

Our Experience of the 2019 State Rally by Grant Rodman

This year's state rally was staged at the picturesque location of Beauty Point.

Being a well-known holiday destination, Tamara & I thought it would be a great idea to do just that!

As this would be the first time "Pearl" has towed our little old camper any distance, I thought it would be prudent to have a very close inspection prior to the journey – luckily no major issues were found, but it's amazing how fast the 'winter job list' grows when you look close enough!



Finally departure day arrived, so with the camper & Pearl packed to the 9's, we set off on our little adventure.

After much gauge watching, listening to every rattle & squeak, we made our destination without the slightest hiccup (I knew she could 😊), and quickly set about setting up camp.

It was a sight to see a '60 car with a '78 Pop-top nestled in amongst late model SUV's and massive "Cara-homes" (trust me; you can't consider them to be caravans anymore!)

Before we knew it was time to head off to the welcome get together at the Riviera Hotel.

As usual I wasn't very organized, so didn't manage to get a single photo, but we had a great time catching up with friends far and wide.

Next morning we were blessed with a lovely fine day, and cars soon arriving at the lawns of the Riviera with the beautiful Tamar River as the back drop.



And what an incredible array there was –
Sports cars from the very old to the very very new!



Desirable luxury sedans from

the ‘very early’ to the ‘very late’, and beautiful examples of everything in between

It was very pleasing to see a lovely range of 'Compacts' out to celebrate the 60th



birthday of the Mk2 model.

Soon the judges were busy scoring various cars that were competing on the day – with nervous owners close at hand to open/close as requested.



Saturday evening saw us all reconvene in the Riviera for much merriment with the presentation of various awards in between courses of delicious food!



Later in the evening we were given a very informative talk about photography by Phillip Kuruvita and a ‘behind the scenes’ insight to his book “Behind Garage Doors”



Sunday morning saw another great turn out, meeting up at the Riviera carpark before heading off for a leisurely drive for brunch at the Rosevears Hotel – one member enjoyed it so much he did it twice! (Actually forgot to pick up his lovely wife at Exeter the first time!)

It was only fitting that a ‘standing ovation’ was in order upon their eventual arrival.

Who needs enemies when you have friends like us!





We chose to make the most of the long weekend by retiring back to our little holiday home – where Tam practiced her ‘Big Game’ fishing skills,

Of course, all things must come to an end, time for us to pack up and head homeward bound, but who could resist stopping at the Exeter market on the way!



In conclusion, a fabulous job by the organizing committee, in a beautiful place, with fantastic friends, how much better can it get!



Grant Rodman

