

28-30 May 2022: Bermagui – The No Triumph Run (Jack Gault and Anthony Ockwell)

Saturday 28th at a civilized 9.30 am, saw the Mousers, Gaults, and Allan Caldwell set off on a Recce run to the Bermagui area, for our October event.

After managing the usual morning tea stop at Nimmitabel we negotiated the damaged roads, over friendly truck drivers tailgating, and checked out the new riverside playground at Cobargo (note for grandchild use), then arrived for lunch at Bermi's of Bermagui.

Fact finding at the Tourist info centre followed, and a walk to the river headland and along the beach concluded our day time activities. The Ockwells arrived in time for pre-dinner drinks, including a cocktail for Mrs Gault her first for many years, (surely not). Dinner was excellent and all enjoyed the range of food and wine, together with an extended chat at the restaurant above the harbour wharf area. And so to bed after a full and exciting day.



Sunday commenced with a leisurely brunch at Eurolicious, followed by a casual walk around the local markets to the tunes of the local Ukulele group strumming out songs of Johnny Cash, the Beach boys, Roy Orbison, Tex Ritter bringing on our High Noon rendezvous with Bob Watters and the TR Register Gang at Wallaga Lake. The short run to Wallaga in brilliant sunshine set the pattern for a very enjoyable lunch outdoors at the Camel Rock Brewery, with great conversation paving the way for what should be a top combined event in October.



Following lunch, Jack and Jenny, Daryl and Anthony wandered next door to an adjoining paddock which was the site of the Montreal Goldfield. We were met by Chris and Judy who manage the old gold mining site which occupied 60 acres. The site is riddled with 3-4 metre shafts and tunnels running in all directions beyond the 3m X 3m square claim held by miners at a cost of 10 shillings/month (pre-1966, which was \$1). We embarked on a 300 metre walk through the goldfield with Chris as our guide. This took about 1.5 hours, during which we were introduced to native flora, as well as bees, bats and birds reflecting the concerted site rehabilitation undertaken in more recent years. Over the course of four years, approximately 250 kg of gold were taken from Australia's only coastal gold mining site.

Some returned to Bermagui via Bermagui Mud Works where we met Mike shaping pottery for the kiln and subsequent sale. A good discussion ensued with another possibility being added to our list of venues for October.

We re-assembled for dinner at the Bermagui Country Club which is now on the agenda for our joint ACT/VIC TCC dinner/BBQ to be held on the Friday evening. A very enjoyable evening meal, followed by further discussion in the lounge as we continued to map out the agenda for October

Some of us took advantage of the dawn of another superb coastal morning with a walk around the headland, and later reconvening for a leisurely brunch at Bermi's of Bermagui. A red sky in the morning portent of a return to cold weather.



Over brunch, we continued to progress more options for the October Rally, amongst much good humour and laughter which was the order of the day over the weekend. Back to our accommodation for departure for home via Narooma.



Our short run north to Narooma detoured via Tilba Tilba to take in more of the spectacular south coast scenery and heritage. While we had planned lunch at the Narooma Golf Club, we discovered that many venues are closed Mondays and Tuesdays as a result of staff shortages. An earlier discussion with the manager of the restaurant re-assured us that it would be a worthwhile spot for lunch on the Sunday of our October Rally. Also closed (permanently it seems) was the Narooma Tourist Information Centre with the local Fishing, Dive and Snorkel shop acting as the tourism hub. Again, a productive discussion ensued with the owner which has the Recce Team focusing on the possibility of a boat trip to Montague Island to watch penguins coming ashore in the late afternoon.

After lunch at the Narooma Ice-Creamery and Café, we set sail for Canberra and surrounds via the Clyde. As we left behind the sunny shores of the south coast, temperatures dropped dramatically which had one car considering a U-turn back to the coast.

Thanks to all who contributed to a great and very productive weekend by way of finalising arrangements for October.