

LOCAL NEWS

Made it at last, time to put the pot on ...

REGION

By EVERARD HIMMELREICH

THERE is a drawback to driving open-topped vintage cars, according to Castlemaine enthusiast Graeme Bennett.

When it rains, the wax runs out of your moustache.

Mr Bennett encountered that drawback on Tuesday when the Great Ocean Road 80th anniversary car rally headed up to the Otway Fly treetop walk on its way from Lorne to Port Campbell.

Apart from that minor problem, Mr Bennett said the five-day rally had been excellent.

He said his 1923 six-cylinder Auto Carrier (AC) had handled the climbs through the Otways without incident.

The AC's top speed was about 90km/h because, without front brakes, going any faster could be perilous, its driver said.

Travelling with Anne Schmidt, Mr Bennett's AC was one of about 40 pre-Second World War vehicles that visited Warrnambool and Port Fairy yesterday for the final day of the rally, which was organised by the Victorian Vintage Sports Car Club to



Graeme Bennett and Anne Schmidt from Castlemaine arrive at Flagstaff Hill in their 1923 AC.

Picture: AARON SAWALL

celebrate the opening of the Great Ocean Road in 1932.

Participants got into the spirit of celebrating the past by dressing in period costume, but yesterday's warm weather meant most dressed for comfort.

However, the heat did

not stop Mr Bennett who went one better with a zany outfit that included a teapot hat.

The rally stopped for lunch at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village where it drew a crowd of admirers before gaining a wider audience with circuits of

Warrnambool's central business district.

The village added to the old-time atmosphere by firing a small historic swivel gun to start the cars on their circuit of the CBD.

The rally received a big welcome at its terminus

in Port Fairy where the cars paraded down the main street, which was decorated with bunting.

The town's celebrations also included children's box-car races and displays by south-west car clubs.

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Council approves pay rise

MOYNE SHIRE

By SEAN MCCOMISH

MOYNE Shire councillors have voted to give themselves a financial pat on the back, approving a modest pay rise for the next four years.

The motion for a 2.5 per cent pay rise was carried unanimously at council's first meeting in Mortlake since the local government elections.

Councillors' allowances of \$21,859 will go up by \$546, while the present \$67,635 allowance of mayor Jim Doukas will increase by \$1691.

Moyne is classed as category 2 council under the Local Government Act and has adopted the maximum pay limits since March 2005.

In addition to the pay rise, the mayor is also provided with a car.

Speaking in favour of the motion, Cr Mick Wolfe said councillors needed to be reimbursed for their efforts.

"It's an allowance for what we do and I believe people get a pretty good service and this is a reimbursement of that," Cr Wolfe said.

Members of the public have until January 22 to lodge submissions or objections.

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