

Heart of the Hunter 2014

Director's Report

A fine, overcast morning greeted the competitors at Freemans Waterhole on the Saturday morning 16th August. I had printed 31 sets of instructions and was getting worried when the entries reached 29. After scrutineering and drivers' briefing the field was flagged away.

Competitors faced their first "test" within 10 kms. I must express my surprise with the first instruction to turn left to Wakefield that two teams veered onto the M1 Motorway!

Rosina Rd which branches off Wakefield Rd is a well used triangle which turns back towards Wakefield Rd. However, 20 metres before the intersection, a road comes in on the right called School Rd, which was the "trick". Rod Towers was an observer on the intersection and recorded the 9 teams who missed the turn or were lost. Apparently he did help some people to find the correct route.

The next testing road junction was at the back of Woodberry which was TR at roundabout, and then 10metres turn left. Hal Moloney (P76) was set up down the road outside the school for M2 control. His wife Faye was at the intersection recording teams who overshot the turn left. Faye recorded the numbers of 12 teams who overshot the intersection.

During my 4 checks of the rally route, I had not spotted a single Mr Plod between Clarencetown and the Buckets Way. Apparently a Highway patrol passed the whole field and congratulations no one was nicked! Good to know everyone was obeying the road rules.

Lunch was at Dungog and people were left to choose from a variety of foods from the various cafes and a bakery. I chose to have the control in Brown Street because of adequate parking and a public toilet block on the corner. The most asked question, after they had walked past them "Where are the toilets?" Might be a good tie break question next year!

Some of the Sydney competitors didn't fill up at the start and were running low on fuel at lunch. Luckily "one" service station was open out the back streets of Dungog.

After lunch I gave the competitors a few bumpy roads, to wake them up, via Glen William. This led to some smooth flowing roads, a driver's delight. After a run down towards Lambs Valley I used the New England Highway to Camp Rd Greta, then to the finish.

The trick tie breaker question was the two bridges of the Hunter freeway which most people had counted as one.

Special thanks to Ian Alison, new member, and long time Fiat Club NSW member who will hopefully tell ALL of his friends what a great day he had. Steve Blair and Jocelyn travelled from Mittagong and return- what a great effort and winners too!

Hope to see you all next year,

Geoff Thomas, Rally Director