

New Norcia Run

17 Sep 17

As always for events planned for this time of year, a keen eye was kept on the weather forecast in the week leading up to 17th September. Many of the weather apps provided conflicting info so the only accurate thing to do was to get out of bed on Sunday morning and look skywards. Fortunately things didn't look too bad so the 'tin-top' was left in the garage and the cobra was backed out of the driveway, all shiny and polished after an industrious day on Saturday.

Departure was to be from Caltex Midvale at 10:30 and I was determined to arrive at 10:00 and, as the run leader, be the first car there. Upon arrival at about 10:05 there were already 7 cobras in a neat row so we took up our position on the other side of the carpark and chatted with those already in attendance while we waited for the last 2 cobras and a 'tin-top' to arrive. Gordon had had a bit of a scare on his way to Midvale with his cobra spluttering to a stop and giving all indications of having run out of petrol. That turned out not to be the case and after a bit of tinkering he was back on the road again arriving in plenty of time. Graham was a little late in the 'tin-top' after having to do a quick return to base to top up with oil. His grandson Jonathan, a regular and well known face on many of our club runs was in need of some driving hours on his learners permit so he was bringing up the rear on the Honda with Graham as his instructor.

A short and very brief briefing prior to departure basically informed everybody that we were going to head up Farrell Road, turn right onto Toodyay Road and then head north-east. After that it was just a case of following our noses. We departed Midvale with 10 cobras and a Honda.

Once we were on our way it was smooth sailing and traffic was light, however the normal Sunday drivers were out and about and they were determined to drive to wherever they were going (and I think many of them didn't exactly know where that was) at 5 kph below the speed limit. They obviously have no idea of the frustration they cause as a collective 4,000 horse-power sits patiently in their rear view mirror (which they're obviously not looking into very much).



A text message to my navigator from John & Jill further back along the line suggested that they knew an alternative, and much better route into New Norcia than simply going straight up Gt Northern Highway as I had planned. Although it would take an extra 20 minutes we decided that we had a little time to spare so I pulled off

the road on the entry to Toodyay and asked John & Jill if they would like to lead the way from there. It was there that we noticed a small puddle of petrol under the rear of the Black Superformance and after some investigations underneath by Gavin and some discussions with Big Al it was decided that his outing for the day had come to an end and Al and Ronnie did a 'U' turn and headed back to Perth.

The delay in Toodyay was just long enough to make us defer the alternative route and we made a bee-line straight to New Norcia so as not to be late for our booking at the Hotel and forego our reserved tables.

On arrival in New Norcia we took up prime position in the carpark in front of the old hotel and after the new kid on the block (Gav) completed his duties cleaning all the windscreens, a few photos were taken and then we all wandered into the pub for a hearty meal.



Our table was out on the decking on the north end of the building, partly under the shade of a tree. The service and food were excellent and after a pleasant meal and chat we were all herded inside to have a group photo taken on the grand old staircase and then another one on the front steps of the pub.



Some stayed in town to have a look around; some had other places they need



to be so they headed straight back to Perth. Gav & Lorraine and Anna & myself pushed on another 60 km further to the east into the wheat-belt to run our eye over the Wongan Hills Guest House prior to Ron Mc booking it for the forthcoming wheat belt weekender on 20th to 22nd October. The narrow country roads winding their way through the wheat and canola crops were terrific in the mid afternoon with the sun behind us and not another car to be seen. After Wongan Hills we took the road south through Goomalling and Northam to Great

Eastern Highway and back into Perth from Greenmount Hill. A round trip of 460 Km for the day.



Many thanks to all those who attended:

John & Maria, Gavin & Lorraine, Dragan & Jean, Jonathan & Samantha, Gerry, Al & Ronnie, John & Jill, Rob & Sue, Gordon, Graham & Jonathan and of course my navigator Anna.



Everyone seemed to enjoy the day. The destination was about the right distance from Perth but I think that next time we plan the route we will follow the advice of John & Jill and take the more “cobra friendly” back roads.