

National Rover Rally 2024 – Wallerawang, NSW

Report by Eve McCormack

The National Rover Rally, hosted by Rover Owners Club, New South Wales was held over the weekend 1-4 November 2024 and centered on the Central West Plains area of New South Wales, Wallerawang, Lithgow, Oberon, Bathurst, Gulgong.

Ross and I left Brisbane on Wednesday 30 October and had a smooth run down the Pacific Highway to our overnight stay, Port Macquarie, the weather was fine and traffic was light.

Thursday 31st October saw us drive further south, with stops at Heatherbrae and Hawkesbury, we then drove on to Hornsby and negotiated some of Sydney's impressive system of tunnels and motorways to the Great Western Highway, finally arriving at our accommodation for the Rally, the Black Gold Motel at Wallerawang. We met up with Craig and Jenny Barraud for our evening meal.

On Friday 1 November, we woke to a sunny but cool day. Drove into Lithgow to find a car wash then we headed to Bathurst. Ross and Craig were delighted to be there and drove two laps of Mt Panorama circuit. We then checked out the Car Museum on site and drove into Bathurst to find a morning tea spot – ended up in a shopping mall as parking was hard to find.

We had an easy afternoon and gradually met fellow Rover owners as they began to arrive. Friday evening 'Meet and Greet' was held at the Black Gold, and this was a great opportunity to catch up with acquaintances and friends from previous Roves.

Saturday morning saw us all head to Oberon over a scenic, but very, very pot-holed road! We stopped off at the Oberon Markets for a short time then drove on to Oberon Tarana Heritage Rail for 'Pride of Ownership' display – the cars, at least 60, looked magnificent lined up in front of the Railway station. Morning Tea was provided on the station and we could also wander through the Museums on site.

There was an 'Observation run' to return to Wallerawang, followed by Barefoot bowls at the Community and Sports Club, followed by a casual dinner where we were entertained by a short talk from Peter Scott and his 1913 Rover Motorcycle, then Max Pegler who told the story of his Rover 75 V8.

The Sunday activities were a scenic driving tour to Gulgong, a tour of the Gulgong Opera House and visit to the Pioneers Museum with a suggestion to return via Stein's Winery and Motorbike Museum, Mudgee. However, deciding against the 1.5-2hr drive to Gulgong, we decided to take in the Sights of the Blue Mountains – Govatt's Leap, Blackheath Rhododendron Gardens, The Three Sisters, etc. As it was Sunday, needless to say this area was very busy, however it was an enjoyable day and we managed to stop at the Hydro Majestic Hotel for a light lunch.

The Presentation Dinner at the Black Gold Motel on Sunday evening was very enjoyable. Craig Barraud won a trophy for 'Best SD1', Geoff Victor won a trophy for 'Best P5', Trevor and Karen Eastley won a trophy for 'Best P4' a great effort all round!

The Farewell Buffet Breakfast on Monday morning rounded out the weekend. For those who wanted to see more of the State, the Post Rove tour would take in the areas Bathurst/Mt Tomah/ Hartley/Hill End.

As always, this Rally was very well organised and our thanks go to Max Pegler, Richard Dalziel and the Rove 2024 Sub-Committee. It is great to attend these events, meet fellow Rover enthusiasts and their cars. Ross and I have attended each one since 1998, we always enjoy ourselves and are now looking forward to the next National Rally – to be held in Perth, WA in 2026.

Those attending from Rover Car Club of Queensland, Craig and Jenny Barraud (SD1), John Cootes and Jon Lowe (SD1), Josh and Nicole Dyer (P5B) Trevor and Karen Eastley and Robert Johnson (P4), Ross and Eve McCormack (Rover 75), Geoff Victor and Jan Carter (P5BCoupe).



1913 Rover Motorcycle



Trophy Winners, Trevor Eastley (P4), Geoff Victor (P5B Coupe), Craig Barraud (SD1)



Selection of Rover P4s and P5s on Display





***SD1s and
Rover 75s
On
display***



Rovers at Bathurst

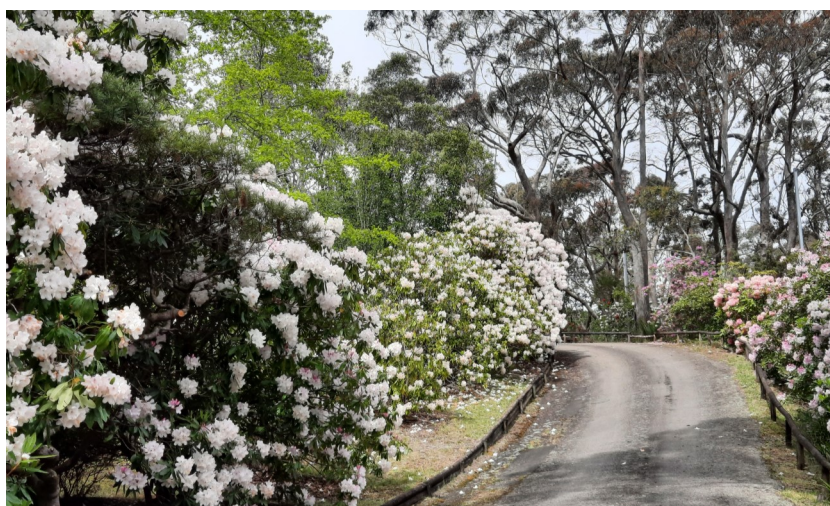




The Queensland contingent at National Rover Rally, 1-4 November 2024.



View of The Three Sisters, Katoomba



Rhododendron Gardens, Blackheath