



THE WORM REVIEW

November 16, 2005

MY health is such that joining this year's Worm Weekend or the Worm Wander was not possible.

I was sitting at home thinking about all the worms enjoying themselves at the 2005 Worm Weekend when the phone rang. A procession of worms came onto the phone from Narooma to say g'day and have a short chat. I really appreciated that. Thanks to whoever paid the mobile phone bill. Rain was mentioned in the chats so I had a look at the internet radar rainfall images that took in Narooma. A great blob of rain centered on Narooma Saturday night and most of Sunday. Rainfalls in the order of 80 mm were mentioned. So there was no photo line up on Sunday and none of those long panoramas of Peugeotts. But Alex and Ann Sloane have sent me a video and I have been sent CDs with over 1000 digital pictures to look at. I almost feel as if I was at the week end.

Paul Watson has written the following piece about the wander and the weekend. The pictures were taken by Paul and Nola Watson and Annie Brown.

Worms go wandering

ONCE again, Hank Verwoert's Worm Wander, a 7 day drive leading up to the Worm Weekend, has proved a wonderful success. There were as many as 17 cars in the convoy at any one time (some came and went). The roads chosen were excellent. The Grand Ridge Road in eastern Victoria offers some of the best rural vistas you would hope to see anywhere and its relative obscurity means it is little-used.

One of the few cars the convoy met on the road was a modern Peugeot, driven by a woman who lives nearby. She was amazed to see the stream of old Pugs winding through the forest towards Yarram and she revealed that she had once shared a house with two lads who had a 403 wagon, just like Phil Thomas's MAD 403 from Queensland.

Most of the Victorian roads covered by the convoy were flat, but once we left Cann River, headed for Bombala, we started to do some serious climbing. The southern Monaro is a strange, almost



Les and Lenie Jennings (404), John and Dot Vagg (404) and Phil and Lyn Bromley between Braidwood and Yass on the Worm Wander.



Cars lined up for a display at Tathra on the Worm Weekend.

desolate place, but the road is excellent, offering plenty of downhill run-ups for the climb ahead.

After Bombala it was downhill all the way to the coast at Pambula, but the next day we were climbing again, up the Brown Mountain to Cooma. Then it was on to Tumut, through the glorious undulating country that we enjoyed so much during the Tumut Worm Weekend a few years ago.

MAD 403, which has an old and tired motor, was having problems with the hills, partly because it was carrying four adults (Phil, his wife Kay, his brother Alan and sister-in-law Mary) and all their luggage. At Hank's suggestion, the people and bags were redistributed through other cars in the group.

The people at the caravan park beside the beautiful Tumut River remembered us from our previous visit and asked for a photo montage of our cars for their office wall.

Problems on the road

PHIL and Lyn Bromley from Lake Macquarie came along in a black 403 that was once owned by the Goodwin brothers. It is a nice car, but has suffered the indignity of being a target for nesting

birds while stored for several years. On the Grand Ridge Road, they had tyre trouble. Later the Watson 403 gave a very loud backfire and stopped. It was so loud that Nola and I thought that we had been shot. A failed ignition condenser. This was soon replaced and the 403 started. The exhaust was now VERY loud. The back fire had split the rear muffler open like a sardine tin. We were able to have it replaced the next day.

Phil Bromley's Michelin shows the damage done by a sharp rock on the Grand Ridge Road.





Madeleine's mishaps

PHIL Thomas is a technology nut and he rigged up MAD 403 with a GPS navigation system, which he named Madeleine because of the female voice commands. Madeleine was well behaved most of the time, but led the Thomases astray in Canberra. Then on the road from Queanbeyan to Braidwood. MAD 403 ended up taking a wrong turn up a bush track that was a dead end.

No wee at Wee Jasper

THE drive from Braidwood to Yass is a revelation. The country is magnificent and the road was made for worm-drive cars. The only problem we encountered was in Wee Jasper, where we were hoping to have a toilet stop. The village store (home of the only available toilet facilities in the town) had a stern sign: "No business, no toilet". That got our dander up and, rather than give them any of the business they would have received anyway, we crossed our legs and headed for Yass.

Narooma weekend

THE Worm Weekend at Narooma, also organised by Hank, was marred by rain, which meant the usual photo shoot and Sunday morning drive had to be cancelled. This was a disappointment for people who had come a long way to attend the event, because it was in effect limited to a one-day affair. There were almost 50 worm-drive cars there, many of them of concours standard, so no one could complain that we are not an enthusiastic group. And even the slightly down-at-heel cars are well obviously loved. The La Salle Motel proved an excellent venue, and one that will undoubtedly be used again.



MAD 403 rests at Seaspray between the 403s of Chris Hall and Paul Watson on the Worm Wander.



Another section of the Tathra line-up. The ocean is in the background.



Peugeot tails at Bega Cheese on the Worm Weekend.



Worm Wanderers enjoy dinner at the Pambula Golf Club.

The Worm Drive Register is for all worm drive Peugeots in Australia.
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