

## **Cowra Model A Run, March 2009**

Daisy left Singleton at 8.45am on Thursday 19 March. We had to make a diversion to drop off a 'bearded dragon' lizard to one of our wildlife carers in town, then we were on our way to Sydney.

We travelled down the very winding and hilly Putty Road to Windsor. Having gone this way many times before, we always wondered if a township of Putty really existed, but it was pretty much a few houses, with a hall. There were a great number of bikers on the road heading our way, and we discovered later that there was a 5000 strong annual Ulysses gathering at Penrith Park in Sydney. It was a weeklong event, culminating in a parade through the streets of the massively expanding city of Penrith.

Across the Hawkesbury River, through traditional old Windsor to the historic Macquarie town of Richmond sporting a pristine picket-fenced cricket ground in the main street. Quick lunch and we headed for the Blue Mountains. We discovered an amazing variation in the price of petrol, from overpriced at Singleton, to more moderate prices in western Sydney, but this varied by over 10cents per litre from one servo to the one next door, or across the road.

Thursday night we spent at historic Southall B&B in Springwood, Blue Mountains. It was quaint accommodation at the rear of an 1840 stone house with a strange Chow Chow dog on guard. He actually looked more like a lion, but not so ferocious.

Friday morning 8.30 for coffee at the Glenbrook Visitor Information Centre where we were meeting for 9.30 departure. Everyone was early and enthusiastic, apart from a few who had made prior arrangements to meet further on in Lithgow or Cowra.

Just up the road John and Kate (our lady president) had major overheating problems and had to return home all the way to the other side of Sydney to swap to their Model A Woody. A courageous achievement considering the traffic and distance, not to mention topping up the radiator heaps of times on the way home. Thankfully, they arrived safely in Cowra about 7.30pm that night, having driven for the entire day. Just as well she had her coffee first! The group was then fragmented. We waited then slowly wandered along with Michael and Leon in their Model A's.

Lithgow was the next meeting point for all travelling west. Whilst others were doing brunch/lunch, we visited our daughter's 1900 house and a historic miner's cottage which we had renovated about 10 years ago. Both looked great, but the lovely cottage garden which we planted at our house was very overgrown – wish we had secateurs in the car. Back to McDonalds where Mal & Nola and Alan & Rhonda had caught up. We then travelled in convoy with our original 2 cars – Michael & Leon, plus Mal & Nola, Ken & Sandra, Alan & Rhonda. Now there were 6 Model A's together as the early arrivals at Lithgow had gone on ahead. We stopped for fuel just as a shower of rain started to fall.

Being autumn in the mountains, we hoped for some change of colour in the leaves, but the weather was unseasonably warm for this time of year. Peter (Wiggles) who had gone on ahead, also had radiator problems and had frequent stops to top up. When the other Model A's caught up with him, they discovered a blocked radiator filter which was quickly cleaned and eliminated any further overheating problems. Now we had a convoy of 8 Model A's heading for Cowra.

Saturday morning saw most members enjoy a maintenance workshop utilising cut-away sections of Model A engines and parts. During the session, a yellow Model A was presented for therapy. John and Leigh had arrived earlier from nearby Blayney, with car spluttering, popping and banging. The more experienced guys took great delight in rectifying some of their engine problems, thus enhancing the rest of their trip.

Larry took the others on a Coaster bus tour to visit some historic and scenic sites of Cowra, ie. Lookout, Japanese POW breakout site and war cemetery, gift shop, etc.

12pm – Bryant Park Cowra - All 17 Model A's were on display in the carpark, plus an eclectic mix of other Cowra club members' historic vehicles. This was followed by a lovely sausage sizzle in the park beside the Lachlan River. The afternoon was free, so we visited The Mill winery in town, had a nostalgic tour through the steam train museum, then later strolled through the beautiful Cowra Japanese Gardens.

41 people gathered on Saturday night for a delicious dinner at the Countryman Motor Inn Restaurant, where we were entertained by the talented local theatre company and a skinny Kenny Rogers sound-alike who dressed like a cowboy, and had a great voice.

Sunday muster was at the Cowra Railway Station. Today's destination was Forbes, via brief stop in historic bushranger town of Canowindra, Eugowra with more bushranger history, morning tea at Escort Cafe, then the world famous CSIRO radio telescope at Parkes. We travelled through a patchwork of plowed red earth and sunbleached wheat harvest stubble. Big sky country where wheat and sheep farming dominate. Lunch in the V.I.C. grounds at Parkes or in town, and visit to the lookout.

McFeeters Museum in Forbes was our next sightseeing delight, combined with afternoon tea in the building. The museum is family owned and run by people who have a passion for Model A's, and houses an amazing collection of fully restored cars from veteran to classic, including 6 Model A's, Model T's, and unique vehicles of that era. Another lovely meal together Sunday night at Forbes Inn Restaurant.

Monday morning breakfast was planned for 8.30am. However, we were heading for Dubbo Zoo that day (3 hours away), and our travelling companions also needed to make an early departure to beat the Sydney traffic later that day, so we had to excuse ourselves, say our goodbyes and leave separately without enjoying the farewell breakfast.

The weather continued very hot as we completed our round trip via Dubbo, Dunedoo, Merriwa and back to Singleton. We constantly encountered well-behaved trucks travelling both directions on the Newell and Golden Highways. We were tired, but happy to arrive home without a hitch. Thanks Daisy!

We had a great trip with all the other Model A members, and it seemed obvious that everyone else enjoyed it too. We would personally like to thank Pam and Larry for the splendid job of organising the Cowra Run.

Di & Peter Paice, Singleton