

The Morris Muster



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our first newsletter.
- Contact details are on the back page.
- Calendar in the next issue.
- 24 months to Shepparton.

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of “The Morris Muster” and as the name suggests, it’s about Shepparton, the venue for the next National Rally of the Morris Registers of Australia. The location was announced at the recent 23rd National Rally, held at Dubbo, NSW, under the auspices of the Morris Register of NSW.

Our first task is to invite one and all to join the Morris Register of Victoria, the host club, at Shepparton over the 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th of April 2024. A farewell morning tea will be held on the 29th.

The Rally Committee has been busy for the last 12 months making the initial arrangements for the rally, which we are confident will be a great success in such a vibrant location. For those who don’t know,

Shepparton is located on the food bowl plains of the Goulburn River in northern Victoria.

We will be telling you much more about Shepparton and the surrounding area over the next two years through The Morris Muster which we will publish every three months. The Morris Muster will keep you up to date with our preparations, things you need to do and advice on how to get the most out of the rally and your visit to Shepparton.

The Shepparton Muster is designed to be an interactive newsletter, so our

Editor George McMaster would be delighted to receive any articles, stories, comments or questions you would like to see put into the newsletter. In particular they would love to hear of your restoration so that they can cover your progress as we head towards the 2024 rally. Please don’t forget to include colour digital photos for publication.



Shepparton
MANY GREAT THINGS

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Rally Committee

While on the subject of who’s who in the organising committee for the rally, apart from George (Editor and Communications), Peter Cardwell is our Events Coordinator, Ross Jamieson will be sourcing some very good regalia, Lyn Cardwell, Amanda Habgood and Chris Coles are going to make sure you are fed appropriately, John Habgood will be working

with our sponsors, Keith Montell is our creative genius, John Coles (with assistance from Dave Gerrand) will be collecting your money. Last but not least, the person keeping us on the straight and narrow, will be the Secretary Clive Jones. On the topic of sponsors, John Habgood would be delighted to receive suggestions for possible sponsors and

indeed, if you run a business and would like to sponsor some aspect of the rally he will be very pleased to hear from you. To make communication easier for you, we have included in this first newsletter a full list of the rally committee members, their telephone numbers, email addresses and position on the Rally committee.

Accommodation

The rally committee has decided to leave accommodation arrangements in the hands of rally entrants to avoid duplication of effort and enable entrants to discuss their needs directly with the accommodation provider of their choice. In

the next edition of The Morris Muster, we will publish details of a number of accommodation venues you are encouraged to use.

It is intended that we will provide free transport by bus to some of the evening venues during the rally and

all of the accommodation venues listed will be on the bus route.

You are, of course, free to stay wherever you like in Shepparton, but you might find it more convenient to be able to access the free transport provided during

the rally. See the next newsletter for more details.

Early Bird Entries

As has become something of a tradition, we are offering an Early Bird Discount on the rally entry fee for those who pay either during the National Rally at Dubbo or before 30th June 2014. The full entry fee is \$120, but for those who pay by 30th June 2022, the cost will be \$100, so if you haven't entered the rally, now would be a good time to do so. You will find an Entry Form attached to this newsletter, on the Morris Register of Victoria website at www.moreg.org.au, or by emailing rally@moreg.org.au and we will send you a form. Interstate clubs will also have been sent a copy of the form.

Payment can be made by one of the following methods:

- In person at the Dubbo Rally on Easter Monday morning
- By returning your completed entry form and enclosing a cheque to the address on the form
- By scanning and emailing your completed entry form and depositing the money directly into the rally bank account following the instructions on the entry form

Catering

After a very successful effort at the 2016 Warrnambool National Rally, Lyn Cardwell and Amanda Habgood have again agreed to be responsible for the catering arrangements at the 2024 Shepparton National Rally. They will be joined by Chris Coles for this rally. The experience gained by Amanda and Lyn at previous rallies will ensure the catering will be of a high standard.

Below are some past words of wisdom from Amanda and Lyn -

- For the Ladies, the food and the occasions we gather to eat are generally the highlights of the Rally.
- In the early stages, finding venues large enough and ensuring there is variety in the meals are the two main challenges.
- Nearer the time of the Rally, we will have to talk to Shepparton chefs and catering managers to decide the format of meals. The formal dinner will always be a served meal.
- The catering side of the Rally is a big ticket item and brings a lot of business to the chosen location.
- Making sure that everyone is seated at a meal is a Rally catering priority. People do turn up without having registered or paid so meal ticket checking is essential.
- We like to see local organisations (e.g. mothers clubs) involved when there are events out of town.
- During the Rally we will be to use the term "Flat Chat"
- We aim for people to "Remember the Rally by the meals"

There is no doubt that Lyn, Amanda and Chris will pull off another memorable gastronomic event. We are all looking forward to it.

The City of Shepparton

Shepparton is found 180 kilometres north of Melbourne and is a vibrant regional city with a wealth of history, culture, food, drink and nature. The city is located on the banks of the Goulburn River and in 2020 the population was 66,493.

Indigenous History

Prior to European settlement, the area was inhabited by the indigenous Yorta Yorta tribe known as the Kailtheban.

White Settlement History

Shepparton started as a sheep station and river crossing and was named Tallygaroopna. In 1843, Sherborne Sheppard began running the sheep station. This was how the city got its eventual name. With the advent of the Victorian gold rush, the area became an important river crossing point for miners heading east and a punt service was set up. Shepparton was officially declared a township in 1860. In 1880 a railway reached the town and ended up central to a large regional network. The railway, paddle steamers and ferries helped Shepparton become a city. The Goulburn weir (1891) and the Warangal dam (1905) were built and irrigation became widely used for orchards in the area. Post war saw a boom in migrants

mainly from Southern Europe.

Climate

Shepparton has a climate of hot summers and cool winters. January is the hottest month and July the coldest. Rainfall is quite low throughout the year. The period designated for the rally has an average high of 22.5 and an average low of 8.5. Perfect temperatures for older vehicles.

Arts and Culture

Shepparton Art Museum houses the world's most significant collection of Australian ceramics and hosts two major Australian ceramic awards.

Shepparton also has a premier theatrical group that was formed in 1975.

The Mooving Art project involves local artists painting fibreglass cows, which are then displayed in various locations around the city and close townships. We have been promised our own cow.

Things to See

Moove

The Museum of Vehicle Evolution Over 10,000 square metres of cars, motorbikes, trucks, bicycles, gramophones/telephones/radio and

vintage clothing. The museum has an ever changing collection of vehicles on display. The museum also holds the Farren collection of over 200 bicycles and a fashion collection of over 7,500 items of clothing, jewellery and accessories.

Victoria Park Lake

A wonderful attraction of Shepparton. Constructed in 1920, the lake contains many facilities.

Silo Art

Silo art is present at nearby at Tungamah and Gooramab. Amazing art at both of these towns.

Shepparton Heritage Centre

Museum with over 2,000 items of the local area on show. Separate exhibitions during year.

Australian Botanic Gardens

A showcase of Australian native plants set against distinct themed gardens.

More about Shepparton will be disclosed in further newsletters, but as you can see the city is a very good location for the 2024 Morris Register's National Rally.

The origins of telling a Furphy

John Furphy of Shepparton (J.Furphy and Sons est.1864) invented and produced a horse drawn water cart prior to the First World War. They were used (amongst other things) for carting water for the troops at the military camp Broadmeadows and later carts were transported to the Middle East and Europe during World War One. The gathering of troops around these water carts led to the term furphy being used to describe a story that may be untrue or be an embellishment. The carts were an ideal spot for rumours to become rife.

This started off as a Victorian word and then more and more people from other states picked it up. The word has remained as part of the Australian vernacular today.

The Furphy museum that is in MOVE (Museum of Vehicle Evolution) explores 150 years of the brand. The museum has a recreated Furphy Foundry, a Blacksmith's shop and many Furphy products.

J.Furphy & Sons is now a fifth generation family owned

manufacturing business with 140 years experience. The business comprises three galvanising plants, a manufacturing section that specialises in stainless steel tanks and laser welded pillowplate heat exchangers.

Truly a remarkable company that is an icon of Shepparton and has provided a part of Australian folklore. It is a fair chance that during the 2024 National Rally many furbies will be told and there could even be a furphy in this newsletter.

CONTACT US

The following poor hapless individuals have been press ganged into forming the Rally Committee. Please be gentle on them.

The Rally Committee

John Habgood	Rally Director and Sponsorship rally@moreg.org.au	Lyn Cardwell	Catering rally@moreg.org.au
David Smallacombe	Rally Director rally@moreg.org.au	Amanda Habgood	Catering rally@moreg.org.au
John Coles	Treasurer rally@moreg.org.au	Chris Coles	Catering rally@moreg.org.au
Clive Jones	Secretary rally@moreg.org.au	Keith Montell	Artistic Director rally@moreg.org.au
Peter Cardwell	Events Co-ordinator rally@moreg.org.au	George McMaster	Editor and Communication rally@moreg.org.au
Ross Jamieson	Regalia rally@moreg.org.au		

This unrestored 1938 Morris 8 will be going to the 2024 National Rally. All that has to be done is sort out the worn suspension, put a new loom in (current one is melting standing still), put in a new headlining (old one is very torn), repair steering wheel (cracks upon cracks), sort brakes (car has been standing a long time) and pass a roadworthy. This might not sound much and I do have 755 days to complete but you know how quickly those days go. See you in Shepparton.

George



Your Story

Please let us know if you are trying to finish a project or just trying to start your car to get it to Shepparton.

Send in a few words (or many) and a couple of photos to maybe inspire others to george.mcmaster@gmail.com

The Editor