

2022 Historic Motor Vehicle Gathering
Sunday March 20th 2022

Ian & I were up early on Sunday as this is to be the Ford's first run after repairs, the weather is cooperating a fine day is predicted. As we have to be at Villies by 8:45 am we leave home at 7:50 as you never know what the traffic will be like. So we arrive a bit early and as there is a group of us for breakfast we sit at the big table. After ordering our breky and waiting for it to arrive, Steve and Deb arrive in the 37 Ute. They join us after ordering. Our breakfasts arrive but no one else comes, so we chatted and about 10 we head off for the Gathering.

Upon arriving at the Park we were directed to our park by this time most of the pre 31 vehicles were assembled around the park in an orderly manner. There was a good turn up of Motorcycles and also a good display of stationary engines. As it was quite warm on the asphalt we decided to head for the shade under the trees, the only drawback here was the constant smoke from the engines, not their fault we could have moved, but it was a good spot. We were later joined by Graham and Shirley after they had finished their duties for the day.

After a few drinks it was time to have a great sausage & onion sandwich which was very good. Later we had a soft serve as I cannot go past them. At about 1 pm the raffle was drawn, many prizes were won by the lucky ones of which I was one, a bottle of Fertilizer, we went back for more chatting.

As it was quite hot many people had decided to leave so we all packed up and said our good byes after chatting with some of the other people there.

I would like to thank the Vintage Sports Car Club for their day it is always a good relaxing way to spend time with people who have same likes and hope to see them again next year.

Murray Bridge Machinery Rally

On the 19th & 20th March 'The Lower Murray Vintage Engine & Machinery Club held a machinery rally and an inaugural tractor pull on the Murray Bridge show grounds. Entrants travelled from the Riverland, Barossa and Adelaide Hills.

There were 65 engines manufactured from 1904 to the 1960's ranging from 1 Horsepower to 21 HP some weighing over 2 ton. Many of the engines were driving via a flat belt to all kinds of machines, many different types of water pumps, rock crushers, chaff cutters, generators, woods saws, blowers, can you believe an ice cream maker.

Devon Amber had an interesting tractor display made from old sewing machines with small implements for them to pull.

There were 50 tractors there all models and sizes including a good line up of Caterpillar. Many of them took part in pulling a sled, it is loaded with concrete block weights, to accommodate different horse powers.

There was a balance tray there, the challenge was to drive a tractor on it and find the point where it will balance, a very difficult task.

They only had 20 vehicles entered that were on the oval, but more classic vehicles came and went during the weekend.

There was a dragster on display, when they started that up the whole town could hear it.

I went up Friday afternoon by myself, Corrine thought two days there was a bit too much. I stayed with her brother who lives in Murray Bridge. I drove my 1942 Jail bar towing a tandem Trailer with a 6HP Lister engine, and a water pump jack, set it up Friday afternoon, ready for the weekend.

Entries from the EFV-8 Club beside my 1942 jailbar were Alan and Colleen McDonald with their immaculate 1947 Jailbar pick up, that won a very nice trophy for the best commercial vehicle.

A Meningie local told me during the week, he does not like Fords, but he seen a very nice Ford on its way to Karoonda, another pat on the back Alan.

I am a member LMVE&M Club, I had very little to do with putting this weekend together, but I know the club had been working for months, there, hard work resulted in a very successful weekend.



What a fine morning for a trip to the country...

A trip away in the '47 Jailbar always takes planning; packing what we only need due to the limited space in the trunk. Alan is always telling me I need to pack light. I haven't yet asked him what he prefers me to leave out – his clothes or his nibbles.

The trunk on the '47 was packed the night before ready to leave early the next day. We headed to Murray Bridge via the South-Eastern Freeway for the Lower Murray Heritage Rally and Tractor Pull, a two-day event over 19-20th March. Arriving at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds about 10 am, we parked on the lush, green oval alongside a 1923 Graham Paige Truck and headed to the McHughes' Pie-cart, to collect our Rally Bag and order an Egg and Bacon breakfast. The Rally Bag is one of the best we have received, generous and innovative, with even the inclusion of earplugs to use whilst watching the tractor pull.

I had been excited all week at the prospect of the event having craft stalls. I was disappointed initially to note there were few craft displays. But I enjoyed watching the wooden Fretwork demonstrations and looking through the stalls that were present including a display of crafted items infilled with acrylic - the wooden coffee table on display was gorgeous. Further along was a dairy display with an old hag with red eyes that lit up alongside a milk separating machine with coloured water flowing through showing the process. Alongside this exhibit was vintage dairy paraphernalia with a foil milk bottle top collection from the days when milk was sold in glass bottles and delivered by the Milkie.

The static engine display was large with a multitude of different engine uses and we strolled around the display stopping to talk to the exhibitors and take photos. At the end of the event,

we purchased two large bags of chaff for our garden and strapped them onto the '47 behind the esky, trunk and toolbox – our vehicle looked like a farmer's truck loaded after harvest. Several displays caught my attention. The motorized rocking chair must have been the prototype to the modern-day motorized recliner. The one on display also had an inbuilt massager. However, the unit had one design fault which rattled the bones rather than relax the muscles. The other display which caught my imagination was the repurposing of vintage sewing machines into farm equipment. Had I been more flexible (and younger) I would have been down on hands and knees for a closer look. However, I will not be repurposing my beautiful vintage *New National* hand cranked sewing machine, for any reason. Alan always says when he enters his vehicle in events that participating is more important than winning. But when his 1947 Ford Jailbar Pickup does win a prize he is thrilled. And he *was* thrilled when his '47, which he built from the ground up over 5 years, won first place in the Commercial section at the Lower Murray Heritage Rally. We had a fabulous weekend at this event before heading to Karoonda to visit my sister and brother-in-law for a few days.

Annie's Walk Report

The drive from home in the '33 Roadster was great. Through Cudlee Creek, Lobethal and the Onkapringa Valley Road to Verdun on a cold fresh morning with some of it through the rain, listening to the throbbing beat of the 21 stud V-8 was just heaven. Arriving at the Fatchen residence, we were greeted with egg and bacon muffins and coffee. Gary and Annie's Mercury and Pickup, Alan and Colleen's Pickup, Wayne Boulton's Customline and the Tonkin Roadster made up the available club vehicles. Also in attendance were Sam Fatchen and family, Daniel Fatchen and family, Trevor Hales and Ian and Carol and Rene Boulton who appeared later for lunch. The walk left from the Bridgewater Hotel Car Park and meandered under the Freeway and the South Road rail line to Mount George where we sat down from a while. The walk back ended in the Bridgewater Hotel for a well-earned lunch. It was then back to Gary and Annie's for an inspection of major renovations to the cottage which is quite interesting after which we drove home for a well-earned nanna nap! Thanks to Gary and Annie for their hospitality and organisation. A lovely day out.