

17th Morris Minor Nationals

3 to 6 April 2015.

Words & photos by Peter Lenne.



The 17th National Morris Minor Rally, held at Albury-Wodonga during Easter was a tremendous success, with numbers of cars and people exceeding all of our expectations.

We had over 180 Morris Minors from as far away as Western Australia, north Queensland, Brisbane, Tasmania, South Australia, Sydney, Melbourne, the ACT and locally.

In the lead up to the Rally, we were able to display Bill and Richard McKellar's Morris Minor Million (see *BMCE* Issue 1) in the Albury Library Museum, to generate interest and publicise the Rally.

Despite warnings of heavy rain over Easter, Good Friday dawned bright and sunny and before long we had a glorious range of Morris Minors spread over the Gateway Lakes precinct at Wodonga, where registration took place.

Minors were ranged in groups: tourers and convertibles; commercials; sedans, spread over the Gateway Lakes precinct with the Murray River red gums in the background. As the sunshine warmed the day, people mingled and got together in a way that can only be done at a National Rally.

A fun night was organised at The Bended Elbow on Friday, which was fancy dress and "a kick up your heels night". Fancy dress winners Barry and Laurel Taylor dressed in matching outfits, loosely based on the Union Jack.

Saturday's concourse took place against the background of a farmers' market at Hovell Tree Park, with performances by the Scots School Pipe Band and Albury

City Band. The cars were arranged with custom and modified cars spread along the embankment facing Wodonga Place, and original maintained and restored cars and other classes spread into the centre of the arena.

Approximately 20 other British makes, including MGs, Sprites and a 1928 Morris Cowley, brought total numbers to just on 200. The rain stayed away and the display was enjoyed by an estimated 1,000-plus members of the public.

Global adventurers Lang and Bev Kidby had everyone enthralled at Saturday night's dinner, with tales of driving a 1907 Itala from Peking (Beijing) to Paris, 30,000km travelled around the world in a Fiat 500, recreating Bert Hinkler's solo biplane flight from England to Australia in an Avro Avian, and the replica Vickers Vimy flight.

Sunday provided two alternative tour routes to Bright for a picnic lunch. The more adventurous travelled down the Kiewa Valley and over the Tawonga Gap to view Victoria's alpine country and highest peaks.

The less adventurous travelled secondary roads; across the Back Creek Rd south of Yackandandah, down Tunnel Gap Rd, with glorious views of Mount Buffalo, and along Carrolls Rd to Ovens.


Bright's famous autumn colours were out and the hills around the township made an attractive backdrop as everyone gathered at the Bright Recreation Reserve for lunch.

The Albury Performing Arts Centre hosted Sunday night's formal dinner and

prize giving. The overall concourse winner was Richard McKellar's restored Minor Million, which was a popular choice.

Wodonga Lions Club did a marvellous job of the farewell breakfast on Monday, and once again the weather stayed (almost) kind with the undercover venue providing protection from the one brief shower of rain.

A final tour to Morris Wines at Rutherglen was enjoyed by the owners of about 30 Minors.

This was the first two-state National Rally and we were told by experienced attendees that it was the largest number of Morris Minors seen at a concourse in over 20 years. 





MG National Rally

3-6 April 2015

Story by Paul Vermont.

Photos by Robin Page



The roads of the Yarra Valley wine region were filled with MGs of all types, as it played host to the 2015 MGCC National Meeting. The Victorian Club organised the event, which included five days of fine food, motor sport, competition and just good old-fashioned hospitality.

The first competition event was the Concours, which was held at Rochford Winery. The challenge is always to provide an environment which is attractive to the 400 people who registered for the event.

Some people come to a National Meeting just to compete in the Concours; others come for the motor sport events and will show their cars just to make up the numbers; and others accompany those who are displaying their cars. Having it at Rochford provided a destination rather than just a location, and allowed the delegates to feast on the rich line-up of MGs, the food, the wine, or all three.

Add in the live jazz band for a bit more entertainment and the stage was set for a truly wonderful MG day.

Over 200 cars were competing for class honours. Scoring was based on originality, condition and presentation and after more than two hours of intense judging the winners were announced and called together to compete for outright honours.

Edwarde Float took out the pre-MGA section, with his magnificent MG TC. Allan Fabry was a popular choice in the post-TF section with his splendid, red MGC, while Derek Trewarne's post 2000 MGTF took out the modern section.

One of the standout cars at the event was Julie Craig's class-winning 14/28 MG tourer. It is magnificent in its blue and silver two-tone finish, which was optional back in 1925 when it was made. It was also the earliest car on display.

In addition to the cars on the field, there was a display of MG racing cars; pre-war to modern, paying tribute to those who continue the rich history of motor sport. The number of race-prepared MGZR prompted people to question if there are any left on the road!

We all appreciated the support given by the sponsors, whose displays flanked the pavilion adding to the day's experience.

As the sun set on the Yarra Valley it was time to prepare many of the cars for the hillclimb at Rob Roy, the Motorkhana at Metec and the road tours that would follow in the coming days.

Next year the National Meeting heads to Perth, when we can do it all again. 