

20th A Model National Meet Bathurst 2008
80th Birthday of Model A Ford

Sharon, Brody, Shayla and Bronte & I left Cootamundra on Thursday morning trailering the Woodie.

Arriving Thursday afternoon without any problems, Eddie Sams did a good job in tying the Woodie on the trailer, so good that Sharon and I had a job to unchain it to get it off

After unloading and checking in, we then drove the Woodie down to Rally headquarter, where we met up with Amanda, Michael, Parker, Colby & Keely who had trailered the racer and just arrived. Also just arrived were our friends from N Z Errol & Linda McAlpine.

Two hundred and twenty five entries and so many Model A friends to catch up with. With it being all a bit overwhelming our first National without Michael we headed back to the caravan park for the others to book in and have a rest.

Friday morning with about twenty other Model A's we assembled for a video shoot of the cars driving around Mount Panorama. A lot of fun was had with Neil Phillips being our director. Sharon & Amanda tried their skills driving over the mountain and were most disappointed to see traffic allowed in the opposite direction so they could not try out the Model A on Conrad straight.

Friday afternoon was the official drive for all the Model A's to drive around the mountain.

Friday afternoon was a visit to Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum, the home of the famous Somerville collection of fossils and minerals.

Friday night Brody and I went into rally headquarters and I was able to catch up with a lot of friends.

Saturday Patrick & Ann arrived with the Tudor and It was great to have all the family at the National.

The family then went for another drive over the mountain and then to see the Mt Panorama historic sporting museum.

It was open day at the museum and so many people. Patrick and Errol did an interview for the Radio Station at Bathurst. Plenty of cars, bikes and memorabilia for anyone interested in the history of the mountain.

Saturday afternoon was a visit to historic Abercrombie House.

The Stewart Family built Abercrombie House in the 1870's. It is considered one of Australia's heritage treasures

The home is now owned by the Morgan family which use it as their family home

Words cannot describe this beautiful home and how meticulous it is restored to its former glory. Everything, painting, wallpaper, furniture is as close as possible to when the house was built. It is not a museum; you

can feel the warmth of the family home, with antiques being used, not just on display.

Sunday was the mandatory run to Millthorpe. We left before the main lot of cars as we were travelling with Colin & Annette who bought our Fire Engine Fire 31. All the family, Patrick, Sharon & Amanda took turns of driving Fire 31. I just played musical cars driving whatever of our Model A's that didn't have a driver. It was a lot of fun and all our family and extended family really enjoyed it.

At Millthorpe the cars were all parked together and drivers and passengers converged to look at the town.

It was an interesting little town with plenty to look at. An old garage, lollies shop, art shop, antique shop. After lunch we headed back to the cars, there to be approached by the town reporter who took a photo of our family and Annette and Colin on the Fire Engine.

I then seen the familiar faces of P76 owners Maria & Norm Julian from Orange and parked nearby their immaculate white P76.

It was really great for them to come for a drive and say Hi.

I don't know how many people came up to me and said, "Did you see the P76"

It was an enjoyable drive back to Bathurst with again the drivers changing cars on the way home.

Arriving back at the Caravan Park, it was a busy time to get everyone ready to go to the presentation dinner; Dress was "How I would dress going to Henry Ford's Birthday party".

The hall was filled to capacity about 400 people, and on the stage were cut outs of four model A's with lights behind them, making them truly striking.

Patrick, Sharon & Amanda presented the youngest driver awards. on behalf of the family. Michael and I have given this award for many many years to encourage the young Model A Ford drivers.

\$1,000 was donated for the Amyloidosis Society Awareness in Michael name from the Model A Ford Enthusiasts at the rally, from the wristbands Sharon sold

We were very grateful for their generosity.

Monday was the farewell breakfast and it was all hands on deck to load the three Model A's for their journey home.

At the showground it was bacon and eggs, many farewells, until the next national meet in Tasmania 2010.

Patrick and Ann bought the Tudor back to Cootamundra and then drove back to Sydney. Amanda and Michael trailered the racer back to Yass and Sharon and I bought the Woodie home.

All our family had a great weekend and thanks go to the guys at Tec who showed me how to get the cars ready and to Noel and Eddie for their help also.

A big thank you to all our A Model friends, who called, those who helped us at the Rally by just being there. Colin, Annette and Russell for driving the Fire Engine all the way from Eagle Hawk. They had promised Michael when they bought it they would have it at Bathurst. And to Neil Phillips thanks Neil.

To our family thank you all for being there.

Gwen Livingstone.