

NATIONAL ROVE TOOWOOMBA 2022 (*report by Eve McCormack*)

The National Rover Rally, held every two years, was this year hosted by the Rover Car Club of Queensland in the 'garden city' of Toowoomba from Friday 30 September to Monday 3 October 2022.

At the Friday evening Registration, some 100 participants were welcomed at Picnic Point restaurant to register, collect Rally bags and enjoy finger food and a catch up with friends and newcomers.

On Saturday morning, we made our way to the Cobb and Co Museum, and were directed to plenty of parking at the rear of the Museum. From there we could wander through the beautiful floral gardens in Queens Park, or meander through the Farmers' Market, enjoy a coffee and pastry or just sit and chat.

Around midday, we made our way to Scotty's Garage and Museum at Upper Flagstone where approx. 60 cars lined up for a wonderful display of Rovers from P2 to 75, Land Rovers, Range Rovers, etc. The weather was bright and sunny and lunch was enjoyable.

Saturday evening saw us again at Cobb and Co, for an interesting presentation from the Curator of the Museum and an informal dinner in their Carriage Room, showcasing their great display of carriages, drays, horse-drawn buses, etc.

For some early risers, Sunday morning saw some of us drive through quite heavy fog and light rain to Crows Nest Caravan Park for 'Cars and Coffee', a regular monthly event for car enthusiasts to gather and admire all makes of cars and motor bikes. The Caravan Park was '110% full' with holiday makers, the grounds were quite wet, but our Rovers attracted attention and welcome comments. Just as we were leaving, a number of Toranas and Holdens arrived – it was getting a bit crowded by then!

The Pioneer Village at Highfields was then our destination where the day started with tea or coffee and damper. The weather was not kind – cold and wet, but did not deter spirits. Jon Lowe set up for the rocker cover racing and gathered a bit of a crowd. Once the rain cleared, we were able to wander through the very extensive collection of the Pioneer village – a chapel, blacksmith shop, saddlery, and numerous other buildings which had been acquired or donated to showcase life long ago.

Our Sunday evening dinner was held again at Picnic Point. The highlight was a Vintage Rover – a 1914 Clegg owned by Malcolm Sypher, which was on display in the dining room and attracted much attention, Malcolm also gave an interesting talk about his car. We had a lovely meal, during which speeches were made and awards were handed out.

On Monday morning, the farewell breakfast, for those who could attend, was at Café 63 at Wilsonton – this was a chance for us to say goodbye and look forward to meeting again in 2024 in New South Wales!

For the committee of the Rover Club of Queensland, the weekend was a great success, even though the weather was cooler and wetter than expected.