

VINTAGE & CLASSIC CAR CLUB BALLARAT INC.



P.O. BOX 1010, BAKERY HILL, VICTORIA, 3354

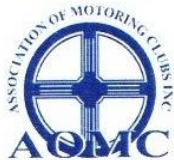
www.vccc.org.au

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June 2024



Member Club



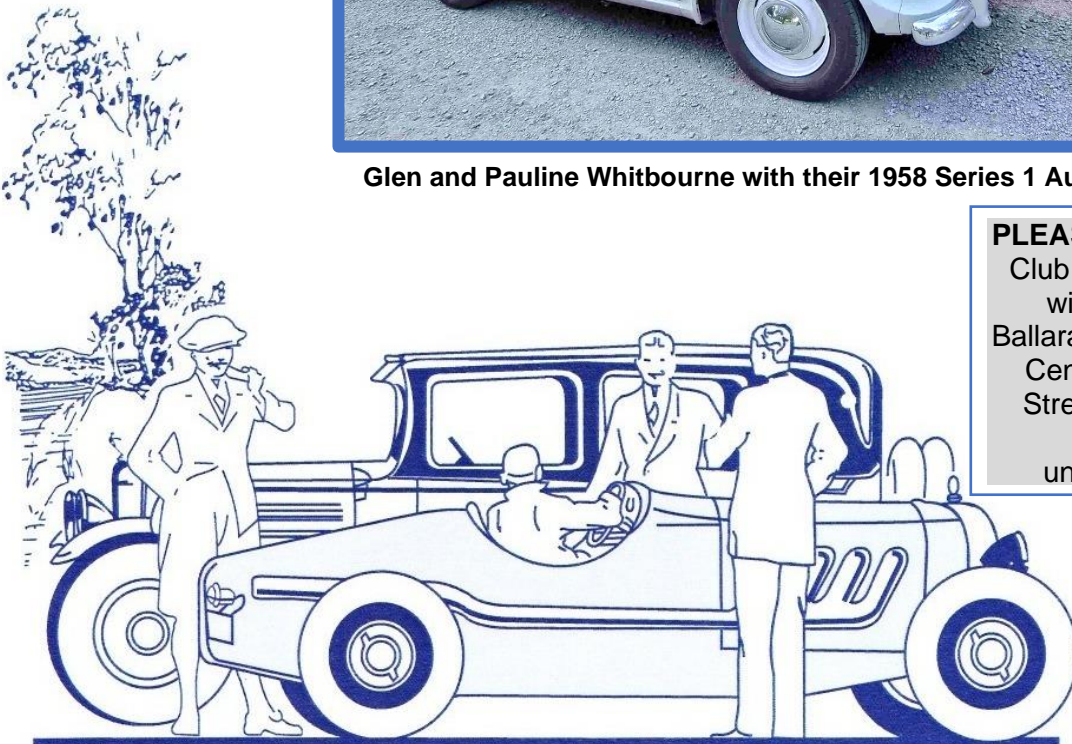
Working for Motoring Enthusiasts



Glen and Pauline Whitbourne with their 1958 Series 1 Austin Lancer

PLEASE NOTE:

Club General Meetings
will be held at the
Ballarat North Community
Centre – 702 Walker
Street, Ballarat North
at 7:30pm
until further notice



Note - Meeting Start Time will be at 7.30 PM – not 8pm as previous advertised

NOTE: The next **General Meeting** will be held **Friday, 21st June 2024** - at the new venue
Ballarat North Community Centre, 702 Walker Street, Ballarat North

Life Members

Alan Firns, Kevin Holloway, Ted Callow (Dec), Norm Grose (Dec), Ron Gay, Ron Goad, Grant Harvey (Dec),
 Paul Seager (Dec), Bill Whitford (Dec), Daryl Crawley, Tony Taranto and Gordon Roberts

Newsletter

Articles for the **July 2024** newsletter are required no later than **5 pm Tuesday 2nd July 2024**

All contributions should be in MS Word with photos in JPG format and emailed to **npbackhouse.a30@gmail.com**

All contributions acknowledged.

Code Red Fire Rating Days

Any Club event which falls on a day designated as **Code Red** is automatically cancelled, and Members and Guests are advised to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan

Club Office Bearers 2023 – 2024

President	Andy Burns (Lee)	0428 935 988	burns_group@bigpond.com
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Committee	Mike Simpson (Lyn)	0419 935 147	mikelynsimpson@bigpond.com

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VCCC Website – Members area password: vccc2021

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**The Club Library will NOT be open until further notice
 due to the redevelopment works**

EDITOR'S COMMENT

PLEASE NOTE – the new venue for meetings while the clubrooms redevelopment takes place.

It will be **very important** from now on that you read your newsletter each month for information on events and other happenings. There will no doubt be some 'teething' issues during the transition, but that's natural when things change. Everything will work themselves out - so, we ask you to please be patient.

Thank you to all those who contribute to the newsletters with articles and photos – very much appreciated.

Nerene Backhouse

Editor

HEALTH MATTERS AND CELEBRATIONS

Welfare

We have conveyed our very best wishes to **Meredith Todd** who is currently undergoing treatment for back issues with the hope that there will be a good outcome. **Ray Broatch** is another one who is foremost in our thoughts as he undergoes treatment as well. **Jennifer Trewin** has had a hip replacement and is now recovering at home, and **Jim Stevens** is another one we are thinking of at the moment as he recovers from back problems.

For others who are 'not quite right' at the moment – keep on keeping on – we're thinking of you.

Bereavement

Our sincere condolences have been conveyed to **Ray Reynolds** on the passing of his mother, Kathleen, last month who many members knew or have had many interesting conversations with her on the phone while waiting for Ray to come to the phone.

Ron and Suzanne Damen have also been in our thoughts following the passing of Ron's father, John, also last month. Our loving thoughts and deepest sympathies are with you all at this sad time.

AROUND THE TABLE AT COMMITTEE – 21st May, 2024

1 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for **Friday 16th August 2024**. Enclosed with this newsletter is a Nomination Form for Committee, Team Leaders and Assistants positions for 2024 – 2025.

Please give some thought to standing for a position or for nominating somebody to fill a role, as the Club cannot function without some willing leaders.

Closing date for nominations will be at the close of the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 23rd July 2024.

Positions to be filled –

President

Editor

Secretary

Webmaster

Assistant Secretary

Membership Officer

Treasurer

Social/Catering

Assistant Treasurer

Federation Reps 1 and 2

Club Captain

AOMC Reps 1 and 2

Publicity Officer

Permit Officer

Property Officer

Committee Positions (3)

2 New Member Applications

Jason and Heather Wallis from Cardigan who were nominated by Glen Whitbourne and seconded by Brett Holloway. They have - 1969 Holden Kingswood Sedan, 1999 Holden Commodore Ute and 1969 Holden Kingswood Sedan.

Alexander Perrin and Julia White of Smythesdale who were nominated by Philip Perrin and seconded by Judith Perrin. They have a 1950 MG TD Roadster

Providing there are no objections received by the President prior to the June General Meeting and the applicants are present at the meeting, they will be welcomed into the Club.

3 Bendigo Swap Volunteers

The Bendigo Swap organisers are looking for volunteers to help during the weekend of the Swap. Volunteers are required for 2-hour shifts for duties such as manning the gates or supervision of displays and sheds. Each volunteer receives a weekend pass for the swap, a \$10 refreshment payment and a volunteer badge. In addition - \$20 is paid to our Club for each completed shift. A list will be available at the June Club Meeting.

4 Battery Drive

Paul Dehnert who is the Deputy Group Officer of the Ballan Group of Fire Brigades, and Member of the VCCC, has requested our help.

The Ballan Group of Fire Brigades are embarking on a battery drive, and are seeking our support in their fundraising endeavours. If you have any old car, truck or machinery batteries lying around, that are no longer required, the Brigade would be pleased to take them off your hands.

At the June Club Meeting, we can organise a central drop off point and day for collection by the Ballan Fire Brigade.

5 Rotary Raffle

The Rotary Raffle was drawn on the 11th May and the winner of the Hyundai Tuscon came from Colac and the Bunnings voucher 2nd prize came from Grovedale. Thank you to all those who bought tickets, and to those who sold tickets. A big congratulations to Ian Watson who coordinated the ticket sales for the VCCC, with 1600 tickets sold. That is totally amazing.

6 Club Person of the Year and Life Membership Applications

Club Person of the Year is a very special award given to a member who has gone the extra mile to help. Reward them by nominating them for this award. Forms are located on top of the votes tin, and the front table at Club Meeting nights. Last chance to vote will be at the July Club Meeting.

If you wish to nominate a Member for Life Membership please contact the Secretary for an application form.

These are available on meeting nights.

Nancy Jackson

Secretary

Cover Story – 1958 Series 1 Austin Lancer

This Austin Lancer first caught my eye at Austins Over Australia held in Ballarat 2003 and with a For Sale note on the windscreen, how could I resist? I bought the car soon after from the then owner Mike Mills (Queensland Austin Motor Vehicle Club) with 137,754 miles on the clock, and it is to him the credit is due for the upgrades of the 1800cc engine, 5 speed gearbox and its neat presentation.

I enjoyed the Lancer as a weekend car until 2006 when I couldn't afford the registration that year, it then spent the next 4 years in the shed when I finally succumbed to pressure and advertised the Lancer for sale. I sold it in April 2010 to Grant in Freemantle WA so off it went on a truck to its new home. This should be the end of the story but for a few photos, but there is a sequel.

Two years later, I received an email from Grant, the person I sold the Lancer to in 2010, asking if I could clarify a few technical specifications to help the subsequent owner (a friend of Grant's, Roger) to sell the car again. I said yes and Grant put me in contact with Roger - the Lancer now in Adelaide. I spoke to Roger as planned and found myself making an offer should the deal fall through that he was negotiating with someone in Sydney.

I received a call a week later with the words "the Lancer is yours". I organised transport from Adelaide to Ballarat and my Lancer arrived home (again) in April 2012 - still in good condition having not travelled too many miles in the two years and being well maintained. Soon after purchasing the Lancer, I placed it on club rego (Vic. Club Permit Scheme) and enjoyed the Lancer as a club car once again and more affordably too.

Alas, I sold the car yet again in April 2013 right when we were all geared up to attend AOA in Bendigo that year; I negotiated to keep the car until the conclusion of the rally. It was promptly picked up soon after and driven from Ballarat to its new home in Toowoomba Qld. Kerry and Vanessa had the car 10 years and enjoyed it as a weekend car - Vanessa's first car was a series 1 Austin Lancer, hence the connection.



I kept in contact with them for a few years, but as we all know time gets away and we inevitably lost touch. However, early in 2023, I received a call from Vanessa asking if I would be interested in buying the Lancer back again. They said they weren't using it much and it was just sitting there in the shed, now at 146,672 miles. I must say I was surprised to receive the call after such a long time.

I said I would think about it and get back to her - famous last words I know. I thought it over for some 3-4 months before finally deciding to go ahead, and I then arranged for it to be transported back to Melbourne once again, where I could pick it up myself. I have bought cars twice a number of times and known friends to do the same...but 3 times? Unheard of, I think. A glutton for punishment or I just can't say good bye to an old friend...time will tell.

When I picked up the Lancer from the transport depot in Melbourne for the drive home to Ballarat, it wouldn't start, flat battery and carbies out of tune, it took a bit to get going, but go it did and it drove home up the Pentland Hills well. Once home, I had a good look over it to see what was needed for a roadworthy etc. The tyres and other rubbers were all badly perished and the brakes were not working very well, all the signs of a car having sat idle for some time, but the main mechanicals were good and the body sound.

I've been able to prepare the Lancer for another AOA, this time to Orange NSW in March 2024. We drove the Lancer 1350 miles without any problems, only for the ignition switch getting very hot. I was able to repair this enough to travel ok and replace it once home. Despite our 21 year on and off again relationship, the Lancer and I are getting along just fine - here's to good friendships! We look forward to our time in the VCCC, sharing memories and making new ones, see you on a club run soon ☺

Glen Whitbourne



COMING EVENTS – June – July 2024

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for updates. Also, see the Calendar on page 15

Saturday - Sunday 15th-16th June – Pack-down of the Clubrooms - 9am start both days

Ron Damen will be coordinating the works and Nerene Backhouse will be documenting

Thursday 20th June – Rustless Wanderers Lunch - 12 noon – American Hotel, Creswick

Make your own way there; bookings by Monday 17th June – **contact Rick Thege 0428 518 770**

Friday 21st June – Club General Meeting – Ballarat North Community Centre – 702 Walker Street, Ballarat North – NOTE - start time will be 7.30pm, not 8pm as previously advertised

Sunday 23rd June - Club Run to Maldon (Trophy Points)

We will be leaving at **9.30am** from the **Doctors / Centrelink Car Park** on Learmonth Road for a visit to the Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum in Vincents Road, Maldon. We will be traveling along the back roads to Clunes where we will stop for the morning tea / toilet break. Entry to the Museum is by donation of \$5 minimum. Cash is preferred but EFTPOS is available.

The Museum has a large collection of items from the Thompsons factory in Castlemaine. There are also Vintage cars, a small open gold mine, a 1900's fire station and a lot of memorabilia. For lunch there are several cafes in town or for BYO there is a large park in nearby High Street with 2 rotundas.

Contact John & Gayle Pickering – 0408 914 943 – for further information



Saturday - Sunday 22nd-23rd June - Clubrooms Strip-out Weekend.

Many hands needed – contact **Daryl Crawley 0417 351 827** - so that he can co-ordinate suitable times for you. Ron Damen and Mike Simpson will be coordinating the work and process.

Tuesday 25th June - Committee Meeting – 7.30pm – Traminer Court, Wendouree

Sunday 30th June – The Fridge Swap Meet

Australia's Coldest – 6 -11am in the multi-storey carpark in Dana Street behind Target

Saturday 13th July - Ladies Craft afternoon 1:30-4pm

We will be meeting again at **Lilly's at Eureka Café in Eureka Street Ballarat East**

Contact Jenny Ure – 0409 954 077

Thursday 18th July - Rustless Wanderers Lunch – Wallace Hotel (Xmas in July Lunch)

Make your own way there, bookings essential by Monday 15th July – **Contact Rick Thege 0428 518 770**

Friday 19th July - Club General Meeting - 7:30pm - at Ballarat North Community Centre - 702 Walker Street Ballarat North

Sunday 21st July - Club Run- the President's Run – (Trophy Points)

To be led by President Andy Burns – more details next month.

PAST EVENTS

Lake Bolac Campout – Wednesday 15th – Tuesday 21st May 2024

I've come to the conclusion that it is never boring at the campout – especially where the weather is concerned! We certainly had everything down there this year.

BUT! The one stable thing is the camp fire by which we can congregate and keep warm. Many thanks to Frank and Jan Tamis for the donation of the tree stumps, to Mark Border and Tom Quinlan for making the special trip on the first night to deliver a ute and trailer load which kept us going until the Saturday afternoon. We were then able to source 3 ute loads locally to see us through to 'home' time on the Tuesday.





Sourcing wood from a local property – Bruce Kerr carrying, Tom Quinlan cutting and Noel Trengove picking up



Job done – Nerene Backhouse, Bob Cole, Noel Trengove (hidden), Tom Quinlan, Phil Rodger, Wayne Lineker, Ken Clark, Mark Border and Bruce Kerr

It was great to have the company of Robert Frampton from the Grampians Car Club who camped for the week. Maybe more will come next year??

So . . . what do we do there to fill in our time? On the Thursday morning, four of us went to the Willaura Bakery – yum, yum!! When we arrived back, 5 visitors from the Grampians Club had arrived for lunch, so we checked out their cars (of course). Some more of our campers arrived later that day and also on Friday.

This year, there were only about a dozen people who went to the Lake Bolac Hotel for Dinner – by all accounts, they had a great meal. Bruce Kerr and I came back for the Club meeting that night. We left early the following morning (rather than risk a meeting with



Unloading back at camp – Mark Border, Peter Grose, Tom Quinlan and Ken Clark

some 'skippy's' that night), arriving back at the campout in time for breakfast.

At various times, we also had some other visitors from the Grampians Club who live locally; and Richard came back from Ararat with his daughter for a camp roast on the Sunday – that was a great effort.

Thank you to Frank and Jan Tamis, Merv and Maree Sherlock and Keith Mackinlay for braving the elements to come and see us for lunch on the Sunday, on what was a terrible day weatherwise. Maybe next year, we can organise a better day – we are certainly due for a good one!!!

Some had to pack up on the Sunday afternoon in readiness for work on Monday, some others went home on the Monday and there were just 4 of us left to leave on the Tuesday.

We are very grateful for the help and cooperation from the Lake Bolac Foreshore Committee, especially Steve Rawlings – who



Camp roasts sizzling away

came to see us in his Chev pick up on the Saturday night.

I'm already looking forward to next year's campout – just 11 months to go.

Nerene Backhouse

Attendees – Lake Bolac Campout

Campers –

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Nerene Backhouse | Modern; 1947 Angow Build Caravanette |
| Mark Border | Modern; 1971 Olympic caravan (and supplier of wood) |
| Tom Quinlan | Modern; Swag (and supplier of wood) |

Those who came in both modern vehicle and caravan were:

Wayne Lineker, Bruce Kerr, Garry Hayward, Gus & Heather Angow, Noel & Glenis Trengove, Dianne & Phil Rodger, Ken & Shani Clark, Peter Grose, Gordon & Pam Roberts and Bob Cole

Visitor – Robert Frampton (Grampians Vintage Vehicle Club)

Sunday's drive to campout –

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Frank & Jan Tamis | 1965 Mustang | Keith Mackinlay - Modern |
| Merv & Maree Sherlock | 1966 Rover P5 Mk3 | |

Visitors from the Grampians Club during the week –

Barry Byron – Holden HZ; Terry Wright – Mercedes Benz; Richard Mayer (twice) and daughter Jess – modern; Ned – XG Panel Van; Garry – Valiant AP6; Steven Worn – 1944 Willys; Wayne – Volvo;

Also – visitors from Goldfields Car Club - Trevor Parry and Annie Groves – TD2000

LAKE BOLAC CAMP-OUT

Everyone that loves camping has a favourite Jaffle Iron, the best ones usually handed down through the family. Nerene's double jaffle iron – called a "pressure toaster" made by Raco - was hiding under the sink in her Dad's kitchen. It is a very different iron to those most of us at Lake Bolac have ever seen, and led to much discussion re the history of the Jaffle Iron.

Jaffle Origins

That Aussie icon, the jaffle iron, has a shorter history than you may think. It was invented in 1949 and was a coveted household item in the early 1950's. The original Jaffle brand jaffle iron was designed and patented by Dr Earnest Smithers of Bondi, New South Wales. So, it is all-Australian. He also invented the name – perhaps because it sounded a bit like waffle?

The history of the jaffle iron begins with wafer irons in medieval times. These were used to produce flat, unleavened cakes and consisted of two metal plates with wooden handles. The plates were connected by a hinge and the cakes were cooked over a fire, flipped to cook both sides. The Belgian waffle iron was a direct descendent of this device. The original jaffle iron was likely inspired by the waffle iron.



When it was first advertised in 1949, the device was described as a "pressure toaster", perhaps to trade off the idea of the pressure cooker. Its advantage was that the edges of the bread were pressed together to contain the hot filling. The jaffle iron was embraced with some fervour. There were even cooking demonstrations showing how to use it and the device cropped up frequently as a desirable prize at shows, social events and the odd charity "do". Sadly, it could also become a weapon. An Illawarra Daily Mercury headline in December 1953 screamed, 'Wife hit husband with "Jaffle Iron"; fined £3'. (*We do not endorse this particular use of your Jaffle iron!*)

Jaffles were touted as "the latest cookery creation for all the family to enjoy".

This information is presented with permission from australianfoodtimeline.com.au. (this is a great site for information about Aussie food from 1770's to today).

Heather Angow

Ballarat Heritage Festival Display – Sunday 19th May 2024

The weather gods seem to always bring in the clouds for the third Sunday of May. Once again, the air was filled with misty rain as I wandered into Lydiard Street at 8am. The road closure was up, the Events ladies from Council were there and there were only 4-5 cars left in the street from Saturday night that we hoped to get moved asap. This number was fewer than in previous couple of years, thank goodness.

However, the sky dried up and by 8:30 the street was humming with activity as the big trucks and pre 30s cars started to roll up along with the Chrome and Coffee Crew with the big fins reversing into the front of the Regent Theatre. Over the next one and a half hours the street filled from Mair to Sturt with a broad range of Veteran, Vintage and Classic vehicles. Credit must go to the out-of-town people in pre 30s with no weather protection, and motorbike riders who didn't let a bit of moisture and single figure temperatures put them off. By 10:15 the public were rolling in as well and the street was brimming with activity virtually right through to the onset of real rain at around 2:30pm.

In the end some 90 cars, 5 trucks, 23 bikes, 3 ambulances, 2 caravans and 1 tractor graced the pavement of Lydiard Street. The City Council provided entertainment with several bands and wonderful ladies singing trio – The Pacific Bells – belting out great music from the balcony of the George Hotel.



The VCCC vehicles were complemented with vehicles from the Victorian VW Club, the Maxitrans Car Club, Victorian Ambulance Museum and several individuals from Melbourne and Geelong who had seen the event on Facebook and Federation website. Effort of the day must go to our new club member Raj Giri who loaded his Indian built Vespa 140 and '79 Yamaha RX 125 onto his trailer and left home in Sunbury at 6:30am to get to Lydiard Street for the display. The 2 Veterans, Peter Fitzgerald's 1910 Maxwell and Rick Thege's 1912 Rolls Royce sitting under the golden arch of the Mining Exchange certainly made a pretty picture.



A big thank you to everyone who brought their classic vehicles out for the day. Thanks must also go my fellow fluoro wearers - especially Ross Humphrey, Graeme Johns, Ray Allen, Bernie Brisbane, Darren Miles and former club member Peter Fisher. These marshals guided parking and movement of vehicles around the site all day. Also, thanks to Dale Everett, Chris Mathieson and Justin Stevens for "Ubering" people around to pick up second vehicles. People involved in the day are awarded trophy points which is only a small gesture for the effort put in by everyone from the club.



Mike & Lyn Simpson chose the 'sunny' side of Lydiard Street – hence the beach umbrella!

The two classic caravans that were left open for public perusal in the middle of the road were a focus of attention and conversation.

Thanks Mike Simpson, and to Stu Crumpler from the VW Club, for allowing people to enter and touch their classic holiday machines.

The Council Event Management Team of ladies, who were all new to the event, were great to work with and provided blank placards to all vehicles who were new to the display. They assure me that the day was a success from their perspective and will be calendared again for next year's Heritage Festival.

Let's hope the sun shines in 2025.

*Brendan Stevens
Club Captain*



Bus Trip to Historic Winton Races – Sunday 26th May 2024



Neville Finch, Wayne Lineker and Trevor Madden checking the program

What a great day totally enjoyed by around 22 keen VCCC members who attended this wonderful event. Our bus left Ballarat Toyota at 6.30 am with heaters on, and under the careful management of our driver Warrick Pitcher. This year's bus was an automatic with much improved suspension on the bus we had in 2023.

After travelling for 2 and a half hours, we pulled in for a pit stop and coffee near Avenel, we then proceeded to Winton Racetrack arriving at 10am. Stepping off the bus we were greeted by a beautiful display of classic cars ranging from a P76 to a late model Aston Martin.



Warrick Pitcher in the driver's seat

The day's racing was spectacular which had those mighty Mini Coopers leaving a 1969 Chevy Camaro in their rear mirrors. Every make and model was racing which is something we all enjoy as memories go back to those cars we all owned and wish we kept.

One accident happened in the motorcycle sidecar race where an outfit did overturn, and to the surprise of spectators, we saw a lady jump the fence to run over and check on those involved before the safety people arrived.

We left after the last race, stopping for dinner at a roadhouse near Wallan, where several buckets of KFC were consumed. We then had a change of drivers when Rodney Gardner took over to give Warrick a well-earned rest, Rod had us back safely to Ballarat Toyota at 9.30 pm. A huge thanks to Daryl Crawley, our drivers and also Wayne Lineker for picking up and returning the bus.

Trevor Madden



Above and below – a small selection of vehicles in the display area

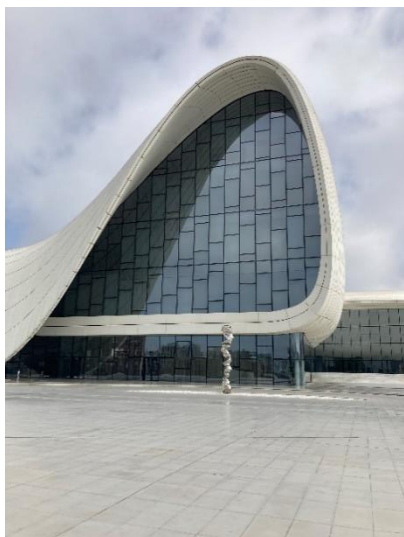


The skill and team work of the side car riders was amazing to watch

(ps – sorry - I didn't take many photos – I was too busy watching the fantastic racing – Nerene)

Heydar Aliyev Centre, Car Museum in Baku, Azerbaijan

By Gene Geoffrey and Jane Moulson.

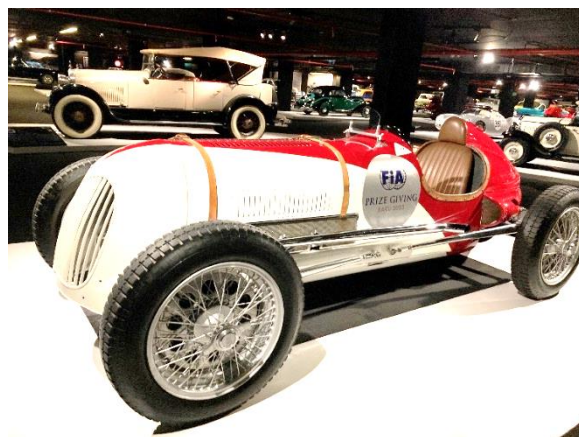


We have just arrived back from Azerbaijan and while wandering about Baku we came across the Heydar Aliyev Centre which holds an amazing car museum with around 60 exhibits highlighting the history of the road transport from 1900 to around 1980 with an Eastern European bent. Everything is a bit accidental in Baku, it can be easy to find some things and others appear as if by magic and for us this exhibition was pointed out to us by a security guard. We were there to see another exhibition and didn't even know the car exhibition existed. He pointed us to the basement where we found this great world of vehicles, all in concourse condition, constantly dusted, cleaned throughout the day and not a drop of oil anywhere. I am not providing a list of every vehicle just a few we thought were interesting, by the way like most museums and art galleries in Baku they do not publish catalogues of their collections.

This is at the entrance, a stunning 1929 Packard 645 Duel Cowl Phaeton and it was originally purchased by the President of Guatemala. The size and detail is exquisite. I wanted to drive it out the door. Unfortunately, I didn't know how to start it.



A 1938 Ford Monoposto, terrifyingly small, incredibly fragile and no safety features. Brave and crazy guys raced these machines on very average road surfaces.



Vaz 2120 It is obviously based on a Fiat, produced in massive numbers, fell apart beautifully and can still be seen occasionally puffing around on the streets of Baku in the most appalling but quaint condition.

This is a Gaz 21 Milis 1960 Police car while beautifully presented the construction is really rough. Uri Gagarin was the first man in space, upon his return, the Russian Government gave him this model of car. It is equivalent of give Neil Armstrong a Toyota Corolla.



Zim Gaz-12 1950 Car for officials. Synchronised gear box, three on the tree, could pull off in any gear. Could carry 750kg and were also used as vehicles to move product around. Vodka?

So that was a few of the vehicles we saw.
Cheers
Gene and Jane

The Inception of Convertible Culture

It may surprise you to learn that technically speaking, convertible cars were around much earlier than the traditional hard roof models that many of us now own today. In fact, convertibles are also known by terms such as drop top, open top and cabriolet – with the latter quite literally meaning “a light, two-wheeled, one-horse carriage with a folding top, capable of seating two persons”.

You see, after horse drawn carriages came the phaetons, roadsters and the touring cars. In the early days, roofs that were convertible or detachable were the norm. It wasn't until the 1920's that steel bodies began to be mass produced, and closed cars became an option available to the average buyer. As this modification continued being built standard into vehicles, the first retractable top was then developed in 1922.

The initial design was invented by Ben P. Ellerbeck, and while the hardtop was operated manually on a Hudson coupe, it never saw production. Just five years later, that feature was brought to market by many manufacturers like Buick, Chrysler, Cadillac, Lincoln, and other industry titans of the time. Fully open cars began to disappear from the mainstream automotive marketplace, as having a closed roof was both practical and a sign of luxury.

However, demand for convertibles came roaring back as a direct result of World War II. American soldiers in France and the United Kingdom were exposed to the smaller roadster models that were not available back home in the United States, such as the MG Midget and the Triumph Roadster. As a result, American automotive

manufacturers produced a new range of models such as the Studebaker Lark and the Oldsmobile 98 with the option of being a convertible, to meet market demand from returning soldiers.

This resurgence only lasted twenty years at best though, as the 1970's saw a shift in demand once more. Motoring enthusiasts began to steer away from convertibles once again, thanks to increased travel speeds and vehicle crash safety standards on roads in the United States. Suddenly, driving a convertible on the open road was loud and windy, and the "feeling" was replaced with sunroofs and air conditioning systems. After the last Cadillac Eldorado was produced in 1976, the only convertible cars sold in the United States were imported until 1982. Thankfully, in the 21st century people love convertibles, not just for how they run, but what they symbolise – freedom, adventure, sunshine. After all, there's a reason why California is listed as one of the top five American states for owning a convertible in this day and age. Hollywood productions not only know about this symbolism, but in turn continue to capitalise on it: think "Thelma and Louise", "The Graduate" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off".



Photo from the All Ford Day, Geelong 2023 showing a retractable roof that is stowed in the 'boot' when not in use

Modern convertibles can also be symbols of status, thanks to those designed and manufactured by the likes of Bentley, Aston Martin, or Mercedes. While the concept is still the same, additional luxury features can also include automated climate control, heated seats, keyless ignition, even built-in wind deflectors.

Needless to say, convertible cars have certainly come a long way.
Contributed by Mike Simpson - copied from waynesgarage.com.au



Ray Allen's MG TC with no top, and then with the top

Do You Know . . . Ballarat born - Henry Sutton?

It was on President Andy's Any Vehicle Run to The Lake in December last year that I had my first visit to the Tramway Museum. A very impressive building and display. While talking to the volunteers, we were looking at the double storey horse-drawn tram, and we were observing the Sutton signage. The guys knew of the Sutton building in lower Sturt Street and the old Sutton Music shops but knew nothing about Henry Sutton the man.

Below is part of Sutton's entry in Wikipedia:

"Henry Sutton can be classed as an automobile inventor and designer rather than a manufacturer, whose achievements were considerable and internationally recognised. As an inventor, he produced a number of automobiles of his own design in an evolutionary process (somewhere between six and eight). In 1897, a tricycle fitted with a Sutton designed and built engine was driven from Melbourne to Ballarat. Despite atrocious road conditions, the trip was completed in eleven and a half hours, and the vehicle arrived in Ballarat to a crowd of thousands.

From 1898, Sutton held patents for improvements in combustion engine carburettors; and, by 1899, he had built and driven the **Sutton Autocar**, one of the first motor cars in Australia."

In 2011, a Sutton car was on display at Heritage Weekend in The Mining Exchange.

Please look up Sutton's achievements and work on telephones, batteries, electricity, television, fax machines plus a lot more – and this was all in the latter part of the 1800s and early 1900s. If Sutton was in America he would be lauded as a National Hero but here in Australia, and sadly in Ballarat, he is virtually unknown. He was an amazing man.

Doug Jenkins



FROM THE LIBRARY SHELF

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June 2024

DELAGE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (Inc)

Set of Club Newsletters June 2016 to June 2023
Donated by Lyndon James & Damian O'Doherty

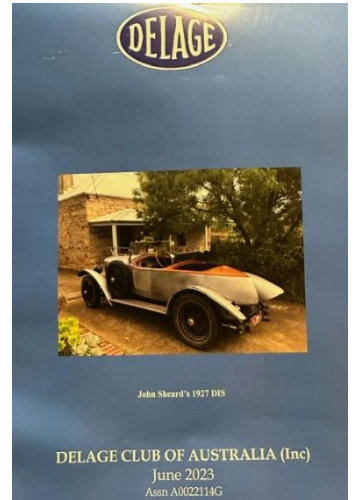
As a Club we have been very fortunate that many of our Club Members, in addition to being members of the VCCC. have been also members of various one-Marque clubs. As a result, we have a large selection of Marque Club Newsletters that have been donated to our Library over the years. These sets complement our Library of books and manuals very well. There is a lot of important information in these newsletters that is not available elsewhere. Unfortunately, in recent years, due to lack of space in our Library, these folders have been stored rather than having them available in our Library for members. Once we have our new enlarged library this problem will be overcome.



The moment of truth – David Rentch starts his beautifully restored DMN

The Delage Club is relatively small, but produces two newsletters per year. These are of extremely high quality and presentation. The real strength of these newsletters is a large number of technical articles written by knowledgeable and experienced club members and presented with excellent colour photographs. Much better than a Workshop Manual! The club also has new and second-hand spare parts, special tools and a Library of Information.

The history of Australian and overseas Delage Cars is featured, as well as motor sport and the Company history with period advertisements. Like most newsletters there are details of meetings and events as well as book reviews and many colour photographs of local Australian Delage Cars for sale.



Thank you again Lyndon and Damien for providing us with such a valuable resource which will never date!

Currently most of the exchange club newsletters are being circulated on the internet. We are fortunate that Nerene sends these online thus enabling us to download any information that is of particular interest. Thank you, Nerene, for many, many hours of enjoyable reading you provide!

The Delage books in our Club Library are:

A2341/1/2 - Delage France's Finest Car - a two-book set in English by Cabart and Burgess-Wise (1905 – 1954)

A1184 - Delage Cars Styling and Design (1929 – 1953) by Adatto and Meredith

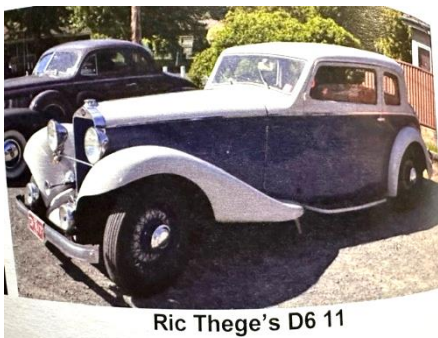
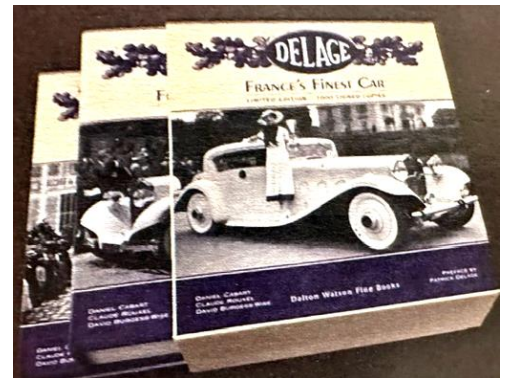
A230 - French Cars from 1920 to 1925 by Dumont

A1372 - L'Histoire Automobiles En France No 12 (1949)

Postscript:

Over the last 40 + years, Gordon Roberts and Marg have spent a large amount of time putting the contents onto the computer of all the magazines as they have arrived. Thus, we have 14 detailed articles on various model Delage cars in our sets of Australian and International magazines.

Ron Gay.



Ric Thege's D6 11



John Lawson's standout D 6-70



Damian O'Doherty's DIC

APPROVED SAFETY CHECKERS

The Club's approved safety checkers for pre 1949 vehicle initial Club Permit applications are:
Neale Goad Automotive, 206 Burnbank Street, Wendouree Phone 5339 2056 Contact Neale
Reptile Gulch Motors, 209 Doveton Street, Ballarat Phone 53337206 Contact Henry

CLASSIFIEDS – FOR SALE AND WANTED

All advertisements under Classifieds must include a registration number, engine number, VIN OR chassis number and cash price. Vehicles advertised in this Newsletter must be 25 years or older in line with Club Policy. The advertisements will remain for three (3) consecutive issues unless they are re-advertised.

Please advise the Editor if you sell your item or obtain what you want.

Deadline for articles – Tues 2nd July 2024 Editor, Nerene Backhouse – npbackhouse.a30@gmail.com

Items for Sale re demolition of clubrooms

As the demolition of the existing VCCC clubrooms proceeds the following items will be available.

14 x windows, aluminium 1 sliding, 1 fixed, bronze colour

Gas underfloor heating unit and in excess of 50 metres of ducting, floor vents, natural gas, thermostatically controlled

Ceiling fans, 4 of, with hard wired controllers

Doors & frames, 2 x double, 1 / 2280h x 1400w, 1 / 2040h x 1900w –

7 single, 1 / 2080 x 950, 1 / 1960 x 790, 1 / 2000 x 800, 1 / 2040 x 910, 1 / 2090 x 840, 1 / 1980 x 820.

Evaporative coolers, roof mounted in good operational condition

Westinghouse DSK9635NG 900mm freestanding cooker with a 118 litre electric oven and grill, and electronic ignition to 5 gas burners

Urinal, 2 x hand basins, 3 x toilet bowls & cisterns

10 x modern Fluorescent-type lights

Make a reasonable offer to any committee member.

For Sale - Original 1975 HJ Sandman Panel Van Built In Brisbane

This Sandman was purchased by the current owner 27 years ago and has held QLD registration continually during that time – it has only been driven 15,000 kilometres in the last 18 years!

The Chev Patient 308, Fresh Holden Motor is out of a 1975 GTS Holden Monaro with just over 101,000 km. The Sandman has been well maintained and cared for, insured with Shannons and has full QLD registration until 5th October 2024.

Located in Central Qld for inspection and negotiation - Price: \$55,000

VIN: BHJ17243B QLD Rego No. 899-GUH Engine No. 19L5 (that's the number stamped on the engine)

Contact Kim Burgess - kiminyamba@gmail.com

For Sale - 1974 MG B

A clean and tidy car, in immaculate condition, interior as new, currently on Club Registration 78,000 km

VIN GHN5UE365989G \$16,000

Contact John – 0418 351 211



For Sale

Are you contemplating an alteration/extension to your garage?

Maybe you can use this sliding glass door unit.

It will fit an opening of 2700mm wide x 2100mm high

\$150

Contact Bruce Kerr – 0438 394 026



For Sale - Singer 1927 14/34 2-Seater 6 cylinder 1776cc OHV

This was a Queensland car for many years, first registered April 1930, Qld rego Q129-564. Went off road in late 1970's and came to Victoria in 2010.

Full body off chassis restoration (kept as original as possible), the only component that has not been overhauled is the steering box which is in good condition. Engine rebuild by Edge Engineering, Dookie Burgundy leather interior to match original colour. The car exterior colour was originally all black, later blue. Has 5 new Lester tyres.



Comes with original owners, spare parts and other manuals, Leather tool bag, period jack and tool set. Including Singer oil can and Singer fuel can. Also, spare engine, gearboxes, complete rear axle assembly, plus many other extras. Located in Northern Victoria at Ruffy (near Euroa).

Selling due to pending downsizing and loss of shed space. Offers over \$20,000

Contact Marilyn Threfall singercarclub.secretary@gmail.com or Mob. 0429 300 783

For Sale

3 windows from either an FB, FE or FC Holden. Any reasonable offer accepted
Some starter motors (condition unknown) from Holden engines

Contact Ross Block – 5339 0606 - 0407 834 884 or rossblock@hotmail.com



For Sale

Assorted tools – see photos

Contact Mike Simpson

0419 935 147



For Sale

Austin A40 Ute (1954) - Aluminium Tray Type 40,000 miles - Barn find, car is 100% complete

No rust or dents, original paint with Patina - Runs well - Chassis No. 541675 - Engine No. IG 574155

\$4500.00

Contact - Chris Grose – 0417 378 063

GETTING CLUB PERMITS SIGNED – Permit Officer, Richard English has issued a friendly reminder regarding the procedure for getting your Permits signed, as follows:

First and preferred option – Bring your permit renewal to the next club meeting for signing.

If you are unable to attend a meeting then:

Second Option – Mail to Club P.O. Box and include a stamped DL size self-addressed envelope.

Third Option – Mail to Permit Officer address and include a stamped DL size self-addressed envelope.*

Fourth Option – Drop into Permit Officer's letterbox for pick up the following business day (include your phone number to get a text to say it's ready for pick up) or include a stamped DL size self-addressed envelope.*

Fifth Option – Contact Permit Officer and make other arrangements.

VERY IMPORTANT – When applying for a new Permit - PLEASE make sure you have ALL the necessary documents. This will save both you and the Permit Officer a lot of wasted time.

NOTE* re Options Three and Four – PERMIT OFFICERS ARE ALL RETIRED AND ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE. ALWAYS TEXT OR PHONE BEFORE USING THESE OPTIONS TO ENSURE THE PERMIT OFFICER IS NOT AWAY AS YOU MAY NOT GET YOUR PERMIT BACK IN TIME.

CLUB CALENDAR – JUNE - AUGUST 2024

For the Details of Events, See Page 5; also refer to the 12-month calendar.

JUNE	Date	What	Where	Contact	Phone	Time
Sat-Sun	15-16th	Pack down Weekend	Old Clubrooms			9am-4pm
Thurs	20th	Rustless Wanderers	American Hotel Creswick	Rick Thege	0428518770	12 noon
Fri	21st	Club General Meeting	Ballarat North Community Centre			7:30pm
Fri-Sun	21-23rd	Strip-out Clubrooms weekend	Old Clubrooms	Ron Damen	0428552358	TBA
Sun	23rd	Club Run (Trophy points)	Maldon Museum - See events	John & Gayle Pickering	0408914943	9:30am from Learmonth Rd
Tues	25th	Committee Meeting	Traminer Court			7:30pm
Sun	30th	Fridge Swap Meet	Multi Storey Carpark Dana St			6-11 am
JULY						
Sat	13th	Ladies Craft Afternoon	Lilly's at Eureka Café	Jenny Ure	0409954077	1:30 - 4pm
Thurs	18th	Rustless Wanderers	Xmas in July Wallace	Rick Thege	0428518770	12 noon
Fri	19th	Club General Meeting	Ballarat North Community Centre			7:30pm
Sun	21st	Club Run (Trophy Points)	President's Run	Andy Burns	0428935988	TBA
Tues	23rd	Committee Meeting	Traminer Court			7:30pm
AUG						
Fri-Sun	2nd-4th	Winton Festival of Speed	Winton Raceway			
Sun	4th	Naked Radiator Run	TBA	Frank & Jan Tamis		
Sat	10th	Ladies Craft Afternoon	Lilly's at Eureka Café	Jenny Ure	0409954077	1:30 - 4pm
Thurs	15th	Rustless Wanderers	TBA	Rick Thege	0428518770	12 noon
Fri	16th	Club Meeting & AGM	Ballarat North Community Centre			7:30pm
Sun	18th	Restoration Roundabout Club Run (Trophy Points)	TBA	Mike Simpson	0419935147	TBA
Tues	20th	Committee Meeting	Traminer Court			7:30pm
Sun	25th	Fed Marong Picnic	Marong Reserve			
Sun	25th	Hamilton Swap meet				

Events in italics are hosted by other clubs/organisations. Calendar info to Brendan Stevens by **25th of each month**



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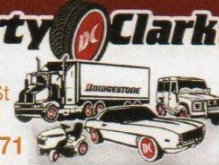
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