfast at the Warragamba picnic centre. The day was perfect with a bright sunny cloudless sky and the fantastic support of members and their families. The breakfast preparation took a little longer to process this day because there were over 100 hungry mouths to feed and water, and numerous vintage vehicles to find parking for. There was the usual catching up after the Christmas break and the telling of stories and stretching of "true lies".



There were a few interesting vehicles in the parking area that we have seen before and certainly made heads turn. Firstly Bruce Gunter had brought his recently acquired 1956 Cadillac Coupe de Ville –a very large and stunning car. Alongside the Caddie there



was a very bright blue Morris Oxford ute –also a stunning looking vehicle

A meeting of members was held after breakfast to discuss some important issues for 2016. Everyone had gathered around Trevor Ellwood's red White and the club's new 'old' trailer, a gift to the club, to be used at shows as a catering unit where we members can grab a coffee, a meal or a bed for the night at shows like Dubbo. It was the main topic for discussion after the breaky.



The trailer needs a few repairs to the roof, electrical wiring and lighting, ceiling panelling, cosmetic repairs to the exterior and painting throughout. The initial work would be done at Andy's place. There was one other item that had to be addressed, - the presentation to Bob Miller for the "Break Down" award because he was unable to receive his award at the Christmas party,



26 January 2016 - Australia Day at Camden

It was a dubious start to the nations big day out. I arrived just in time to pick up my ride to the celebrations at Camden. Andy Nash's latest acquisition, a 1981 Ford F350 fire truck had other plans. The auto electrician had the truck all day the previous day and had given it the all clear. Andy had the engine idling for half an hour before driving the truck home. Everything seemed OK. But this morning was a different story. The engine would not turn over. We couldn't very well go down the road and get a can of "start ya-bastard". It wouldn't have helped any way! After analysis the one thing we did not know was the status of the battery - it was "NFG" (no good). A booster pack from the tiltray and a battery from the Chev made sure that the firetruck made it to Camden in plenty of time for the street parade.

The parade participants included an acrobatic girls troupe, pipe bands, various car clubs, tractors and vintage trucks. The WSHTC team was Number 60 on the program out of 78, so we didn't have to wait too long before moving down the main street.

There was another hiccup though. Andy's granddaughters arrived and took my place in the fire truck. Fortunately I found a better place where I could watch and photograph the parade from the tray of Gerry Phillips 1940 Ford. The view from there was spectacular - 360 degrees - hundreds of onlookers, 10 to 15 deep on both sides of the road. Some children signalled the drivers to sound their horns, others were just in awe of the whole spectacle.

After the parade it was lunchtime and the Camden Lions Club provided "Sausage Turn-overs" (a sausage & onions on a piece of bread with a choice of sauces). This left your other hand free to juggle a can or a bottle of drink.

When it was time to go home the clouds started to leak and by the time we got home the rain was falling heavily. All in all it was a great day out. Everybody had a lot of fun. Next year I hope to be doing the driving in my own rig - God willing!!

***If A equals success in Life. Then A = X plus Y plus Z
where X = work ; Y = play and Z = keeping your mouth shut !!***



Oberon Steam Fest - February 2016

The plan was to meet for a coffee at 8.00am at the Mount Victoria Caltex Servo. The run from home was clear and without incident. Google Maps App said it would take 1.5 hours to drive - It was correct.

I ordered my coffee and sat by the window where I could see the others arrive. Five minutes into my coffee my pocket started to ring. It was Brad Dwyer. His Dodge is still affected by the "Systemic Breakdown Virus" which seems to be going the rounds of the club. It got as far as Lapstone before having to limp back home.

Ron Ross turned up spot on 8am, got his coffee then we headed for Oberon. The journey from the servo was completely covered in fog with roadworks spread along the way for good measure. After taking the turnoff that led us to Oberon the fog thinned out - but only a little bit.. As we emerged from the mystical mist the township of Oberon lay before us on top of the hill bathe in glorious sunshine.



The numbers of exhibitors (machinery and stallholders) and spectators seemed down on last year. Even the number of pipe bands seemed to be half strength. I guess the Gnoo Blas event at Orange, just over the hill, dragged a lot of the interest away. But what was on display provided a good spectacle. There was a good showing of about 20 Cobra Sports cars. There were many vintage cars from various clubs, corralled together in the front paddock. There were quite a few tractors and about a hand full of trucks present. Parked beside one of the trucks was a very well restored Ansair Flixible Clipper. It attracted a lot of admirers.



A quiver of Cobras



Restored Ansair Flixible Clipper



A pair of Austin Sevens



Restored Federal



Unrestored Dodge Brothers



Trailer Working Bee #1 - Sunday 21 February 2016

Twelve members turned up to help out at the working bee... Andy, Ron, Brad, Linda, Steve, Dave, Bob, Gerry, Geoff, Mike, James, Bruce and Brian.

They each set out industriously removing damaged panels & unnecessary framing, false flooring from inside the trailer, old electrical conduits, wiring and switch gear.

Dave used his skills to make an electrical harness and got the tailgate working. Gerry & Mike set about grinding off rust and applying rust preventative treatment to affected areas.



The next working bee has been scheduled for Sunday 24 April. Many hands make light work so please give this your total support. We need this work to be done in time for the for Dubbo run

Member Profile - Charlie Xerri

Charlie grew up in Sydney's west at Blacktown and started working as a farm hand on the family's farm.

His interests include cars, trucks and gardening. Charlie first became interested in trucks towards the end of the 1960's when he was in his late teens. He has just one truck, a 1955 A series Bedford which is in good condition. Charlie plans to expand his collection to include a Kenworth or a MACK.

He has been a member of WSHTC since mid 2012.

Charlie is married to Maryanne, has three adult children and four grandchildren.



Lockhart National Historic Truck & Commercial Vehicle Show - 2016

Travelog and photos by Noelene West

With the truck and van all loaded up we left home at 9.45 am on a cloudy, humid and slightly raining Friday. Just after “the hole in the wall” the truck started to become unwell. Decision time! - Not wanting to break the poor old girl we returned home and hooked the van up to the car. - disappointing but off again in clearing weather at 11.45 am. Ran into torrential rain just before Marulan. If we had been in the truck we would have been drowned. Sometimes things are meant to be!...

We arrived in Lockhart at about 5.30 pm with friends John and Gail Kirkpatrick. Peter and Jo Hand were already there. Bruce Brown and Bob Irwin had arrived earlier with one other (Bruce Brown will know his name).

There were not as many participants this year but there were about 45-50 trucks, some cars, a tractor and the 1903 high wheeler. Peter Smith, the organiser of the event was happy with those numbers but disappointed that there were not more people through the gate. There were quite a few other events being held in the area so we guessed that was why the numbers were down.

We set up camp and enjoyed happy hour which actually was more like three hours. Lots of true lies and jokes were shared!!! Late dinner and bed.

Early Saturday morning, Bruce did his usual early wake up trick - this year it was a police siren and loud hailer!! Dave and John marshalled the trucks and cars and Bruce drove the water truck. We met up with friends from Queensland. After morning tea we took a trip into town to check the street markets and museum, had lovely lunch at the Commercial Hotel and then returned to the show ground. Spent the afternoon chatting. A storm arrived about 4.30 and lasted about half an hour. Brought a welcome change from the heat!

Dinner was great, provided by the organisers, for \$10.00 per head...Rissoles and sausages (beautifully cooked by Bruce), and lovely fresh salads. Desserts to die for - pavlova, bread and butter pudding, fresh fruit, trifle, lamingtons, chocolate sponge pudding. Yummo! Tea, coffee and soft drinks. Entertainment (mostly country and western music) was provided by friends of Peter Smith.

Sunday - Woke up to a sunny clear morning with a nice breeze. After the complimentary breakfast we packed up and left for home.



1903 high wheeler



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 27 March - Breakfast run at Riverstone Bowling Club **has been cancelled**

Sunday 17 April - Breakfast run 8.30am, at Riverstone Bowling Club dirt car park. For those not going to "Crawlin' The Hume"... Bring \$6.00. chair & cup. Please let Brad know for catering purposes 0449 186 587

Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 April - "Crawlin' the Hume". Download entry form from HCVC website or the FaceBook page. or Contact Rob French 0409 380 090 or Roger Marchetti 4028 581 729 or Trevor Davis 0419 506 516.

Sunday 24 April - Working-Bee on Club's trailer at Andy's We need this work to be done in time for the for Dubbo run 13 August. Many hands make light work so please give this your total support.

Saturday 28 - Sunday 29 May - The 6th Annual Sydney Classic and Antique Truck Show at the Museum of Fire, 1 Museum Drive, Penrith. Arrival, set up, Mulgoa Rumble and evening meal Saturday. Show day Sunday - 8am to 3pm.

For further information and entry form - refer to website: www.museumoffire.com.au or phone (02) 4731 3000

Write "WSHTC" on the top of the form so we can stay together as Club display unit

Sunday 5 June - Mystery Run Day - Meet at the truck parking area, The Northern Road, Glenmore Park at 9.30am. - BYO picnic lunch

Sunday 26 June - Breaky run 8.30am at Warragamba Centre. Bring \$6 and cup, Please let Brad know for catering purposes 0449 186 587. *Club Fees can be paid this day*

Sunday 17 July - WSHTC Club AGM at Andy's Nash's Metropolitan Towing, 2/17 Sunblest Crescent Mount Druitt. Lunch provided, bring cup & chair. Meet at 10.00am

Please Note:

Fees are due and payable by the end of June

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

PO Box 369, Plumpton 2761, or emailed to wshtc@rocketmail.com

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