



RALLY NOTES

Christmas 2016



RALLY NOTES



AHRG is a CAMS affiliated club.

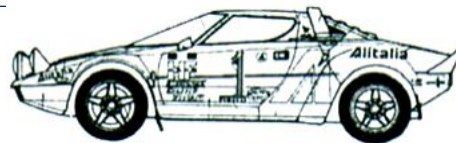
Australian Historic Rally Group Inc.
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www.historicrally.com.au

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well another year has past and our annual magazine has been compiled and distributed to our members. Many thanks to Daren Grainger for compiling all the information and editing our annual newsletter.

The competition year started in March with the Fluffy Duck Touring Assembly. Russ Baldwin and Ron Fraser put together a fantastic event which included great dirt and tarmac roads. After a run through the Yarramalong Valley and Kulnorra we headed to St Albans pub for lunch. What a great venue with mouth watering food. After lunch the field followed the lower reaches of the Hawksberry river, crossing the Putty Road and eventually finishing at Wisemans Ferry. A conrod throwing competition was used as a tie break, very original.

The next event was the Des West Touring Assembly, directed by Andrew Park and Dan Robinson. After leaving Boral we headed along some great dirt roads over to Dungog. The next stage included a narrow track over Salsbury Gap to East Gresford for lunch. Letter boards seemed to be non existent on this stage. The reason being when setting up on the Friday, Dan and Andrew drove through a hail storm and could hardly see the road. The finish was at Seaham Park, the end to another great event.

I directed The Heart of the Hunter in August with a big turn out for the all tarmac event. The Christmas run was to Bob's Garage at Quirrindi, with Carey Fraser setting an easy run via some very large open cut mines. After a BBQ lunch some members returned to Newcastle, while others stayed overnight in Tamworth.

I would like to thank the Committee and everyone involved in the successful running of the club and our events. Congratulations to our secretary, Kay Fraser for her domination of the Mayoral votes to become Mayor of Lake Macquarie. We are all very proud of her outstanding achievement. Of course our greatest (and oldest) member shall now be addressed as Sir Ronald and made ambassador to Hamilton plus connoisseur of fine coffee.

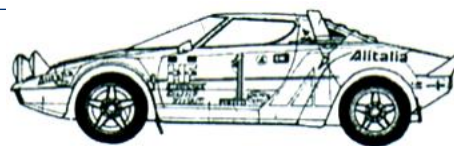
Our historic registration scheme continues to grow in numbers and the 60-day log book trial has been a great success. REMEMBER to renew your club membership NOW!





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued)



If your membership lapses, so does your registration. The club will also be enforcing members with Historic Registration MUST attend at least ONE event per year.

Financially we are stable, therefore have offered members a \$25/head subsidy for our Christmas party dinner at the Junction Tavern. 2017 will hopefully see more benefits for our members. I would like to wish all of our members and families a safe and merry Christmas, all the best.

Yours in Rallying ,
Geoff Thomas.

Patron:

Ruth West

Office Bearers;

President/Vehicle Examiner

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Eligibility

Public Officer

CAMS delegate

Club Capt./Scorer

Editor/Web Master

Geoff Thomas

4957 0999

Rod Conry

0405 449 468

Kay Fraser

0404 497 401

Karen Piggott

0412 133 899

Peter Meddows

4936 1588

Darval Thomas

4920 7961

Jason Gardiner

Laurie Gahan

49511300

Darren Grainger

0437 673 932

General Committee;

Rod Piggott

Carey Fraser





2017 Calendar

Club Meeting Dates

Our meetings are held at 7:00 pm, every first Tuesday of each alternate month.

Meetings will continue to be held at Wallsend Diggers unless otherwise advised.

7th February
4th April
6th June

1st August
3rd October
5th December

AGM

Don't forget to attend our AGM to learn what's going on, vote in our 2017 committee, and get involved in our club.
Wallsend Diggers

AGM date - 7th February 2017

Club Event Dates

(As proposed and submitted to CAMS)
See website for full sup regs and info

Fluffy Duck 4th March

Des West Winter Classic 4th June

Heart of the Hunter 19th August

Evan Green 4th November

Christmas Run 2nd December

AHRG WEBSITE

Visit www.historicrally.com.au

Many thanks to all those who have made valuable contributions to the website.

If you would like to contribute, please contact : secretary.ahrg@gmail.com





Message Board

Notice To All Members

All members with historic registration please note:

The Committee has voted and passed the following: Historic Plate Holders registered with AHRG must compete in **at least one organised event** during the year to retain certification by the club. ALL Historic Plate holders must be financial members of the club or their Registration is null and void i.e. your car is unregistered. The club registrar will keep a record of members' participation in club events and has Committees approval to decline renewal of registration if the above is not adhered to.

This has been decided for the benefit of the club and its members. Some members cars have not been seen at club events for years and the same can be said of the members.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

On the subject of membership please note that with the passing of our revised constitution, all memberships now end at the end of NOVEMBER each year and should be renewed BEFORE then to maintain your membership of the club and also legal registration of historic vehicles registered under the club.

So if you haven't renewed your membership, fill in the form at the back of this newsletter and send payment through as soon as possible.





Southern Cross Rally 50th Anniversary

2016 celebrates the 50th anniversary of Australia's greatest International motor racing events.

The Southern Cross Rally was first run from Sydney to Melbourne and back to Sydney in 1966.

The 'Southern Cross' went on to become Australia's first truly International event of its type and was run every year until 1980.

This year the event started in Albury, travelled south through Victoria re-tracing the route of the first Southern Cross Rally and then proceeded via Canberra to Sydney.

From Sydney the route took up the course of later Southern Cross rallies, heading north via Newcastle to Port Macquarie, where the classic roads of the Southern Cross rallies of the 1970s were re-visited.

The rally's exciting finale took place in Coffs Harbour, where competitors joined the field of world rally championship cars competing in the final round of the 2016 World Rally Championship, Rally Australia.

Southern Cross Gold Anniversary Rally cars competed over several of the Rally Australia special stages prior to the World Championship field. The event concluded with a presentation function in Coffs Harbour.

The AHRG was represented in this year's event by three teams who picked up the rally from Sydney.

Geoff Thomas & Jon Dickson.

Rod & Karen Piggott.

Jim Pope & Peter Liston.

Kindly, Jim has shared his diary.





Day 1. (Sunday 13th November, Sydney to Taree)

In its heyday the Southern Cross Rally was the Bathurst of the rally world; a gruelling five or six day event, mostly at night through the forest between Sydney and Coffs Harbour, centred in Port Macquarie, well, in the 70's anyway. Before that it was a Sydney Melbourne thing but that was before my time. I was a P plate teenager living in Coffs Harbour when the Southern Cross came through with service points in Coffs Harbour and Bellingen and of course the spectator point across the Bellingen River. I owned a Mini Cooper S and I liked the look of this Rallying so I joined Coffs Harbour and District Sporting Car Club and well the rest is history. I am not sure that a life time of destroying and repairing cars has been a responsible way to spend money, Oh well it is what it is.

I first heard about the 50th anniversary Southern Cross Rally in the first part of the year but I dismissed it as an event, not for me, as the press about it was all about people and cars who competed back in the day. I also thought that the entry fee would be way beyond me. A few months before the event I again saw something about it and decided to look into it and much to my surprise the entry fee was reasonable and so I decided to give it a go. The car is my Triumph Dolomite Sprint that I have owned for 29 years, the driver is me, Jim Pope, and the navigator is an old school friend and my first navigator (in the Bellingen Valley Rally 1977) Peter Liston. All three of us have seen better days so let's hope we get there and back in one piece. Day one started at Eastern Creek Drag Strip (I refuse to call it Sydney Motorsport Park) with what could be best described as a Rally Sprint type section through the car park and access roads around the drag strip, I drove like an old woman on her way to church as I intend to get to Coffs and back again. From there we headed north via the freeway too Awaba for another competitive section around Awabawac Park. Now this is a venue I know well so I could not resist going a bit quicker. Then we travelled to Ringwood Hillclimb just north of Raymond Terrace for another competitive section using the Hillclimb plus the Khanacross tracks. From there we continued heading north via Wang Wauk Forrest and eventually to Taree and the end of day one. The Dolly is going well at the moment, So far so good.

Geoff (the Noise) Thomas and Jon Dickinson in the Fiat 131 had some problems on the way to the start with a blown head gasket which meant going back to Newcastle to fix it, but they made it to the start on time. Not sure who they ended the day but the car sounds great.





Rod and Karen Piggott in their Peugeot 404 had problems with the Terra trip but one of the officials was able to lend them a replacement. Otherwise reporting no problems, which is what you would expect from the Peugeot.

Day 2. (Monday 14th November, Taree to Port Macquarie)

Day two started with the news that Nabitac was cancelled due to rain a few days ago so we had a late start before a tour section along the 1976 route which took us to Nabitac for lunch. Now last time I competed at Nabitac was in 1978 and that was driving a Mini Cooper S in a Motorkhana. Peter Liston and another school friend and navigator, Colin Green, also drove the Cooper S in that Motorkhana.

From Nabitac we continued following the 1976 route to a closed road section at Burrawan, just north of Kew, this was very rough and we drive very slowly but even slowly there were rocks crashing into the underside of the Dolly. We then headed to Port Macquarie and the end of day two. The Dolly is covered with cameras and at the end of each day they need to be charged and the video has to be down loaded into a portable hard drive, by the end of the event there will be hours of video to sort through.

Geoff and Jon continued to push with great gusto and reported no real problems, they did have trouble closing the boot lid.

Rod and Karen also had an uneventful day in the ever reliable Peugeot

Results after day 1 see Mark Pickering/Dave Boddy driving a Datsun 240Z leading from Geoff Thomas/Jon Dickson in their Fiat 131. In the AHRG Darby, Geoff/Jon lead from Rod/Karen with Jim/Peter third

Day 3. (Tuesday 15th November, Port Macquarie to Kempsey)

The sun came up on a fine day at the start of day three and our endless march north. I have never been to Port Macquarie before but there was no time for sightseeing as we were straight into what was a big day. Two closed road stages in Lorne Forest south of Port Macquarie, these sections were smooth and fast, after the closed road sections we headed to Rollands Plains north of Port Macquarie for a Khanacross and then travelling via the 1976 route to lunch at Telegraph Point. After lunch we had the challenge of Cooperabung Hillclimb, were





we had two very enjoyable runs up the hill. Many years ago, this venue was the Pacific Highway. After the hillclimb we headed to the overnight at Kempsey. But that was not the end of the day, Oh no, after dinner we were out to Tamban forest north of Kempsey for a night trial section, which meant map reading, we wrote a route chart from the map which worked very well. The roads were very ruff with lots of humps, some very high. Now this is rallying, at night, in the forest, a bit like the old days when rallies were real rallies, rally cars were real rally cars, navigators were real navigators and rally drivers were real drivers. Great day but very long we did not get back to the motel until 10.30.

Geoff and Jon had a good day trying to keep up with a Datsun 240Z, but he did have some problems with the sump guard at the Khanacross that had to be repaired but only temporality, he fixed it properly during the meal break.

Rod and Karen had a good day without problem.

Too late for results today.

Day 4. (Wednesday 16th November, Kempsey to Coffs Harbour)

Day four we found ourselves in Kempsey. I have fond memories of Kempsey as I got my best ever Rally result in the Kempsey Rally in 1981 Driving a Leyland Marina; we finished 12th outright.

I also broke down in Kempsey, with a broken diff in a Triumph 2500, but that is another story. From Kempsey we headed north back to Tamban forest for two closed road stages, which were a bit ruff. Then not too far to Eungai for a Khanacross section and lunch at Taylors Arm. After lunch we headed to Gordonville Ford near Bellingen. Gordonville Ford was a popular spectator point in the Southern Cross, I can remember watching the cars trying to get across the Bellingen river. We did not get there as the Dolly has developed a exhaust leak so we headed to Coffs for repairs but it is not a repair that can be done on the road so we will have to live with it. The tough part of the event is over I think, things get a bit easier from here.

Geoff and Jon had a good day without problems

Rod and Karen also enjoyed a good day.

Results after day 4 see Mark Pickering/Dave Boddy driving a 240Z leading from





Geoff Thomas/Jon Dickson in their Fiat. In the AHRG Darby, Geoff/Jon lead from Jim/Peter and Rod/Karen.

Day 5. (Thursday 17th November, Coffs Harbour)

My goodness Coffs Harbour has changed since the 70's. Houses as far as you can see, new roads, less bananas, it's a different place. Today the event took us south of Coffs to Raleigh Raceway for a closed road stage. The last time I was there it was just a cow paddock and a dream in someone's mind.

On the way we passed Pine Brush State Forrest where we did a passage control in the Southern Cross as well as a control in a Coffs Harbour Rally. I also crashed into a tree driving the Cooper S playing at being a rally driver. The Dolly's exhaust problem cannot be fixed on the side of the road so we will have to live with it. Raleigh Raceway was great fun, it was not a run around the circuit, it was a Rally sprint type section using the circuit and other roads. There was one TVHR (turn very hard right) which we managed to do a Scandinavian flick and go around beautifully. We also checked out the WRC cars plus many others on display in Coffs. We were not selected for the display as there was not enough room. There were some very nice cars to look at and lots of razzmatazz.

Geoff and Jon had a good day, they were selected for the display as the Fiat competed in the Southern Cross back in the 70's.
Rod and Karen reported no problems and had a good day.

Results after day 5 sees no change in the leader board from yesterday. In the AHRG Darby, Geoff/Jon still lead from Jim/Peter and Rod/Karen.

Day 6. (Friday 18th November, Coffs Harbour)

Today we headed north to Lower Bucca for a closed road stage, one of the WRC sections it was around 3 km's long with some fast sections and some humps here and there. We did this section twice, our second run was six seconds quicker than the first. We were faster than Rod & Karen Piggott in the first run but they beat us by one second in the second run. This was in affect the end of the rally. We then headed back to Coffs for a blast around the Rally Australia Super Special stage but this was not timed and did not count towards the end result. No spectators to lough at us, we did go over a hump to fast and landed a bit hard which did not do our exhaust much good and so the Dolly is making





even more noise. I think we must have looked pretty tame compared to the WRC cars but a great thrill to be part of. I found out too late that the section was being filmed and did not have enough time to set up a camera in front of the big TV screen. It was always going to happen, we lost a camera of the front of the Dolly during the Lower Bucca stage. The Dolly is still going but it has a long brake pedal, a noisy exhaust, and it is feeling a bit tired as is the driver and navigator.

Geoff and Jon got through the day without problem. Yesterday at the car show Geoff managed to get his Fiat's bonnet signed by Jari-Matti Latvala

Rod and Karen had a good day without problems.

Results after day 6 see the result unchanged Mark Pickering/Dave Boddy driving a Datsun 240Z won from Geoff Thomas/Jon Dickson in their Fiat 131 with Alan Cummine/Geoffrey Boyd driving a Peugeot 504 in third place. Jim Pope/Peter Liston in their Dolomite finished fourth and Rod & Karen Piggott driving their Peugeot 404 were fifth.

Day 7. (Saturday 19th November, Coffs Harbour, end of Rally)

All over bar the shouting. Did a bit of spectating at Raleigh Raceway watching just how fast modern rally cars go plus the classic category and then back to Coffs for the Presentation Dinner at Sawtell Golf Club. I have to say, it's been an adventure. It's also been interesting to see just how much development has taken place all up the coast but specially around Coffs Harbour with so many more houses, roads, everything. The Dolly got us here and hopefully home again without too many problems, the exhaust is a bit noisy and the brake pedal is a bit long but we should be alright. Smoke did escape from the electrical wires under the dash but we could not find any problems, no burnt wires, nothing, everything is working so hopefully it will be alright. It is fair to say that I am feeling the effects of all that driving and climbing in and out of the Dolly. I have a big job ahead of me to edit all the video recorded over the last week, should make an interesting film, unfortunately some of the film is not very good, eg. the camera on the front of the Dolly shakes and is unwatchable and the camera between the seats does not show anything through the windscreen due to glare. There will be enough to make a film. At the presentation some film taken by officials was shown and the Dolly got some air time and I'm told that the Super Special was live to pubs etc.





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Geoff and Jon received a trophy for finishing second and had a good event given the problems at the start.

Rod and Karen had a trouble free event and enjoyed the close competition with car number 33. (Jim Pope/Peter Liston)



Jim Pope





2016 Christmas Registration Run

The XMAS Register Run was very successful. Even though we only had 12 starters overall it was a fun day. The start was at Broke and travelled through the outskirts of Bulga, Mount Thorley, Jerrys Plains and then went through Edderton and then onto Muswellbrook on the New England Highway up through Murrurundi and turned left at Willow Tree towards Quirindi.

We arrived at Bobs Shed around 12 noon, the temperatures hovering around 39 degrees and that was outside. Once inside the shed we went through to the Museum to look at some fascinating displays. (even hotter inside) Apart from the display of ex Bathurst Commodores there were some other historic cars including motorcycles. A full display of train sets and another highlight was a display of kitchen utensils including food and all types of memorabilia. It was very interesting and definitely worth a visit. After we had a tour through the museum, Bob cooked up a beautiful barbecue with home grown salad followed by desert. Some competitors decided to stay overnight, some in Quirindi and some in Tamworth and travelled back on Sunday morning with the option of going via Gloucester. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. See you in 2017.

Carey Fraser





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Some more shots from 2016





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And Finally

*From the committee to all our members, families, and friends
wishing everyone a safe and healthy festive season*

a very Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2017



Email: membership.ahrg@gmail.com



AHRG Inc.
PO Box 987
Warners Bay,
NSW. 2264

APPLICATION / RENEWAL OF FULL MEMBERSHIP
(Voting rights [AGM only], Committee eligibility, CAMS Licence validity, Newsletter)
APPLICATION / RENEWAL OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (Newsletter)

I, (Full Name of Applicant)

of, (Address & Postcode)

Home Ph: Mob:

Email:

Please print clearly (do not use if you don't want to receive club emails)

I desire to become/renew as a Member/Associate Member. (Cross out non-applicable words) In the event of my admission as a Full Member, I agree to be bound by the Rules of the Australian Historic Rally Group Inc.

.....
(Signature of Applicant)

Date: / /

Direct Deposit **BSB: 182-222**
Account: **120660865**
Please email receipt of transfer to: membership.ahrg@gmail.com

Single Membership: \$35
Family Membership: \$55
Associate Membership: \$10

Cheques made payable to: THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC RALLY GROUP INC.

CAMS Licence No:

Competition:

Official:

Do you have a vehicle/s with Historic Rego? Y / N Facilitated by the AHRG? Y / N

Historic Vehicle/s

<i>year</i>	<i>make</i>	<i>model</i>	<i>capacity</i>	<i>rego</i>
.....
.....

NOMINATOR:

I, *a member of the AHRG. Nominate the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the AHRG*

..... (Signature) Date: / /

SECONDER:

I, *a member of the AHRG., Second the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the AHRG*

..... (Signature) Date: / /

Return to:

The Secretary
AHRG
PO Box 987
WARNERS BAY
NSW 2282



secretary.ahrg@gmail.com

Nomination for AHRG Committee

NAME OF NOMINEE:

.....

COMMITTEE POSITION:

.....

NOMINATOR:

I, an eligible member of the AHRG, nominate this member for election to the AHRG committee.

..... (Signature) Date: / /

SECONDER:

I, an eligible member of the AHRG., second this nomination for election to the AHRG committee

..... (Signature) Date: / /

ACCEPTANCE

I, a member of the AHRG, accept this nomination for election to the AHRG committee.

..... (Signature) Date: / /

*Nominations for office bearers must be received by the club secretary at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting
Acceptance is not mandatory on this form, but all nominations must be accepted in writing at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting*

Return to:

The Secretary
AHRG
PO Box 987
WARNERS BAY
NSW 2282



secretary.ahrg@gmail.com

Appointment of Proxy

MEMBER:

I, *being an eligible member of the AHRG,*
name

HEREBY APPOINT:

..... *being an eligible member of the AHRG,*
name

as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting for the purpose of the election of officers

held on
date

.

.....
Member signature

.....
Proxy signature

Appointment of proxy to be received by the club secretary no later than 24 hours before the Annual General Meeting.