

HAMILTON & DISTRICT

V. V. C. ORIVERS CLUB

The Secretary, P.O. Box 174 HAMILTON, Vic. 3300

In this issue

- Club calendar
- President report
- Health, wellbeing & welfare
- General Minutes
- Hillman Rally Report
- This and That
- The story of a very reliable car
- Ads

Please check emails for upcoming events.

Facebook <u>@handdvvcdc</u>
Please email all club correspondence to <u>handdvvcdc@gmail.com</u>

Newsletter items and reports editorhanddvvcdc@gmail.com

Return Address

P O Box 174

Hamilton Vic 3300



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025

Club Runs:

- Wednesday 12th— Dunkeld Run
- Sunday 23rd— Cave Hill Gardens



Pictures by Briggs Jourdan; https://streetartcities.com/markers

FULL OF IT

Karen was showing a rich tourist around her Aussie sheep station. He was so arrogant that he belittled anything that she showed him, he constantly boasted how much better *his* ranch was— everything was bigger, better or more scenic back at home.

Karen was getting more and more irritated, but managed to hold her tongue until she pointed out an impressively large grain silo. The visitor said "that's nothing! I have an outhouse bigger than that on my ranch"

"Well, you sure need it" she replied

Dick Wenkel, St Paul, Minnesota, USA

Committee 2023/24

Position	Contact	Position	Contact
PRESIDENT:	0419 145 452	VICE PRESIDENT	
Pam Pollock	pampollock135@gmail.com	vacant	
SECRETARY	0417 328 622	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	0435 973 839
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Peter Dowdle	0428 574 296	Bev Ainger	
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Rod Potter	0427 507 693	lock	
Michael Woodward	0428 319 530		
COMMITTEE MEMBERS		FEDERATION REPS	
Rod Potter	0427 507 693	Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390
Robert Brody	0458 252 226		
Denis Polack	55723284		
Rodger Garland	0407 720 809		
Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390		
Cameron Delahoy	0457 922 723		
Geoff Roberts	0418 893 333		
BUILDING COMMITTEE		PERMIT RENEWALS	
Denis Polack	55723284	Richard Neaves	0488 231 835
(Chairman)		Rod Potter	0427 507 693
Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390	Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390
Ern Polack	0428 352 538	Pam Pollock	0419 145 452
Russell Ward	0412 407 893		Phone for an appointment
Robert Brody	0458 252 226		
SUPPER COORDINATOR Betty Ralph	0428 030 075		
WELFARE OFFICERS	0407 720 809	CLUB LIBRARIAN	
Roger Garland	Please contact if you know of	Les Toohey	0447 669 144
	an illness, death or any spe-	Keith & Karen Arnold	0419 855 490
NEW MEMBER CONTACT	President/Secretary/		
	Treasurer		
	and District Veteran, Vintage and Cla		

2024 CLUB CALENDAR Meetings, club runs and events

Clubrooms are situated at the Pastoral Museum in Hiller Lane Hamilton Meetings 3rd Thursday of the month@7:30pm Bring some supper to share. Club runs are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY and then the FOURTH SUNDAY of each month.

Wednesday 12th February	To start the year off we will have run to Dunkeld departing from the clubrooms at 11 am. Purchase lunch at Dunkeld or BYO and picnic in the park. The road home will be via the Mirranatwa Gap to view some of the bushfire damage.	
Saturday 15th February	Classics By The Bay Shown 'N' Shine in Portland.	
Sunday 23rd February	A big thank you to Jo Reid, who has organized a run to Heywood to visit Cave Hill Gardens and then to Treloar Roses at Bolwarra then back to Heywood for lunch. Departure time will be 9.30 <u>am</u> from the clubrooms. For lunch you can bring your own picnic lunch or perhaps visit the lovely local Hotel for lunch.	
Wednesday 12th March	John Wilkin to confirm plans for our run.	
14th-16th March	Chryslers on the Murray. Hosted by the Albury/Wodonga Chrysler Car Club. This is open to all Chrysler, Dodge, Rambler and all derivatives even Hillman and Simca which were sold in Aus by the Roots Group.	
	Sent in by Bert Hill (Beachport SA)	
Sunday 23rd March	Airport– view the fire bombing airplane. To be confirmed.	
Sunday 30th March	Federation Picnic at Mortlake	

Club Captains Report

Hi all. I hope everyone has enjoyed the festive season and are ready for another year of club activities. This year we would like to see some of those members that we haven't seen for a while or are not regular participants.

This months runs are as above.

For March John Wilkin is working on an interesting outing on Wednesday 12th and hopefully we will be going to the airport to view the fire bombing aircraft on Sunday 23rd. Also in March is the Federation Picnic at Mortlake on Sunday 30th. This will be an official club event.

Events for April and May are being organized and in June we will be holding the Kings Birthday Rally. Any ideas for club runs are most welcome and if you are able to organize an event that would be great.

Also the Classics by the bay show and shine is on in Portland on February 15th and is well worth adding to your calendar.

Regards Rod Potter

3

Welcome to the New Year!

Another year of great adventures, friendship and fun. I trust you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends or have been able to get away on that holiday you have been talking abut but never got around to hehehe. For those of you who stayed home, did you catch up on all those little jobs that have been waiting throughout the year? More importantly is your car road ready!

As our memberships continues to grow, I hope our enthusiasm grows with it. Yes we want members, but more active members who enjoy all aspects of what our car club has to offer. Please try to support our club captains and their endeavors to give you interesting drives and places to visit. New ideas and places to visit are always welcome.

Big News! We are working on the rally. It is going ahead. Some old ideas are resurfacing and possibly something new! So stay tuned and keep the date open as we would love as many members possible supporting this event.

Bring on 2025!

Pam

Health, Wellbeing & Welfare

To all members, families and friends we hope you are doing well during this time. Please remember to reach out to anyone of us if you are struggling or need an ear to listen. Our thoughts go out to the people affected by the fires at this time; we hope everyone impacted by the fires are doing okay; just know that your club members are here for you.



Our thoughts are also with the emergency response personnel responding to the fires and their families. We hope everyone is safe.

This Month is REDFEB

Safe Travels to everyone.

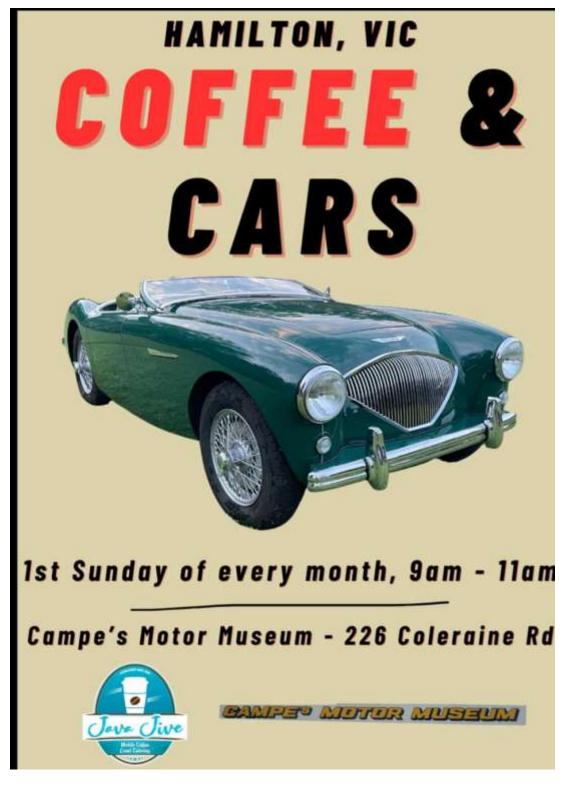
May your rubber stay on the road.



General Minutes 12.12.2024

Meeting Opened	On time at 7.30pm	
Members Attending	As per meeting attendance register	
Apologies	Peter Dowdle, Robert Brody, Geoff Sharrock and Roger Moodie, Geoff Roberts and Peter Radley, John Lawson	
Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes as circulated were confirmed on the motion of Russell Murphy Seconded by Richard Neaves and carried.	
Business Arising	Nil	
Treasurers Report	In the absence of the treasurer a formal report was not presented.	
	There has been no change in the financial figures since the last meeting.	
Outstanding Accounts		
New Membership Applications	Nil.	
Correspondence	Nil	
Club Captains Report	9 cars at the St Marys Parade.	
	9 cars at the Presidents Run to Nigretta and Wannon Falls where afternoon tea was taken.	
	50 members attending the Xmas Dinner. Only 35 responded and booking was for 40.	
	Sunday 15 December meeting with Horsham at Balmoral for lunch and activities leaving the clubrooms at 10am.	
	Friday 20 December a tour of the Xmas lights. Sausage sizzle at the clubrooms and members to bring a salad.	
	Nothing planned at this stage for January but the Port Fairy Show and Shine on 12th and the 18 th the Orford Rally.	
	Lake Pertobe Display by Warrnambool on the 12 th .	
	23rd February is a run to the Cave Gardens at Heywood.	
	March 30 th Federation Picnic at Mortlake.	
Building Committee	Nil	
Federation Report	As per report in the newsletter.	
	A list of events to be run by Federation during 2025 to be published in the newsletter.	
	The Robert Shannon Trust has funds available to assist younger vehicle restorers – applications are encouraged.	
Newsletter Report	No newsletter for January. Advice will be e-mailed if required and newsletter items are encouraged to be lodged for publication in February.	

Rally Report	Rally meeting on Tuesday evening last. Anyone who would be prepared to assist is encouraged. Flyer to advise the rally is going ahead will be forwarded soon. No advice as to the program until it is sorted.
Welfare Officer	Nothing to report save that the President's foot is improving.
General Business	Nil
Meeting Closed	At the most acceptable time of 7.47pm
Next Meeting	February 2025
Guest Speaker	No program was arranged and a convivial evening followed.



6

Thanks to Pam and her helpers we enjoyed lunch with 10 participants from Melbourne and Geelong before heading for our first stop at Edenhope.

We decided to take our 1965 Hillman this time and except for some minor timing and battery issues it performed well. We did around 1000 kms

Mannum on the Murray River had suffered from the 2022-23 floods and there was evidence of the flood levels that impacted the town but much less than that recorded in 1956.

The rally committee (The Hillman Club of SA) had organized a weekend full of surprises.

Our "Show and Shine" was held in the park along the river with the largest paddle steamer PS Murray Princess docked alongside. There were 33 entries from WA, SA, MSW and VIC. The cars ranged from a 1954 Hillman Husky MK 1 to a 1975 Hillman Avenger. (Minx, Super Minx Estate, Imp, Husky, Hunter, Gazelle, Commer)

We had a ride on the smaller SS Mayflower where we saw the parts of the Murray River including a brand-new marina.

Late in the afternoon we were taken by bus to The Ngaut Ngaut Aboriginal Site where guides took us on a tour through the ancestral home of the Nganguraku and learnt about Aboriginal dreaming and culture. (https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/parks/ngaut-ngaut-conservation-park)

On Sunday we visited the Aussie Apricots a 3rd generation family run orchard. The orchard is on the beautiful River Murray at Mypolonga about 15km's from Murray Bridge.

They grow, hand pick & cut the fruit by hand & machine. They sun dry all their fruit & then the apricots are sized when dry. When the apricots are required, we wash & hand process the apricots into confectionary, jams & chutneys. (https://www.aussieapricots.com.au/)

The family also owns Revolution Motor Museum featuring a Performance Car Museum with a range of American Muscle Cars, Bikes and Stationery Engines on display.

At present the complex is an ongoing work in progress for Paul who is doing the restoration work on his own and has already got the 4 main buildings set up to receive visitors.

After lunch the group was able to view the two distinct collections; one of classic muscle cars in a dedicated black and white checker floored design with lots of memorabilia and wall murals depicting the American Route 66 to which Paul's car would have featured, his collection started at an early age.

The other shed again fully set up housed a number of very early cars gathered many years ago by Malcolm Wicks which were previously seen in sheds in Balhana and because the family did not want the collection to be split the collection is now resting here in Mypolonga.

The presentation night was held at the Mannum Hotel which was also Rally Headquarters. Our Hillman received a trophy for the Show and Shine albeit by default as the judge had a car (and worthy of a prize) in the same category.

On Monday we headed to Murray Bridge where we had a ride on a more modern river boat and travelled under the two large bridges that span the river and up to view some cliffs.

Then we motored to Monarto Zoo for lunch and had the option to hop on and off the zoo-loop bus to view mainly African animals. We hopped off to see the meerkats and chimpanzees then continued through the zoo on the bus with a very informative guide, to see the giraffes, rhinos, bison, leopards. lions, native dogs and hyenas.

A farewell dinner at another hotel, most people left early on Tuesday morning and we'll catch up in another two years in Wagga NSW (this was the venue for the missed 2020 rally due to COVID) This was out tenth National Hillman rally and we look forward to the next one

We travelled home via Meningie/Lake Albert and spent the afternoon and night there and then to Penola where we also spent a night.







This & That Continued as a tribute to Lloyd Hocking; Inaugural Member No. 2 Jason Palmer

Here we go again, are we all ready? February 2025 already, I trust everyone had a safe and Happy Festive Season. I am sort of relieved that as for car activity I can give a 0% report, absolutely nothing activity wise at all. The main achievement, all in my absence, was having the Chenard pushed under cover after 7 months sitting in mum's back yard.

Thought for the first This & that of 2025, for something different, we would re-visit Hamilton in 1925 and what was going on around the town car wise.



(Gray Street Corner looking down Thompson Street (towards Melville Oval) c/Late 1924, Courtesy Hamilton History Centre)

As we can see from the above photo, the American "invasion" was in full swing with Buick (right), Ford T's & TT, possible Studebaker behind the Police Officer. Not an English or European car in site. Just to the right of the Police Officer's shoulder is a Ford Service Station sign which is Central Motor Garage, operating out of the rear of the Victoria Hotel in Thompson Street. When you consider the domination of T Fords since c1912 it seems unusual that there was not a dealership on a main road/street.

Hills Motors selling Buick & Austin cars out of the old Town Hall Garage, Gray Street, didn't last long into 1925 being sold to T.J Brown and F Reed. Reed noted as a motor mechanic with experience abroad and in Victoria can claim to be a pioneer of the motor car business in the state, having had control of the fitting of the third car to arrive in Victoria. As well as retaining the Buick agency — T.J Brown added the agencies for Fiat, Rugby, Durant, Flint 6, Sunbeam and Armstrong-Siddely. As well as the vehicles, Brown carried a full stock of motor accessories and large stocks of motor spirits and oils The name was later changed to The Post Office Garage. Later in October, they added the Chrysler agency.

Long standing agent S.A Cheney Motors continued with the Chevrolet & Oldsmobile agencies from 72 Gray Street which was the old Stephens Bros Coachbuilding Factory (where the Water.



Trust building is now). Managed by Herb Bayley, a promotional highlight of the year was a visit by Francis Birtels in his specially prepared 1924 Oldsmobile prior to conducting an Inter-City Speed Run trial. Of interest (in the below picture) showing Birtles outside Cheney's premises in Gray Street is the mention of Cadillac on the facia but there is no mention of that brand being represented in Hamilton. Cheney was a Melbourne based dealer so maybe orders were taken only from the Melbourne agency.

J.G Stewart & Co 82 Gray Street, only represented one agency that of Jewett Six.



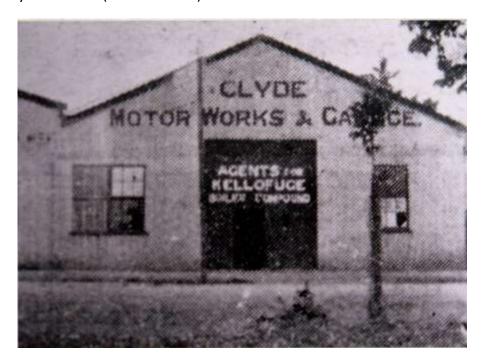
(Birtles outside S.A Cheney Motors. Herb Bayley is standing to the left. Interesting to see T.H Laidlaw's business next door, probably one of the most unheralded early car owners/users for business in Victoria – await future articles. Courtesy Bob Martin)

Local motorcycle & car sales legend, now approaching 20 years in the business held Don Riley Motor & Engineering Works in 59-63 Thompson Street, representing Essex, Hudson, Willys-Knight, Overland, Chenard et Walcker, Rover and Rudge motor cycles. (You would think as a Chenard owner I would have known that – but until this article NO!)

Colliers Garage, 222-232 Gray Street (ex-Dodge) representing Studebaker cars and International Trucks
Heine Bros & Wade Thompson Street, continued on with representing the Dodge agency.

A bit of a mystery (unsolved by Doug) was T.J Brown also advertising the sale of Rugby cars from an undisclosed address in Thompson Street, this advertisement was in February 1925 before the take over of Hill's Garage mentioned above mid 25.

A late comer in 1925 was Les Bush who initially was manager to Clyde Motors, Lonsdale Street announcing that he has opened a garage in Lonsdale Street and is prepared to give his attention to repairs of all cars. He also would like Ajax and Austin car owners to note that he is the district agent and would be glad to have any inquiry from them (Dec 23rd 1925).



(Only known, to this date, photo of Clyde Motor Works & Garage where les Bush sold Austin & Ajax cars. Premises in Lonsdale Street some where close to Barry Francis storage yard). Courtesy Cliff Brinkmann, Deutscher Foundry Museum.

In September, there was a show where our major vehicle garage/agents exhibited the latest cars on offer and those that had been recently purchased by Hamilton residents. But we will look at that in March. Happy motoring.





THE STORY OF A VERY RELIABLE CAR

This story is about people's bias against motor cars, other than their own brand.

In 1970 when living in Rochester a brother and sister in law came to stay. He was home on leave from working in mines in Laverton W.A. He was told that a house would be allocated when he returned with his family.

While staying in Rochester they looked around the car yards there and in Echuca as vehicles were much cheaper there than in Castlemaine or Bendigo. This was because it was a large farming area and not as many young people chasing up cars.

The brother in law flew back to work in W.A. and when the house in Laverton became available he planned to return and take the family with car and trailer back across to the Laverton mine.

I was left with instructions to look for a vehicle good enough to travel the distance, including 700 km of dirt road across the Nullarbor Plain. The amount they had to spend was not good although I had recently bought a 1959 Chev Belair for not much more, but had to chase up the back seat in the hayshed of the property that traded it in.

I spread word around dealerships and straightaway rejected 3 vehicles. One had bad rust, one had a smoky motor and one had the back main bearing dripping oil. It was a fairly good car, a '55 Mainline but a motor rebuild would cost more than the car itself.

The Valiant dealer got a message to me that he had the machine I was looking for! At first sight I thought NO!! It was a late 50's or 60 Vanguard Spacemaster Deluxe. He talked me into having a good look as he said "You won't get anything better for that amount of 'coin'."

It was traded in by a pig farmer who had a second block up on Barmah Forest and travelled between the farms on the Campaspe River. The vehicle was well set up with light truck tyres, plus 2 spares, large strong roof rack, 2nd fuel tank and towbar. Although having some knocks on the outside it was good inside and he said it was well serviced. It was purchased with factory air-con. It overheated on really hot days so a thermo fan was fitted and vents cut in the side guards.

The sister-in-law came up on the bus and the dealer said "Take it and use it for a week before you make your mind up".

On the hoist the Vanguard was very clean and dry, with no leaks and the automatic was an advantage. I think it also had an enclosed tail shaft. The car was purchased, the new owner very happy as it was nearly summer and she loved the auto and aircon.

There was a team of 8 men who went to the West when the Wattle Gully mine closed down, 5 being married. They planned to come back for Christmas then travel back in convoy to Laverton W.A.

We went down to Castlemaine over Christmas to catch up with "Rellies" and mates. One of the crew gave me a fair serve for letting the sister in law buy a Vanguard. He said "That heap of Pommie shit won't even make it to the Nullarbor". Next day I noticed his Falcon was smoking out of the breather pipe and two tyres were recaps.

The rest of the crew stated they shouldn't have to wait when the Vanguard broke down. With three children on board it was a worry.

We didn't hear anything for 3 weeks, then word came through. The Vanguard was the only vehicle to make the trip without any sort of problem and for the last 400 km there were 7 people on board as they carried a woman and child from a car that had blown a head gasket. It had boiled most of the way and was stuck in an outback garage waiting for a replacement.

The dust was a real killer and the cars were a fair age, with 2 water pumps falling to pieces and a thrust bearing. Thankfully the dealer in Rochester had changed all belts and hoses on the Vanguard and put the old ones in the boot as spares. Some of the crew didn't even carry spare belts or hoses!

Every time the brother in law went to the Hotel in Laverton the aboriginal boys asked how much the Vanguard was as they wanted it for spotlighting. He kept telling them double what he had paid. One night they turned up with the cash!

Then b-in-law ended up with a 202 Holden Manual with no air-con and got an "earful" every trip until the "Missus" bought her own auto car with air-

con.

There is a 1961 Vanguard Spacemaster for sale in original condition in "Just Cars" magazine for about \$10,000. I smile every time I read it. It was described as "Very Reliable" and I don't doubt it! (Peter Cay)



FOR SALE

1981 Mazda 323 Hatch. VIN BD1051-545209. Engine No ES 241735.Unregistered. Sold as is. \$ 2,000.00 ONO

Contact: Barbara 03 55723046



For Sale



1971 Volkswagen Superbug

Club permit number 0099HO

Engine Number: AK225566

All new tyres, new carby kit, sun roof, road worthies September 2023.

Original

Price: \$12, 000 neg

Call Pam on 0419 145 452 or

Email: pampollock135@gmail.com









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Contact:

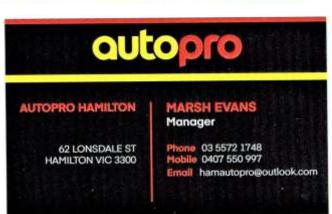
Rachel 0436 116 995 or

Alex 0427 944 881

YOUR INVESTMENT, OUR PRIORITY



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