

Living the Dream – Cooma Surf to Summit November 14-17 2008.

This was an event all participants had been looking forward too. Four days of doing what we built our Cobras for - Driving!!! And what a great extended weekend it was!



We all met at Cayonleigh (11 Cobras in all) on the Hume highway where we had a leisurely, no lets make that semi rushed breakfast, as young Audley wanted to be on the road, like now!!

Here our T-shirts were distributed by Roz, with the Logo.. "COBRA – Living the Dream" along with the appropriate CD containing a raft of music suitable for a Cobra cruise! Great job Roz, what a good idea!

We had a leisurely drive down to Cooma taking the back roads to the east of Lake George with Audley leading the way. A quick stop for brunch at Bungendore where we met up with some of our ACT Members.



We arrived at Cooma mid afternoon and got ourselves unpacked and settled in. Our Motel was perfect as it even had undercover parking, very much a bonus as the forecast was for some storms late in the day. It was then time to find a watering hole before the "meet and greet" in the early evening. The majority set off giving instructions or so we thought, as to what Pub they were going to - OVER THE HILL INTO TOWN THE LAST PUB ON THE RIGHT. The rest of the group set off 20 minutes later. After visiting five pubs we never did find them. Oh well, the last Pub was as good as any so we had a few leisurely drinks and then headed back to the Motel where we were greeted by "where have you been..."etc and "no, the last pub

on the right is where the meet and greet is later!!!”. Not sure who got the instructions wrong BUT we made sure that between us we had been to every pub in town!

Then it was back to the Royal Hotel(last on right at other end of town) for the meet and greet, few sausage sambos, few ales, collect our information packs and register for the event.



Saturday, Day 1 of the Cooma Monaro Classic – Cooma-Tathra-Cooma.

The alarm clock went off early, ie Audley started his Cobra!!

We met at the Cooma showground where a fine collection of classic cars, Jags, TVR's, Volvo P1800(ala "The Saint"), Aussie Ikons, such as GT Falcons, Monaros, just to mention a few, had gathered.



Today we were off to the coast on the Monaro Hwy, via Bombala, Pambula, Merimbula, with lunch at Tathra, right on the beach. We were blessed with fine sunny weather as we set off, the roads just flowed through the picturesque but very dry Monaro hills and then winding down through the mountain to the coast.

“You wouldn’t be dead for quids” as someone was heard to say. The wind in our hair the sun on our faces, what a fantastic day!

Stewart and Kerry’s Cobra had a drop in oil pressure along this stretch, not a good thing but even more concerning as it was a new engine. After a stop to check things out they took it easy for the rest of the day. Neil and Sue also had a problem but with the electricals, alternator was not charging. Neil sorted a work-around and corrected the problem on return to Cooma(handy bloke that one).

After lunch it was back to Cooma on the Snowy Mountains Hwy via Bega-Bemboka-Brown Mountain-Nimmitabel and then Cooma. After a brief stop at the Bega Cheese Factory where most indulged in something that tasted very good but probably wasn’t good for you, we headed off for a bit of adventure as we climbed the Cobras up Brown Mountain. Apparently the views are fantastic but as we drove up into the fog and mist/light rain we saw nothing, most of the time you couldn’t see 20 metres ahead. What with hairpin bends a wet road and some nervous passengers we slowly and patiently climbed up and descended the other side where the weather changed just as quickly back to bright sunshine and dry roads. The way back to Cooma from here was a driver’s dream, weaving through rolling hills, even the option of opening up the throttle....just a bit!!!

Saturday night was a dinner at the local bowling club where a few prizes were given out and answers to the Trivia question of the day were answered. We all had a very pleasant evening chatting about the days events.

By the way who is the Cobra owner that is a ophidiophobic?

Day 2 – Cooma-Eucumbene Dam-Jindabyne-Charlotte Pass-Dalgetty-Cooma

We lost a few participants today as some had to get home for Monday, Mark & Robyn as well as Dick and Sue headed home. For the rest of us another glorious day awaited.

We assembled a little later this morning and were joined by a group of cars from The Variety Club Bash. We were all rugged up and excited about the climb up into the alps.

Unfortunately Stuart & Kerry had to leave the Cobra at Cooma today as the oil pressure was still an issue. Many thanks to Owen and Pam Johnson from Cooma who lent them their Mini Cooper S for the day.



We set off with the first stop being Eucumbene Dam for morning tea. This was a nice warm up run for things to come later in the day. These Cooma Monaro people are so organised, boiling water on tap for that coffee or tea overlooking Lake Eucumbene, Snowy Mountains Cookies to munch on, can it get any better!! It was time for a quick photo shoot with all the Cobras lined up on Eucumbene Dam, we had a couple of ring



ins from Canberra and Cooma who also joined in.

Next stop, Charlotte Pass for lunch, this section was a flyer with good roads, straight stretches and no traffic. And thanks to the BMW driver who ran out of road while waving a couple of Cobras through, good to see your brakes are working fine!! I'd have to say everyone had a grin on their faces when we arrived at the top of the mountain.....Charlotte Pass for lunch. Here we were treated to a lovely lunch in full sunshine, the best food of the weekend by far!!!



That was almost the end of the day, just one more blast down the mountain and then a few did a quick diversion up to Thredbo while the rest of us headed off via Dalgetty then back to Cooma. Back in Cooma we had a last photo in front of the Royal Hotel, with all the Cobras except for Kerry and Stuart's, which is another story.



The weekend almost over we had a relaxed meal at the Cooma RSL, which we could all thoroughly recommend, what great seafood!

Back to Kerry and Stuart, after some discussion it was decided to trailer the car home as the experts amongst us thought there was a very good chance that the oil pump had dropped to the bottom of the sump after bottoming out on the first day. So their son brought down a car trailer to take the Cobra home. The Cobra was loaded on and tied off when Stuart said to Kerry, "Can I get you to sit in the Cobra and put your foot on the brake while we trail the car home"... "what all the way home" replies Kerry, "I have never seen any one else doing that"...the penny dropped!!

On the Monday we all had a leisurely breakfast and headed off at different times in a couple of groups.

This event was a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of our fellow members of the NSW Cobra Club, everyone without exception had a great time and enjoyed the experience of cruising around the Snowy Mountains. Our special thanks for your company over the weekend and the chance to know you all, Stuart & Kerry, Mark & Robyn, Phil & Tracey, Dick & Sue, Audley(our organiser and document provider), Dave & buddy John(CD producer, look forward to seeing the finished article), Mick & Tina, Dave & Roz(T-shirt & CD supplier), Dennis & Heather, Neil(mobile mechanic and Cooma networker) & Sue.

Also our special thanks to the organisers of this event, Rogan Corbett, Chris Reeks & Kel & Lyn Goodmin, it ran like clockwork and we all thoroughly enjoyed your country hospitality.

Rob & Kerry Purchase