

Port Pirie Weekend

June 10th 11th 12th 13th 2022

Three couples ventured to Port Pirie on the Friday for the bi-annual PADARC rally – Frank and Val in the 1957 Customline, Ian and Carol in a modern unfortunately the Phaeton being on the sick list and Shirley and myself in the '39 Mercury.

A bit rainy and drizzly on the way up to Port Pirie but the weather for the weekend was quite fair but cold.

It was the opposite to what it was the last time we came to this event in 2008 where temperatures were 38 to 42 degrees.

Back then the event was in March but was changed to the June long weekend. We never attended from then on as the Early Ford V-8 National Meets were on then. Now National Meets are at any time we will attend this great rally more so. Friday evening was the usual registration and get together with an evening meal supplied at the PADARC Clubrooms.

Saturday morning was Show and Shine and People's Choice judging of vehicles until about midday.

This gave time to have a good look at the entered vehicles and to catch up with not so often seen friends. An interesting observation and sign of the times was that there were two cars in the Vintage section, three in the 1930's section, twelve in the 1950's section and 24 post 1960.

The organisers had said that numbers were down due to the usual reasons of late, the event was cancelled in 2020, but it was still a good rollup with a good selection of makes and models.

Lunch time saw us out to the outskirts of Port Pirie to the truck and bus Museum and a very nice BBQ lunch. Not only is this a truck and bus museum but a museum of collections of everything, beer and alcohol products, Coke Cola displays – Frank got excited about them, dolls, matchbox vehicles, fashion and on and on.

Back to the caravan park for drinks and pleasant conversation then to dinner at the community club with entertainment and dancing. The dinner venue caused us some problems as we all got completely lost in the back streets of Port Pirie, we found it in the end.

Next morning we were to meet at a shopping centre car park but again we all got hopelessly lost and luckily an MGY appeared out of a side street. We followed him and we found our meeting place. About an hour or so chatting with fellow enthusiasts then it was off for the official run.

Another sign of the times, cars were segregated, those that could achieve 95 to 100 kph and those that couldn't. The slower ones went about 20 minutes before the others.

And what an official run it was 95 miles of lovely South Australian countryside stopping at Mundoorra for Morning Tea and a look around then on to Gladstone for lunch and to inspect the Gladstone Gaol. I had never been to the Gaol before but what an interesting place it is. It is huge with buildings and out buildings and cell blocks. Kitchens and quarters for staff and wardens and it goes on and on. Again the places of interest one can get into if you like driving your old car.

After all that it was back to Port Pirie for an afternoon of pleasant chatting with good friends. The Presentation Dinner was on that night and guess what, we all got hopelessly lost again for the third time and no MGY appeared from any side street so we were left to our own devices. We can now say that we have seen more of Port Pirie than the local residents.

When we did arrive sometime later, luckily dinner wasn't served yet but they had to find us another table as all the others were taken.

Dinner was had and awards presented and congratulations to Frank and Val for winning the 1951 to 1960 section with the '57 Customline, well deserved.

A feature on the night was having the microphone passed to every entrant so they could tell a story about their vehicle, some interesting stories were relayed especially the explanation as to why a HR Holden had its original registration sticker attached but in burnt and charred condition. The car had been in the family since new but a few years ago it was involved in a shed fire. Although not badly burnt the interior was destroyed. The Holden was restored but the rego sticker was left as a reminder and discussion point.

Monday morning saw us at a great Farewell Breakfast prepared by the large number of volunteers responsible for the weekend. Farewell speeches and we were away on a lovely Mercury drive home. 2 ¾ hours later we pulled into our drive way.

A great weekend with great company.



Independence Day Run Report Saturday 2nd July 2022

A small band of members met at Krispy Kremes around 9.30 am.

After enjoying a hot drink and a doughnut or two we all left for a quiz around the area.

Questions after questions were down on the run sheet. The first question we missed the second one we went around the block to get. After that the questions got some answers to them while going around the Port distance then up Grand Junction Road – more questions got some answers before heading off to Frank and Val for lunch.

Here everyone got a prize there was no first, second or third. Warm slippers for the girls and socks for the boys.

Frank and Val were given thank you gifts for organizing the day and supplying the lunch.

To warm us all up it was Minestrone Soup and bread. Then it was hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch.

Although the day was a bit fresh and on the cool side with heaters on and a closed in carport the afternoon went down very well.

Some left around 4 pm to head home and some of us stayed until 6 pm.

A great day out and many thanks goes to Frank and Val for hosting this day again.

