

# The Thermaleer

Haddon (May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2007) by Barry Barton

Arriving mid-afternoon Friday the signs at the field were not good! David Myers; the Club's diligent caretaker, was just finishing lashing down the weatherboard dunny against ferocious wing!

As so often happens conditions when leaving were ideal but gradually got worse as one climbed the 1340 feet up to the plateau on which Ballarat sits.

Dawn Day One - Saturday - perfect - still, with cloud increasing, (hope springs eternal) by mid morning the strong gusting winds were up again so the shivering entry of only five battled on through BURFORD. Kevin broke a wing tip off on landing, Norm broke first his wing pegs then the pylon, leaving Brian Laughton to continue his purple patch with his immaculate DIXIELANDER easily outclassing Steve's POLLY and Chris's latest; the JIMP.

Chris continues to amaze with new models every time he comes out.

Flying abandoned, but all was not lost, as Dan Missen suggested a visit to Lake Goldsmith for their steam rally which turned out to be a most worthwhile and repeatable experience, every conceivable steam powered machine from huge excavator shovels to home-size sewing machines.

Next Rally early November, really worth a visit.

On return to Snake Valley the Pub had most of us marvelling at the quality of their evening meals, just use the side door in late Autumn so as to keep the Bar warm!

Day Two, a superb roseate dawn greeted the on-field campers as they took their pre-breakfast exercise around the paddock and with four events mooted for the day HOPE was again strong that the weather would hold. It did; in fact some who had been to every HADDON since the 49th Nats swore that this day was the best ever since then. Those Nats were also cold and windy.

As you can see from the results Brian Laughton continued his great run of success began at Easter, winning four of the five events and graciously abstaining from the Gullock event (C & G) so that Steve could have his moment of glory.

Competition ended around five o'clock having begun at nine with a break to sample food prepared by Chris Foley and his merry men. Without the presence of the Cohuna contingent plus a few locals the entry would not have warranted all the work put in by the Club. Old Timers in VIC and SA can justifiably be said now to be an endangered species.

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