

BACKFIRE

Volume 58 No 8 December 2024

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Tues each month. Clubroom: Geelong Showgrounds, 79 Breakwater Rd East Geelong.



Merry
Christmas



Happy
New Year

Backfire is the monthly newsletter of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club (Reg No A00011857H).
Member of the Federation of Victorian Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Clubs.



www.wdhvcgeelong.com



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HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2024/2025

PRESIDENT	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
VICE PRESIDENT	Barb van Galen (Ray)	0408 664 537
SECRETARY	Fred Harris (Sharyn) secretary@wdhvcgeelong.com	0417 306 177
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Graeme Anderson (Veronica)	0428 484 340	Simon Anderson (Tess) 0414 482 241
Jon Breedveld (Glenda)	0417 311 441	Anne De Bono (Angelo) 0439 743 591
Col Jordan (Lyn)	0425 822 026	Ken Parry (Jenny) 0437 254 351
Gus Shea (Pam)	0400 203 151	
David Mitchell (Immediate Past President)	0409 099 716	
RALLY CO-ORDINATOR	Ken Parry (Jenny)	0437 254 351 / 5275 4335
LONG DISTANCE RALLY CO-ORDINATOR	Lyn Jordan (Col)	0425 822 025
PROGRAM DIRECTOR	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
EDITOR	Jon Breedveld (0417 311 441) editor@wdhvcgeelong.com	
WEB SITE	Damien "Gus" Giustini (Teena) (0418 587 415) webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com	
MINUTE SECRETARY	Phill Abbott Em. Libby Booley	
TECH NIGHTS	Peter Telfer (Gaylene)	0427 526 938
CLUBROOM & EQUIPMENT CARETAKERS	Max McKenzie 5248 2380 Syd Clifton 5243 0053	
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR	Barb van Galen (Ray) rbvangalen@gmail.com	0408 664 537
TINKER DAYS	VACANT - your name here???	
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Marg Hose	0402 213 908
VEHICLE COMPLIANCE OFFICERS	Gus Shea (Pam) 0400 203 151 Dallas Jones	0432 172 171
BAY CITY SWAP DIRECTOR	David Mitchell (Libby)	0409 099 716
BAY CITY SWAP COMMITTEE	John Bailey 0413 258 302 Rod Booley 0417 021 982	
	Murray Foran 5248 2553 Max McKenzie 5248 2380	
CLUB MERCHANDISE SALES	David Mitchell 0409 099 716	
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CLUB PHOTO MAINTENANCE	Dallas Jones	0432 172 171
LIBRARIAN	Phill Abbott (Doreen)	0439 965 210
FEDERATION DELEGATE	David Perkins	
LADIES COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATOR	Pam Shea (Gus) 0487 696 097	
RGAPS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE	vacant	
LIFE MEMBERS	Ken Batson Fred Harris Judith Matthews	
	Max McKenzie Trevor Schneider Max Tucker	
	Ray van Galen	
CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR	Ken Parry	
ERIC BAKER MEMORIAL AWARD	Jack Thomas	



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The President's Piece - notes from a big country

Greetings All,

Since our last note there has been lots of action as plans for our up-coming Christmas functions have got underway. Sixty-four members have signed up to attend our glittering dinner dance, and many enjoyed the special coffee run to the Harris's, with thanks to Sharyn and Fred. And more, there is the Christmas BBQ at St Leonards on Sunday 15 December. So much to enjoy!

Since we last spoke, Jules & I have spent a very enjoyable 10 days driving around the West-Central wilderness areas of Tassie. We packed light and took the Crossfire: a good workout, and she performed well.

We called on Tina and Gus in the beautiful village of Westbury. They were very busy preparing for Tina's 70th birthday party.

I also visited the National Motoring Museum in Launceston: magic!

Wishing you all the very best as we move into this exciting but busy time of year.

John.



Happy birthday Tina!
Tina & Gus took a break from the birthday preparations for this photo.

Photo: Sharyn Harris

Disabled Parking

A gentle request to leave 3-4 parking spaces on the grass immediately beside the front door, for members who find it hard to get around. Thank you.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 641 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.

HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2024

MEETING OPENED: 7:32pm

PRESIDING

Vice President Barb Van Galen opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitors to meeting No 641.

APOLOGIES

G Baldock, H Graham, A Tipper, D Tucker, R Roach, L Roach, T Stonehouse, J Green, L Hose, M Hose, C Field, R Booley, P Abbott, N Neeson, J Aylmer, G Lenton, J Harmon, V Furst, S Boast, P Boast, R Alexander, T Paech, L Jordan, L Millar, J Bailey

Moved: K Lorenz

Seconded: L Booley Carried

SICK LIST

Nil

MINUTES

The minutes of the October general meeting as published in the Backfire be confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: K Parry

Seconded: M McKenzie Carried

CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

INWARD

Letters In

- Graham Baldock – Thanking the club members for their thoughts during his recent illness.
- Skoda and Tatra Register of Australia – Special Edition magazine celebrating their 40th Birthday.

Emails In

- Membership – Merv Baum has resigned from the club
- Balmoral Grove – letter requesting cars for a display for their residents in 2025

OUTWARD

Letters Out

- Sympathy card – Pat Hickford and family on the passing of long term member John
- Vic Roads – letter to inform them that Adrian Van Der Lee is a current financial member of the WDHVC

Emails Out

Nil

Moved: L Booley

Seconded: B Turner Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT (Maurice)

Maurice presented his report on receipts and payments since the previous meeting and presented accounts to be passed for payment.

Moved: M Healy

Seconded: R Matthews Carried

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

No report

LIBRARY (Phill)

No report

DINE OUT (Sharyn)

Wednesday 13 November at 6pm at Oppies in Norlane

No dine out in December

January will be the usual Fish and Chip night in Queenscliff

EDITOR (Jon)

- The deadline for the December Backfire is 25 November.
- Jon explained in some detail the random selection process used to choose the 13 vehicles to be pictured in the 2025 Calendar. The calendars will be available to members at the December Club night.

WEBSITE (Damien)

Nil

FEDERATION REPORT (David P)

Nil

COFFEE RUN (Colin)

No December or January Coffee Run planned.

COMMITTEE REPORT (James)

Maurice gave a report on the October Committee Meeting

MERCHANDISE (David M)

Plans for a keyring are progressing following the interest shown at the last meeting.

TINKER DAY (Dallas)

November 21 Tinker Day will be at Anakie at Karl and Pauline Lorenz's home.

VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

Several red plates added this month.

On display in the workshop was Peter Connelly's 1930's Buick roadster he has made from the ground up.

RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (Ken Parry)

- The Warnambool run had some inclement weather, but a really great vehicle collection. The Motorcycle collection on the Sunday and the old Hardware Shop was very impressive.
- Cottage by the Sea was a great day. Cup of tea and scones and a very informative talk about what they do.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- Xmas Tinker Day/coffee day at the Harris residence. BBQ and plenty of great food, great weather and a great collection of cars. Well done to Fred and Sharyn for hosting.
- Alan David Lodge visit has 17 vehicles attending.

LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Lyn Jordan)

Nil

TECH NIGHT (Peter)

November 26 will be on front suspension.

SWAP MEET (David)

Nil

KITCHEN (Pam)

Don't forget the 29 Nov. Dinner. Still a few places left. Reminder to those going to be seated by 6:30pm

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Need the names of people planning to go to the Xmas Lunch at St Leonards on 15 December.
- Presentation of 50 year membership badges to Bev and Syd Clifton, Barb and Colin Chappell, and John Smith.

- Trevor Schneider reported that he visited Kevin and Joan Smith currently in Estia in Torquay.
- No bus to the Bendigo Swap this year due to lack of numbers.
- Giveaways provided by Alex Slota including hats, coffee mugs, phone holders and stickers. Thanks Alex.
- Reminder to make sure that the clubrooms are secured after use. All doors to be locked, switches are turned off.

FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

The Model A Ford that was advertised to members via email has been purchased by club member Jeff Lawrence. We hope to see it running soon.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 10 December 2024 in the clubrooms.

- David Mitchell

50 Year Badges Presented

Vice President Barb presented Bev & Syd Clifton, Barb & Colin Chappell, and John Smith with special badges to recognise 50 years of membership of the WDHVC at the November meeting. Each spoke briefly about their memories of their time at the club, including Colin's tale about using his Studebaker's hubcaps to pan for gold at an early rally to Stieglitz. (They didn't find any gold.)



November Feature Car - a Buick Speedster Special

Owner/builder of the November feature car, Peter Connelly, was a man of few words when it came to describing his hand-built creation. However the skill and creativity he has shown in building the car spoke volumes.

Peter described the car as a 1935 Buick Special. It sits on a modified 1935 Chev chassis and is powered by a 1938 Buick Straight-8 motor and 3-speed gearbox. The diff is from an AU Falcon and the 4-wheel drum brakes are from a 1965 Falcon (he thinks).

Its sleek aluminium body features a snub boat trail, beautifully fashioned. "I bought an English wheel and away we went," was Peter's laconic comment.



Peter said the car's carbies caused some trouble with the tuning. No wonder - four Strombergs, each with its own exhaust, nestled under a shared mesh intake filter. They would take some tuning!

He said the project had spread over about five and a half years, during which it sat for about two years, somewhere during the process (a not-uncommon occurrence in resto projects). The end result is a stylish and unique vehicle which Peter said he built "to suit himself".



Red Plate Reminders

- 1/. You should receive your club permit renewal paperwork about six weeks before the due date. However, it's up to you to follow up with VicRoads if your renewal is due and no paperwork has arrived.
- 2/. Don't leave it until the last minute to arrange with our permit officer to have papers signed. Get in early, and don't forget to actually take the signed papers to VicRoads and pay the renewal fee. (Yes, people have had the papers signed, put their new permit sticker on the window but didn't pay the fees. These individuals were driving unregistered and uninsured vehicles for up to 12 months, then wondered why no new paperwork came next year!)
- 3/. If you know you won't be around when your renewal falls due, you can pay early. VicRoads will happily accept early payments.
- 4/. Any vehicles on the club permit scheme for which the renewal fees have not been paid to VicRoads by the due date (not 90 days later) are unregistered and uninsured. They must not be driven on the roads - heavy fines apply.
- 5/. If you did not renew your club membership by 31 March, you are unfinancial. VicRoads considers red plate vehicles belonging to unfinancial members to be unregistered and insurance companies won't cover them either.
- 6/. To avoid any doubt about the currency of your permit, ensure to get a dated VicRoads stamp on the form that is stuck inside your new log book when you make payment. Carry the current VicRoads payment receipt in the vehicle.

Warrnambool Wander - 18 to 20 October 2024

We left Waurn Ponds at 9am with a stiff breeze and arrived at Colac for morning tea around Memorial Square. We then left Colac for the cheese factory at Allansford, for lunch. On our way there we had to drive through a very large downpour of rain as well as lots of water on the road, which thankfully we all made it through. When we arrived at Cheeseworld we were met by two members of the Warrnambool Car Club. They look after some machinery there and told us about a generator which used to power a town. They took us into a huge shed full of stationary engines (now closed to the public because of pilfering). We missed out on a tour of the Speedway because it was too wet. We headed to our motel for a rest until it was time for our bus pick up for tea.

On Saturday morning we headed for the Fletcher Jones car collection, where they have added steam boilers and steam traction engines. While we were there some of the women visited the antique market next door. On Saturday afternoon we visited a private collection of cars and the owner gave us an informative talk. We then had free time until we were again picked up by the bus again, and out for tea at a different venue.

On Sunday morning we drove out to Grassmere Junction (George Taylor stores) where we looked at over 120 mainly European motorbikes. Some bought items in the store, then back to Allansford, to the Warrnambool Car Club rooms for lunch. On our way home we were invited to another private collection of cars at Terang. A good weekend, good company and thank you all. - Ken

The Warrnambool weekend was an extraordinary week-end of cars, collections and food. The weather/rain will be remembered by all who travelled down that road for a long time. The passing trucks sent waves across the road onto our windscreens. I think we just hung on and pointed it forwards. I wasn't even driving!!! We were rewarded for our bravery with an enormous sandwich/lunch at Cheeseworld Allansford. There is a museum there. Some locals fired up a pump which is resident in the museum. We all arrived safely in Warrnambool. A bus was arranged and we headed off for dinner.



On Saturday we headed down to the former Fletcher Jones complex: two levels of assorted vehicles are hidden in there behind closed doors. The gardens were also looking spectacular. Several ladies had to be rounded up out of market section of the complex as well.

After lunch we were to another collection of assorted cars. Everything from a Rolls Royce to a Mini, several Holdens and Valiants, and a Zephyr. Followed with another bus ride to dinner.



Sunday saw us head out to Grassmere where there is a huge collection of rare motorcycles displayed in a working hardware store. This has to be seen to be believed.



A short journey took us a BQQ lunch hosted by the WDHVC (Warrnambool). After enjoying an abundance of food we commenced our journey home. We visited a friend of Ken and Jenny who also had their car collection on display in their yard.



We waved to Ken and Jenny and made our home. We made a wonderful weekend and still in awe of what is hidden behind closed doors. You just need the contacts to get those doors unlocked.

- Lil Vella



Photos: Lil Vella & Marg Hose



RALLIES & RUNS

Christmas Coffee Run

The Christmas Coffee Run was to the Harris's in Portarlington on 7 November. Great weather, a good turn up, great cars, lots of food and good company. What more could you ask for?

Of course Fred and Sharyn had the man cave open and their collection of cars on display.

Two particular points of interest: firstly, dyed-in-the-wool, "blue oval" Ford man Fred has apparently joined the "dark side", with a beautiful, tiny Austin 7 added to his collection just days before.

And secondly, their recently-installed, brand new lift proved temperamental. While enjoying demonstration ride, David became stuck between floors for a bit after the electrics played up. A stool had to be passed in so he could scramble out!



Other Events

Source: [swap-meets\(ozwrenches.com\)](http://swap-meets(ozwrenches.com)) and individual event flyers

Nov 30-Dec 1	Dunolly Swap	Dunolly Golf Club, Short St (Dunolly Vehicle Club) Thea Hillier 0432 776 050
Dec 1	Sandown Swap	Sandown Park Hotel Carpark, Noble Park, 10am start
Dec 7/8	Glenlyon Swap	Glenlyon Swap Meet and Car Show, Glenlyon Rec Reserve
Dec 14	Geelong Collectables	Swap & sell day, Hall of Agriculture, Geelong Showgrounds
Dec 24	Sandown Swap	Sandown Park Hotel Carpark, Noble Park, 10am start
Jan 12 2025	Korumburra Swap (TBC)	Korumburra Showgrounds
Jan 19 2025	Sale Swap	0402 518 051
Jan ??	Wonthaggi Swap	Unconfirmed
Feb 2 2025	Morwell Swap	Toners Lane, Morwell
Feb 8 2025	Glenlyon Swap	Glenlyon Rec Reserve
Feb 9 2025	Lang Lang Swap	Lang Lang Showgrounds
Feb 15-16	Maldon Antique Fair	Maldon, Bill Woodfull Reserve
Feb 16	Emerald All American Car Display & Swap Meet	Recreation Reserve 410/412 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Gembrook
Feb 22	Kingston Swap Meet Sat	Kingston Showgrounds (near Ballarat)
Feb 22	Stawell Swap Meet	Stawell, North Park - Lamont Street, Rob 0400 581 937 or Cass 0409 190 696
Mar 1	Ballan Swap Meet	Old Ballan Racecourse, contact: Jason 0409 557 541
Mar 1-2	Shepparton Collectables Fair	Shepparton Showgrounds, DAVE 0409 142 391
Mar 9	Yarra Glen Swap Meet	Yarra Glen Racecourse
Mar 9	Llanely Motorcycle Swap Meet	Llanely Vic
Mar 23	HTPAA Antique Hand Tool Market	St. Anthony's School Hall, 164 Neerim Rd, Cnr Neerim & Grange Rds, Caulfield East 9am - 12.30 pm, \$5 entry, info: send email to: toolsales@htpaa.org.au
Mar 23	Trafalgar Swap Meet	Trafalgar, Vic

Events Calendar

Updates will be sent by email and posted on Facebook.
(Please pass on to those without email addresses.)

- Friday 29 November** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Friday 29 November** **Christmas Evening with Soul Sister Swing.** Music, dancing and a delicious 2-course dinner! BYO drinks and glasses. Please be seated by 6.30 for 7pm.
Contacts: Pam 0487 696 097 or Julie 0432 147 555
- Tuesday 10 December** **General Meeting** 7.30pm in Clubrooms.
Please bring a plate of supper to share. (Collect your Club Calendar.)
- Sunday 15 December** **Christmas BBQ at St Leonards.** Lower Bluff Road.
Please bring chairs table plates bowls and cutlery soft drink and all food supplied Santa may arrive so be very good Put your name down or no food. Please ring Sharyn. *Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089*
- Tuesday 17 December** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm in clubrooms.
No December Tech Night. Due to the birthday celebration of a person far more important than all of us, we will not have Tech Night in December. I wish every one of you a Happy Christmas. Please be safe on the roads. Enjoy the company of your loved ones. Be kind to everyone. Remember the happy times you had with departed loved ones. Be happy. Life is good. *Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.*
- NO Dec. Dine Out or Tech Night. NO Dec. or Jan. Coffee Run. NO Jan. Backfire.**
- Sat 11 & Sun 12 Jan.** **Geelong Truck & Machinery Show** [Geelong Classic Truck & Machinery Show](#)
- Tuesday 14 January** **General Meeting** - 7.30pm in Clubrooms.
- Wednesday 15 January** **Dine Out.** Usual Fish & Chips at Queenscliff. From 5.30pm.
Bottom fish & chip shop, Gellibrand St, Queenscliff. BYO picnic or purchase some delicious fish & chips. Wear your club badge for an extra chip (and deny the seagulls!). *Contact Sharyn 0417 546 089*
- Tuesday 21 January** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm in clubrooms.
- Monday 27 January** **February Backfire Deadline 5pm.**
Contact: Jon Breedveld 0417 311 441
- Tuesday 28 January** **Tech Night - "Rear Suspensions".** Be there about 7pm, to set up for a 7.30pm start. Wear your name badge to win a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG. All welcome.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.
- Friday 31 January** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Thursday 6 February,** **Coffee Run TBC** *Contact: Col 0425 822 026*
- Tuesday 11 February** **General Meeting** 7.30pm in Clubrooms.
- Wednesday 12 February** **Dine Out.** TBC *Contact Sharyn 0417 546 089*
- Sunday 16 February** **Waterfront Display.** 10am - 2pm. Names taken at Feb. meeting.
Contact: Ken 0437 254 351
- Tuesday 18 February** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm in clubrooms.
- Sunday 23 February** **Membership Renewal BBQ** 12 noon to 3pm, Clubrooms.
To reduce the rush at monthly club meetings, a membership renewal BBQ will be held at the clubrooms. A chance to catch up and also to renew your membership. (**NOTE.** Membership renewals will still be taken between 6.30pm and 7.30pm, before the February and March monthly meetings. 2025 Membership Renewal Forms will be made available with the February Backfire.)
Contact: Barb van Galen 0408 664 537.
- Monday 24 February** **March Backfire Deadline 5pm.** *Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441*
- Tuesday 27 February** **Tech Night "TBC"** Arrive at 7 pm, so we can set up for a 7.30 pm start.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.
- Friday 28 February** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

New Tinker Day Coordinator Needed

We will need a new Tinker Day Coordinator in 2025, as Dallas is retiring from the job. See John Bailey if you are interested or Dallas to find out more about what's involved.

RALLIES & RUNS

Dodge Brothers 2024 National Rally in Tasmania

After a successful coffee run out to Gnarwarre nursery in the fog, the Dodge started to act up and a failed head gasket was determined to be cause. Much to my anguish as we had entered the Tasmanian Rally and booked and paid for the overnight Ferry crossing.

So off with the head, Ha, Ha, removed the head nuts, attached a chain to the head via a set of modified old spark plugs and used the engine crane to lift the head, Ha, Ha.

Had the front wheels off the ground but no movement of the head, The head had rusted to the studs.

After considerable discussions with various Dodge enthusiasts including Lachie Jackson (who had a similar concern with his 1927 Dodge sedan) it was time for some impact technology and a heavy-duty wedge - success in both our cases, so it was time to clean up, lap and set the valve clearances, skim the head, fit the new head gasket and head and torque the head nuts.

Job done with just under a month before we set sale on the Spirit of Tasmania.

Due to Pauline's condition it was decided that she stay in care and the navigator's seat was offered to my son Brett, who enjoyed the week in Tasmania.

It's amazing what they pack onto the ferry. Boarded around 8pm with the Dodge and about a dozen mainland entrants, found our cabin and the bar, and we all headed out the Bay around 10pm with a glass of red in hand. During the night there were a few corrugations in Bass Strait but slept through them.

Arrived Devonport for 'breakfast/morning tea' at the VCCA TAS club rooms at Ulverstone before heading to Sheffield for lunch, then on to Launceston via a selection of scenic roads, to our accommodation.

Day 2. After a visit to the National Automotive Museum of Tasmania we travelled to Campbell town and on to Ross for lunch, then on through Tunbridge, Oatlands, Colebrook, Campania, Richmond and into Hobart to our accommodation in the shadow of the Wrest Point Casino.

Day 3. It was a 'Derwent Valley Run' to Plenty. Along the way we all did a couple of laps of the Baskerville racetrack, a small track with tight downhill turns. The run over the ripple strips got away from me! But good fun. Brett did a lap also but got confused with the reverse pattern gearshift of the Dodge.



Front row of the grid at Baskerville track.

Lunch at the Salmon Ponds with a walk around the ponds containing some very large fish that delighted in splashing you as you fed them pellets. Across the way Plenty Cider offered tastings, before heading back to Hobart accommodation and dinner at the Casino.

Day 4. 'Tasman Peninsula Run' from Hobart to a cheese tasting at Wicked Cheese and cuppa before heading to the Dunalley Hotel for lunch. We then travelled to the Bangor Vineyard shed and on via the Lewisham Scenic Drive, crossing two causeways, before crossing the Tasman Bridge over the Derwent River and back to our accommodation.

Day 5. 'Huon Valley Run' leaving Hobart on the Huon Highway, we continued on to Grove, stopping at the Honey Pot for coffee and cake, then on to Huonville, Franklin, Castle Forbes Bay and Port Huon. Then to Dover RSL for lunch, returning by the Huon Highway to pause at Geeveston and on to the DBCA AGM and BBQ at the Huon Jet/Boatshed Café, before returning to Hobart.

Day 6. Hobart to Miena, via the Brooker Highway over the Bowen Bridge and on to the East Derwent Highway, continuing on to Old Beach and Bridgewater, joining the Midland Highway past Melton Mowbray and on to Bothwell for morning tea. Then continuing on the Highland Lakes Road for Lunch at the Miena Hotel having climbed over 1000m. It's a long way up and a long way down (with manual steering, two-wheel brakes and hairpin bends with 15 kmph limits) to Cressy for fuel and on to Longford and joining the Bass Highway back to Launceston.

A bus was arranged to take all entrants to the Rally Dinner at the Longford Hotel where awards were presented, and an enjoyable meal and conversations were held before returning to Launceston accommodation.

Day 7. Launceston to Beaconsfield for a conducted tour of the goldmine and lunch before heading to a standout eye-watering collection of late model super cars including 3 Maseratis, 3 Ferraris, the latest Chev Corvette, Ford GT 40, 3 Mercedes Benzs, Porche et al.



In front of the Beaconsfield Museum.

Club Legends **Trevor Schneider**

Our club includes people with a wealth of knowledge and experience that we wish to preserve. This is the tenth in a series about these "Club Legends".



Trevor was born in Geelong in 1943 and has been a Geelong boy all his life. He married Sandra in 1968 and has three daughters and four grandies of various genders.

He went to the Gordon in 1958 - 1962 and worked at South Barwon Council.

As a teenager he bought an Austin 7 for \$15: it

was pretty rough. All the students drove Austin 7s. His next car was an A Model tourer, which he bought in 1974, then a Model A town sedan in 1981 Trevor's favourite car is the Austin, which he went on to restore in the 90s. It was the first bought and will be the last to sell. That's dedication!!

He drove the A-Model to the National Rally in Canberra in 1978, accompanied by the Tucker family. Max and Gwen plus five kids, towed a trailer. He and Sandra had three kids on board. Twelve people in two cars and not a seatbelt in sight.

Trevor says the A-Model is a practical car and easy to drive. It keeps up with the traffic.

In 1988 the Schneiders attended the Bicentennial Rally in the A-Model, again with Max and Gwen Tucker in their roadster. He restored it from original.



Trevor's dream car - he doesn't need one - he is happy with what he has got.

Trevor's other interest is music. He has been a long-standing musician in the Geelong area.



He was at the original meeting of the WDHVC in 1967 and has been president, editor, secretary and committee member. At present his only job is life member.

Trevor finds the club has something different for everyone and he says he knows of no other club with such wide range of interests.

His last thought about the club is you will always find people willing to help, and there is a good spirit of support.

Thank you Trevor for your service to our club: you are our latest legend. - Sharyn

Dodge Brothers 2024 National Rally (ctd)

But wait, that was the house garage: the separate men's shed contained over 40 vehicles, including speedway/midget/super cars, Repco Brabham, Ferrari and Alfa Romeo Formula 1 vehicles and bikes from Ducati to Vespa. As well as Fiat 500, Ford Mustangs, Lotus Cortina's, Early and Late GT Falcons and an impressive collection of speedway memorabilia. A truly spectacular collection! We returned for dinner in Devonport before queuing to board the Spirit of Tasmania and end our time in Tasmania. Those corrugations were still in Bass Strait on the trip home but again slept through them.

The roads travelled were off the main roads and their condition was excellent compared to the goat tracks the government and councils have failed to maintain.

Travelled just over 792 miles door to door and returned a fuel consumption of 13.8mpg: not too bad considering the hilly terrain and some circuit work! - Harold Newton



Lachie Jackson's 1927 Dodge Brothers Sedan



Des Otten's 1918 Dodge tourer from South Australia

Morning tea first day in Tassie



RALLIES & RUNS

Final Tinker Day for 2024

Eureka Celebration



What a lovely day for the last Tinker Day for 2024. We had 26 people come for a drive to Anakie, to Karl and Pauline Lorenz's home, where we enjoyed their wonderful hospitality.

We gathered in one of the many garages/sheds for our cuppa and the usual chat. Karl and Pauline had the urn going and tea and coffee at the ready. Then out came the plates of biscuits and jam and cream pancakes. Mmm, so good.



Early in November I attended an event run by another club that I have recently joined. It was the Annual National Rally and the 50th Anniversary of the Purvis Eureka. Some may, or may not know, the Purvis Eureka is a rather unusual car made in Melbourne beginning in 1974 and ending in 1991. In this time 683 cars were built either as a turn-key vehicle or in kit form.

The event was held in Ballarat and the members with their cars gathered at the Eureka Stockade for a public viewing. Two remarkable things occurred during this four day celebration of the marque. A total of 20 cars turned out from all over the country, the most seen together in recorded history! And typical of these low volume vehicles, no two cars were alike apart from their basic shape.

The other incredible thing to happen was that Mr Allan Purvis, the creator of these amazing cars, was there to celebrate with us. He was quite emotional when he witnessed the amount of interest and dedication shown by the owners of these strange cars that he first created some 50 years ago. He was very generous with his time and gave us a talk on how this phenomenon came to be.

I met some wonderful people who are all tainted with the same illness that we at the WDHVC share, the obsession with wheels and engines in whatever form. I had a great time and have come away with some new friends and some really good ideas for my Eureka. - Dallas



After a bit of rehydrating and a cholesterol boost, Karl took the blokes off to do bloke stuff looking at shed bits and pieces and Pauline whisked the women away to look at her quilting skills and the many examples of it.

I had a look at the boys and girls stuff, all of it rather excellent.

While some settled in for lunch, others took their leave and headed off in their chosen directions. Huge thanks to Karl and Pauline for having us in their home. No kangaroos were harmed in the partaking of this event. - Dallas

Photos: Dallas and Ray



RALLIES & RUNS

Cottage By The Sea

In a follow up to a talk at the April meeting, Ken organised a club run to Cottage by The Sea in Queenscliff on 10 November.



Established in 1890, Cottage by the Sea is a not-for-profit, independent children's charity that provides opportunities to enhance the lives of children through programs that involve short-stay seaside camps that focus on adventures in nature.

Over time, the circumstances of the children attending the Cottage has varied, from convalescing children, children affected by war, fire, flood, or disadvantaged in key life areas. It also offers respite holidays for families in the secondary facility, Riptide Cottage.

Members who attended the prime seaside location learnt more about the work of the charity and saw the facilities for themselves.

But it wasn't all seriousness, as the photos show. Included are the "victims" of the kids slide/fire escape. I went down first and some others couldn't resist the challenge, including 91 year old big kid at heart, Ray Matthews.

Text & photos: Geoff Lenton



Alan David Lodge Run



We ended up with more willing starters than available parking spots for the run out to Alan David Lodge in Grovedale on 20 November. Its proximity saw some older vehicles venture out into the traffic and join a display that was appreciated by the residents, who were having their first day in the fresh air after three week lockdown due to Covid. We were well looked after and the weather was perfect.



*Photos:
Ray van Galen &
Ed*

VALE - JOHN HICKFORD 9/10/1931 – 17/10/2024

Our club lost a long-standing member and a true gentleman when John Hickford passed away last month. The respect and affection in which he was held was evidenced by the turnout of members and club cars, who joined the family at a memorial service for John at the clubrooms on 1 November.

As a tribute to John, we have reprinted the "Club Legends" story first published in December 2022.

- Ed

John Hickford was born in 1931 at Richmond. He spent his first eight years in Tubbut in the Victorian Alps. He told me he was trapping rabbits at seven years old. They obviously bred them tough in those times.

He had to ride his bike over the rough mountain roads to play with any friends. The area was sparsely populated in those days (it still is). At the start of the war the family moved to Melbourne. His first job was as a mechanic, then he did farm work for seven years.

As a teenager, John worked at a Lancia Lambda car yard after school and weekends (*the business of Ron Chandler, a Hawthorn Lancia dealer and wrecker – Ed*). You can see where this is going can't you.

His first car at 16 was a Lancia Lambda in pieces, which he put together. He got his licence in a Lancia.

He married the love of his life Pat in 1939 and had five children, and now has 10 grandchildren and five greats.

They moved to Anglesea when it was just a little town 64 years ago and started building the town. His own home sits on the hill, overlooking the ocean: this is where we sat to have our talk, with Pat giving me more information than John would.

He has had three Lancias during his time with the club, but he reckons he has had about 10 altogether! He has also bought 22 Peugeots, which he worked on as needed then distributed among family members, and a Mercedes 300B.



Magazine photos from John's racing days

Pat & John
Hickford



His favourite car is a white Lambda series 6 with a long chassis.

He toured it to many Bay to Birdwoods and also had it shipped to Europe for 10 weeks. Together with the club members Tom & Marg Ivory and Murray Coster, he did about 8,000 kms and took part in four rallies, in Holland, France and Italy. I heard their reports and stories when they came home and must admit I was jealous. His only club car now is a 565 Peugeot. He restored three cars, which took years. As he said, with kids it was tough. He learnt restoration at East Geelong Tech.

Now to the other half of John. He has had his racing licence since 1955, but only raced in Victoria, as having children made travelling difficult.

He drove at Albert Park, Phillip Island, Hepburn Springs, Rob Roy, Winton and Towong. He was very good at it - enough to keep up with the "money boys". John retired from racing when he got married then started again later. His last drive was at age 86. He is foundation member of the Lancia Club and early member of WDHVC.

His dream car is a 1957 Lancia B24.

He now spends his time designing houses for his kids and meeting people in the car club.

What a wonderful and interesting life you have had John: you are a legend.

- Sharyn



John's beloved white Lambda had pride of place at his memorial service

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

Wanted

Wanted. Mudguards to suit a veteran car. New or usable second hand is fine. Any style, rounded or flat, with or without valances. Set of 4 or just a pair. Any leads welcome and happy to look at what you have. Call Paul 0417 390 027 thetrady@outlook.com

Wanted. Early bulb brass horn & speedo for veteran car project. Happy to look at what you have. Call Paul 0417 390 027 thetrady@outlook.com **12/24.**

A Puzzle from the Warrnambool Run



A question for the brains trust. What is loop for???? It was on several Tickford-engineered cars on display in Warrnambool. No one (including the owner) knew what its purpose is.

Would you like the answer?? David Mitchell said it harmonises the sound of the air intake. The car will



A LOOK AHEAD!
Coaching in the Horseless Age—("New York Puck.")

From the Victorian Railways Magazine, 6 January, 1906

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

For Sale. 2003 Yamaha XV250 Virago. VIN: JYA3LVT043AO25118REGO BQ219. Very low mileage \$2,500. Call Graham 0409 241 558. **12/24**

For Sale 1987 Land Cruiser Turbo Diesel. Reg. 77687-H. 200,000 kms. Red in color. \$35,000 ONO .Call Les 0428 887 544. **11/24**

For Sale: MGB eared knock on wheel spinners 8tpi no logo - left & right. Off a 1970 MGB and in good used condition. Very minor wear on the ears. \$100. Call Ken 0438 377 585. **11/24**



For Sale: Triumph cylinder heads. A pair of vintage Triumph six cylinder heads in used condition & suitable for reconditioning. Suit Triumph MK1 GT6, Triumph MK1 2000, Triumph Vitesse 2 Lt and Vanguard 6 models. Please note: heads are the early light casting and straight port. \$400. Call Ken 0438 377 585. **11/24**



For sale/wanted ads are free to Members and generally appear for **two issues** of *Backfire*. To remove advertisements from the [newsletter](#) earlier, email editor@wdhvcgeelong.com (Ph 0417 311 441).

Reminder: All vehicles in the "For Sales" must have VIN number & Price or Registration Number & Price, otherwise they will be listed under "Clues". Ads for the 'Clues' section must not refer to any payment that may take place by mentioning an amount or 'best offer', etc.

All ads for cars also appear on the **club web site** where greater detail [and](#) photos (where supplied) can be viewed. To see ads, go to <http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com/wdsale.html>

All ads remain on the website until you request their removal. To remove an ad from the [website](#), email webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com (Ph 0418 587 415).

If undeliverable return to:

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Backfire

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December 2024 / January 2025 / February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26 Tech Night Front Suspensions	27	28	29 9am Backfire Folding 6.30pm Xmas Evening with Soul Sister Swing	30 November
1 December Dunolly Swap	2	3	4	5 	6	7 Glenlyon Swap
8 Glenlyon Swap	9	10 General Meeting, 7.30pm	11	12	13	14 Geelong Collectibles
15 Xmas Lunch St Leonards	16	17 Committee Meeting	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Sandown Swap	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 NO Dec. Dine Out or Tech Night. NO Dec. or Jan. Coffee Run. NO Jan. Backfire	27	28
29	30	31	1 January <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>G'ing Truck & Machinery Show</i>
12 <i>G'ing Truck & Machinery Show</i> Korumburra Swap	13	14 General Meeting, 7.30pm	15 Dine Out Queenscliff	16	17	18
19 Sale Swap	20	21 Committee Meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27 Feb Backfire Deadline	28 Tech Night "Rear Suspensions"	29	30	31 Backfire Folding Morning	1 February
2 Morwell Swap	3	4	5	6 Coffee Run. 	7	8 Glenlyon Swap
9 Lang Lang Swap	10	11 General Meeting, 7.30pm	12 Dine Out TBC	13	14	15 Maldon Antique Fair
16 Maldon Antique Fair	17	18 Committee Meeting	19	20	21	23 12-3pm M'ship Renewal BBQ, Clubrooms

EXTREME WEATHER (including Total Fire Bans) A club event may be cancelled on extreme weather days. If an extreme weather day is predicted members should either: check the club website; check their emails; or contact the event organiser. Updates will be sent by email.