

JUNE 2014 SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS DRIVE

After daily fluctuations in weather forecasts for this event, most of us left Sydney for the Heathcote meeting place under clear blue skies and with expectations that the forecasters were overcautious.

That changed once we left on the run, a light sprinkle that encouraged Ashley to drive with the top down developed so that by the time we were driving through the National Park we were in light rain and without the possibility of pulling off the narrow road to close his roof. (This is not an ad for a smart top!)



However that was managed before reaching the Bald Hill lookout where we would normally stop to admire the view of the coast and sea.

There was none, misty rain blocked out the view offshore and a biting sou'west wind flung stinging darts of rain in the face. At least we did not have snow – that was dumped at Thredbo. The wind was also gusty enough to blow the milk right out of your coffee - which is the real reason we soon left.

We rejoined the old Princes Highway but had to take the freeway to by-pass Wollongong and reach Albion Park, turning off there to drive up the Macquarie Pass. This was very pretty with the winding rain forest style uphill run and sight of raindrops dripping from ferns until we reached the tightest hairpin bend on the ascent. There, an over ambitious truck driver (there are more appropriate adjectives) discovered that overlong semi trailers do not go around hairpin bends and so he was stranded in the arch of the bend. Traffic edged by with a short interruption to our convoy as the driver made a fruitless attempt to manoeuvre his vehicle. We regrouped at the top of the Pass, but unless that semi-trailer was airlifted out, it must still be there!



The remainder of our run took us through the winding and undulating back roads of Kangaloon, by-passing Bowral to enter Mittagong through the back door and from there to the RSL Club for lunch. The weather was not the best and the roads and scenery are better in sunny weather, but you can't beat sharing the great company of our members!

