

RALLY REPORTS"Rally of the Valley", Oct 30-Nov 2

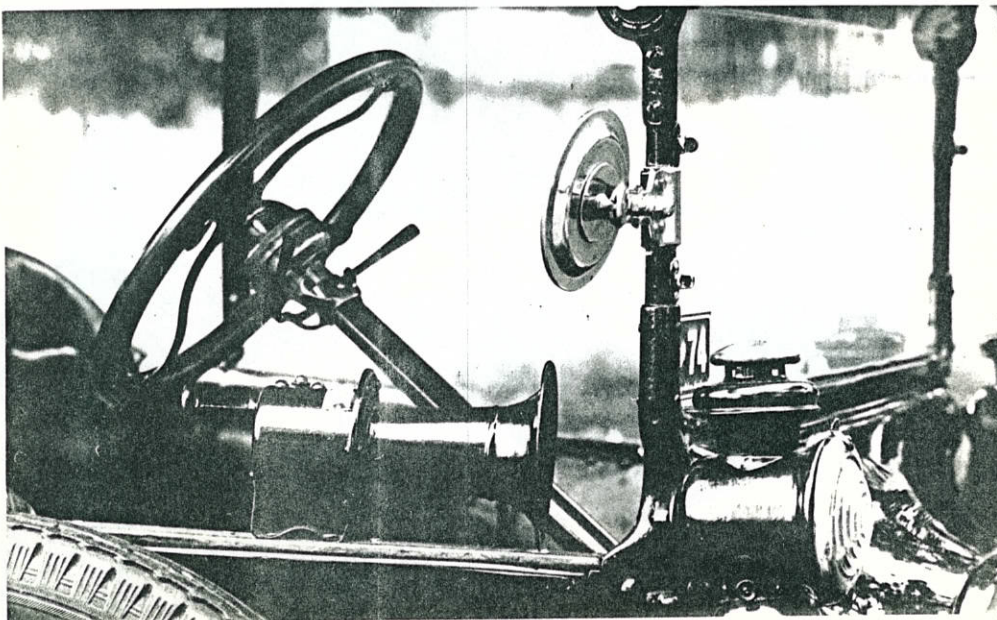
The fifth Rally of the Valley was held over the Melbourne Cup weekend in glorious weather for rallying. The effects of the recent floods were hardly evident on most of our travels.

Our sign-up point on the Friday night was in front of the lake in Shepparton. Our first problem occurred when Les and Norma Flood, previous rally entrants from Launceston, turned up unexpectedly. This was soon sorted out, and they headed off to their motel in their much-travelled A Ford.

Saturday morning was the official start of the rally. The mayor of Shepparton, Cr Bruce McNeill welcomed the entrants and then stunned them with stories of classic vehicles going into his father's tip when he was young! We headed off to Kyabram for morning tea and an informative talk from Allan Weeks on deer-farming. We even tasted venison pies with our cuppas. Next stop was the Kyabram Fauna Park, where we had lunch before spending the early afternoon touring the park. Last stop for the day's run was Killamont homestead, just north of Kyabram. Here we had a guided tour of the home and relaxed in the beautiful gardens for afternoon tea.

The dinner dance was held on the Saturday night, with over 100 people in attendance. And I'm told everybody had a great time.

Sunday's tour was northward through Numurkah to Strathmerton for a visit to Spikes and Blooms, one of the biggest cactus gardens in Australia. After a look around and some morning tea, we headed for Barooga to have lunch at the Sports Club. Some entrants were apparently keen to get to the next stop and left before the marshalls were in position! Everyone made it to Yarramundee, however, and had afternoon tea and a look around the expansive gardens. Some entrants were in the right place at the right time and had a tour of the home stead as well. Not even the Rally Committee could arrange that!



1915 Ford T detail

RALLY REPORTS cont

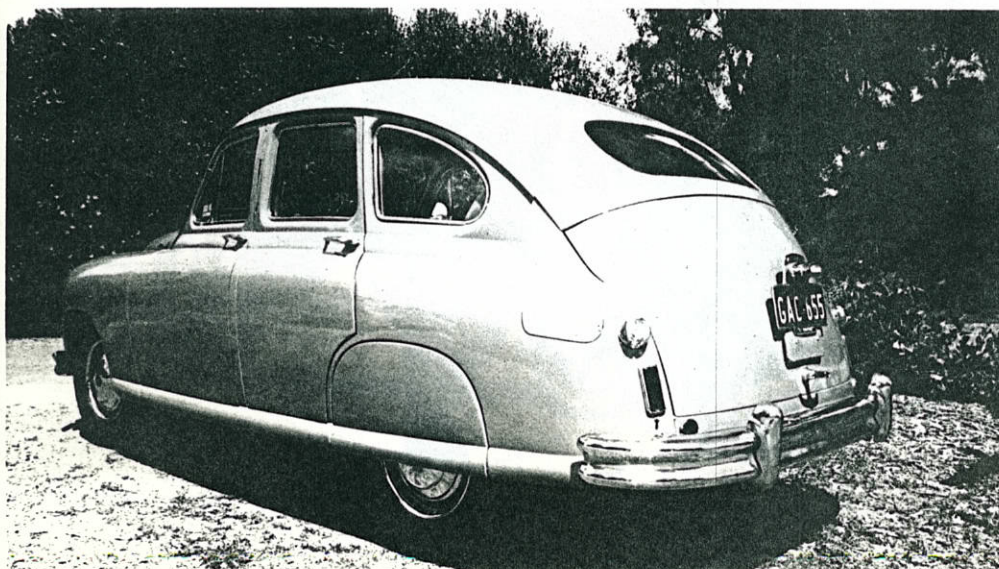
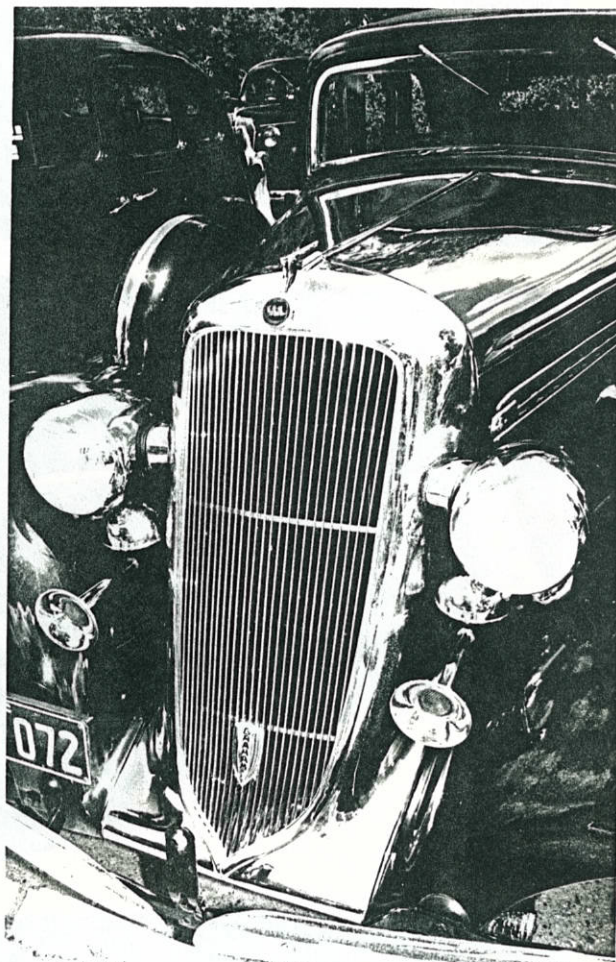
Monday morning we headed to Waranga Basin via Toolamba and Murchison. Morning tea was at Harriman's Point where the wind was blowing quite strongly off the basin. We didn't stay any longer than was required to finish our cuppas! We then headed for Rushworth where we met up with Bob Holschier, our tour guide for the Whroo area. He gave us a concise history of Rushworth and surrounds - it's hard to believe that Rushworth and Whroo had a combined population of about 40,000 when the gold mines were at their peak. After his talk we split into two groups and went our separate ways to tour the old Balaclava mine and other places of interest. A lovely lunch of camp-oven cooked casseroles was next on the agenda, before we departed for Stanhope. The town was quite busy when we got there, as their annual bush market had been scheduled to coincide with the rally.

While at Stanhope, we visited the home of John Hancox, who has the biggest collection of old wares I've ever seen. One large room of his house has been decked out to resemble a shop from a bygone era. His garage had a huge array of old tools in it and an adjoining hall contained hundreds of items of local history.

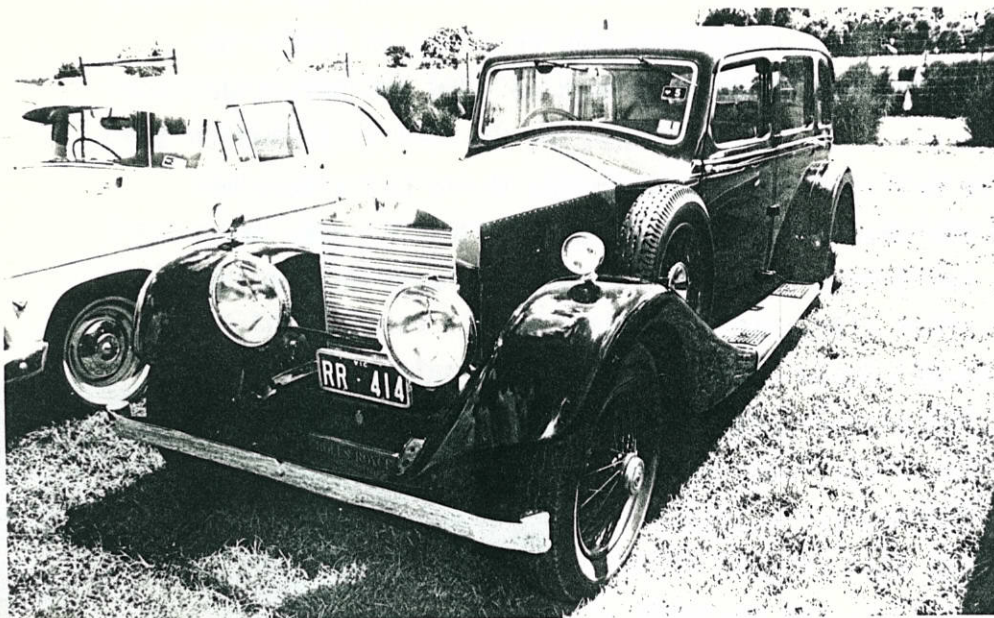
The evening meal was a spit roast, with lamb and venison. Both were delicious, as was the rest of the meal. After we had eaten, Tammy Muir entertained us with his bush yarns and poetry - all from personal experience!

The rally concluded with Tuesday breakfast, held at the International Village due to the only rain for the weekend. It had been a great rally and will be hard to top next time.

Brendan Walsh

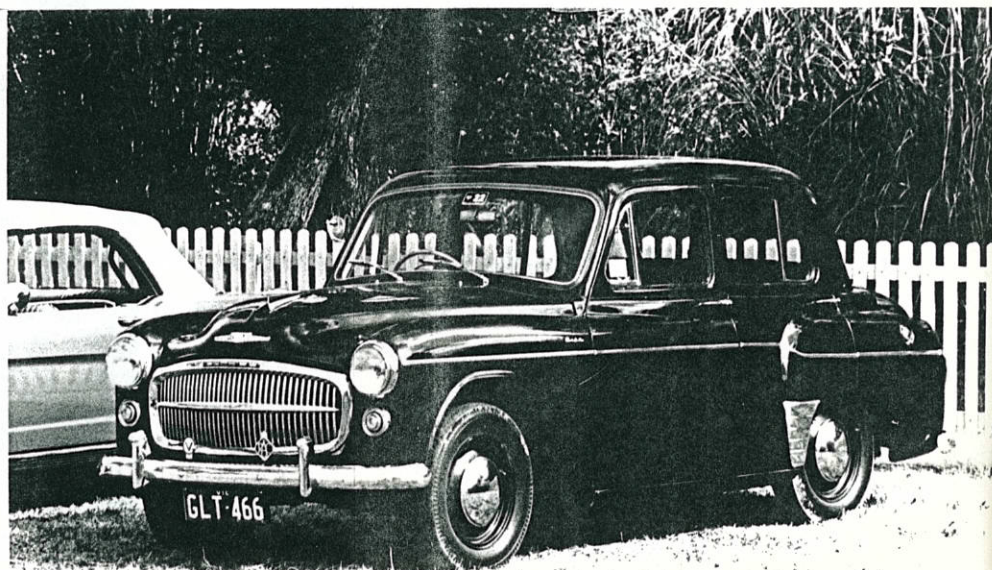


Rob and Pam  
Thatcher's  
1953  
Standard Vanguard



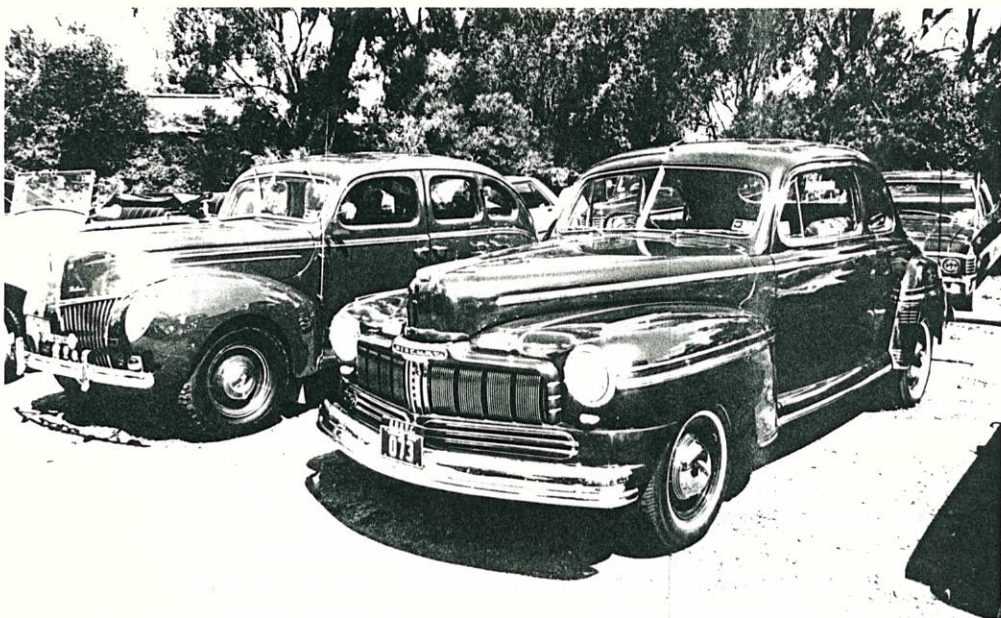
Geoff and Joy  
Golden's  
1926  
Rolls Royce  
20hp sedan

Gary and Jenny  
Whitford's  
1956  
Hillman Minx



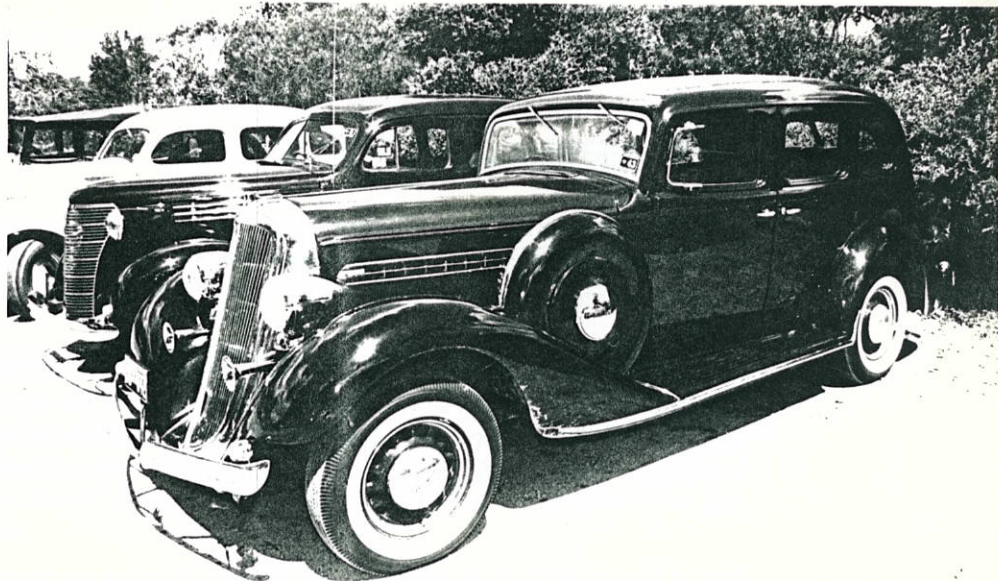
Grenville and Joan  
Price's 1926  
Studebaker Duplex

Neil and Ros  
Fankhauser's 1935  
Dodge DU sedan



Eric and Sandra  
Worner's 1939  
Ford 91A sedan

Alan and Beverley  
Worner's 1946  
Ford Mercury coupe



John and Jacqueline  
Spence's 1935  
Graham sedan



Bill and Val  
Warren's 1915  
Ford T

PHOTOGRAPHS  
by  
THE J. HAMM III  
17 ROBINSON STREET,  
MURCHISON 3610  
(058) 26 2275