

# BACKFIRE

Volume 53 No 5 September 2019

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219  
[www.wdhvcgeelong.com](http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com)



**Club meetings:** 7.30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues each month. **Clubroom:** Geelong Showgrounds, 79 Breakwater Rd East Geelong.



*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.*

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## President's Piece

I think I was being a little too optimistic last month where I thought there was a hint of spring in the air. The weather over the last four weeks has been enough to ask myself: "Why the hell do we live down here?"

I happened to be in Daylesford that weekend we had the cold snap, waking to see 50mm of snow on the car was interesting. I dare say in a few months some will be complaining about the heat. Not me!

I've not managed much in the way of events this month, I did make the coffee morning which I always find a really good opportunity to catch up and chat with members. If you haven't been on one, come along, even if you don't drink coffee, you can always have tea.

The puppy dog picnic was good fun and it was good to see that members remembered to bring their poo bags. Also pleasing was you brought them for your dogs too. I think the hounds out-numbered the people but never-the-less it was a howling success.

Going through the painful process of building a new shed at the moment. Those of you that have been down this path can appreciate just how difficult and expensive it can be. Dealing with bureaucracies and suppliers, all with their hands out, is not a lot of fun. But you do it because in the end you have what you need and then move on.

Off to the UK for a brief holiday to escape the cold. According to our relatives over there, they are struggling with the heat. Apparently it has been as hot as 25 degrees. Phew, how do they cope?

David will be holding the reins again in my absence so be gentle with him.

So as our weather crawls out of winter, make sure you get out in the car or out in the shed.

*Dallas*

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 595 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.  
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2019

## PRESIDING

President Dallas Jones opened the meeting, welcomed 114 members, including new member Ryan Burville, and visitors Martin, Peter and Cindy.

## APOLOGIES

Frank Anderson, Peter Tillotson, Les Szalinski, David Perkins, Keith Murdoch, Daniel Murdoch, Jim Maffit, Eva Barwise, Tiny Stonehouse, John Taylor, Lorraine Collinson, Alan Tipper, Paul Strickland, Rob & Lyn Anderson, Trevor Schneider, Darryn Tucker, Robert East, Gary & Noreen Mellington, Manny Vella, Nick Neeson, Joan Stott

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Garry Tonkin

Carried

## SICK LIST

Betty Jenkins, Ray van Galen, Eric Lewis, Noel Simpson.

The Club's thoughts are with Ted Price on Florence's recent passing.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the previous general meeting as published in the *Backfire* confirmed as a correct record, while noting the typographic error (Meeting number 594 not 5934).

Moved: Roger Sykes

Seconded: Graham Cameron

Carried

## CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

### INWARD

#### Letters In

- International Harvester Club - thank you letter for the use of the clubrooms in January.
- The Gordon - cheque from The Gordon Printing.
- All About Traffic Management - account for their services for our swap.
- Lions of Balmoral - invitation to attend their Show & Shine on November 3.
- RGAPS - reply to our letter on the installation of LEDs in the clubroom.

#### Emails In

- Guilford Grumpies Car Club - Show & Shine on September 8th.
- Consumer Affairs Victoria - update on the Club Statement lodgement.
- West Gippsland Vehicle Restorers Club - invitation to attend their Melbourne Cup Rally from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### OUTWARD

#### Letters Out

- Welcome letters sent to new members approved at the last committee meeting:

◇ Ryan & Kelly Burville;

◇ Denis Ashman;

◇ Darren & Christine Tucker; and

◇ Peter & Noelene Kemp.

- RGAPS - requesting a response to our letter of 25<sup>th</sup> March on the installation of LEDs in the clubroom.
- Sympathy card to Ted Price on Florence's recent passing.
- Get well cards to Betty Jenkins and Noel Simpson.

#### Emails Out

None

Moved: Graham Cameron

Seconded: Libby Booley

Carried

## TREASURER'S REPORT (Maurice)

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

Moved: Maurice Healy

Seconded: Damien Giustini

Carried

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

Auction Night this month.

## LIBRARY (Gary)

No report this month due to the Auction Night.

## DINE OUT (Gary)

Peninsula Hotel this month.

## EDITOR (Jon)

Damien Giustini has again volunteered to edit the *Backfire* while Jon is away in October.

## WEBSITE (Damien)

No report this month.

## FEDERATION REPORT (Dallas David P)

Full report next month.

## COMMITTEE REPORT (David M)

- The recent Committee meeting discussed:
- The Club Constitution and potential amendments.
- Approval for the purchase of a second kitchen fridge.
- Four new members approved:
  - ◇ Ryan & Kelly Burville;
  - ◇ Denis Ashman;
  - ◇ Darren & Christine Tucker; and
  - ◇ Peter & Noelene Kemp.
- The MG Car Club software used to manage their membership details.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- The Tech and Craft Night groups shared use of the hall in the winter months.

### MERCHANDISE (David M)

No report this month. Log Book reminder stickers still available.

### TINKER DAY (Barb for Ray)

Visiting Anglesea this month

### MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

As no one correctly guessed him, Max McKenzie took home the Mars Bar this month.

### VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

No report this month.

### CRAFT NIGHT

Card making this month.

### RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (Rod )

- Lindsay went on the Anglesea Pub Run.
- Sharon went on last month's coffee run. As always, it was great success.
- Ray thanked Graeme Paech for hosting last month's Tinker Day.
- Rod thanked the members who ventured out in the bad weather on the day and visited the Malaga Café and the Military Museum.
- Fred went to the Federation Meeting in Mildura. David P to report at the next meeting.
- Upcoming events:
  - ◇ Dog Picnic;
  - ◇ Coffee Run to Armstrong Creek;
  - ◇ Thommo's Pub run; and
  - ◇ Running Boards Rally.

### LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

Start date confirmed for 2 September.

### TECH NIGHT (Peter)

Upholstery this month.

### SWAP MEET (Fred)

No report this month.

### KITCHEN (Rhonda)

Additional fridge welcomed!

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Hall lights to be replaced with LEDs.
- New fridge in kitchen.
- Dallas will be away for the next meeting. David M will be presiding.

### FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Robyn is looking for bumper bars for his truck.
- Evelyn has purchased another Republic truck.
- See the next Backfire for details of Dodge trucks for sale.
- Harold is looking for steel tube with the right profile for vintage hood bows,

- Contact John Bailey if you are interested in a S type Jaguar

Meeting closed at 8:12pm.

**Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the clubrooms.**

- Leigh Dwyer

## August Auction Action

The annual club auction again provided fun, laughter and valuable funds as a miscellany of mystery mechanicals went under the hammer.

Auctioneer John Bailey presided over proceedings, with his polished professional patter, extracting every last dollar from the punters (some of whom didn't even know they were bidding!). John made sure the money kept flowing as his roustabouts wrangled differentials and distributors; lifted lenses and lights; held aloft hubcaps and heaters; carried carbies and caravan wheels.

Over 60 lots went under the hammer in a quick-fire session that left everyone ready for a biscuit and a cuppa while talking over their newly acquired treasures.

Well done to the organisers and assistants, and to all who contributed goods to the auction.



# Al Capone & President F D Roosevelt

## The car at the centre of a curious connection - or was it?

*The following stories illustrate just how hard it can be to sort the fiction from the facts (Why is the tall tale often more appealing than the truth???) The Internet makes it easy for anyone to spread a yarn and more difficult for us to sort out the wheat from the chaff. My thanks to Tim Christie for sending in the original story linking Capone with Roosevelt. - Ed*

### HERE IS A BIT OF HISTORY...

Hours after Pearl Harbour was bombed on 7 December 1941, the Secret Service found themselves in a bind.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was to give his Day of Infamy speech to Congress on Monday, and although the trip from the White House to Capitol Hill was short, agents weren't sure how to transport him safely.

At the time, Federal Law prohibited buying any cars that cost more than \$750, so they would have to get clearance from Congress to do that, and nobody had time for that. One of the Secret Service members, however, discovered that the US Treasury had seized the bulletproof car that mobster Al Capone owned when he was sent to jail in 1931.

Al Capone's 1928 Cadillac V-8 "Al Capone" Town Sedan became the President's Limo in December 1941.



Mechanics are said to have cleaned and checked each feature of the Caddy well into the night of December 7th, to make sure that it would run properly the next day for the Commander in Chief. And run properly it did. It had been painted black and green to look identical to Chicago's police cars at the time. To top it off, the gangster's 1928 Cadillac Town Sedan had 3,000 pounds of armour and inch-thick bulletproof windows.

It also had a specially installed siren and flashing lights hidden behind the grille, along with a police scanner radio.

### Previous Owner Al Capone

Alphonse Capone, also called Scarface, born January 17, 1899, Brooklyn, New York U.S.A. Died January 25, 1947, Palm Island, Florida U.S.A. The most famous American gangster, who dominated organized crime in Chicago from 1925 to 1931.

Footnote: The car sold at auction in 2012 for \$341 million.



### FDR and Al Capone's Cadillac: Truth or Myth? Source: <http://www.myalcaponemuseum.com/id196.htm>

After several years of getting emails from viewers who peruse these Capone pages I decided to be one of the first in taking a deeper look into the matter. Myalcaponemuseum takes pride in weeding out the facts from fiction and bring only the facts to truth seekers.

I have seen the FDR/ Capone caddy reference popping up on many sites since 2011, some of them reputable sites (CNN, CBS, The New York Times, The Daily Mirror etc...). I'm glad to see

other sites now jumping on the bandwagon to help stop the further perpetuation of this myth.

This myth dates back many years. I also found the reference in several trusted modern works such as David Brinkley's "Washington goes to war", Stanley Weintraub's "Pearl Harbor Christmas". Following suit these rumors were perpetuated in other books on or relating to FDR, World War 2, interesting facts, etc.....

# Al Capone & President F D Roosevelt

## The car at the centre of a curious connection - or was it?

It was just recently mentioned as fact on the History channel's "The United Stuff of America" and "Lost History". It was also mentioned on many car websites and other Capone related websites. All accept this as fact. After some research, here is what I found.

On November 20th, 1971, Al Capone's known 1928 Cadillac was sold at auction for \$37,000. It was at this moment that this 1928 Capone Cadillac was again mentioned as also being the one used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This was probably done by the car owner or auction house who did faulty research and also perhaps in order to boost the sale of the car by having two historical figures tied to it. Researchers and authors from then on believed what they read and connected this Caddy's sales history from newspaper stories along with Michael Reilly's 1947 book embellishments. Sadly, this has now become accepted as historic fact.

The FDR /Capone story was originally started by Michael F. Reilly, who was Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secret Service man. In 1947, he was sharing his memoirs with Simon Schuster, for publication in his 1947 book called "Reilly of The White House" and later in 1958 for "Treasury Agents". Excerpts were published in newspapers around the country for both book releases to entice the readers to buy the book. Some budding authors pick up on this during research and perpetuate it in their works.

Reilly mentions the dire need to protect the President after the attack on Pearl Harbor and that the Government at that time could not spend any more money on cars. They had supposedly impounded Capone's armoured vehicle once he went to prison and decided to use it for the President's protection after December 8, 1941. Many authors and news stories had the Capone caddy enroute from the White House to FDR'S destination in front of Congress, to give his famous "Day of Infamy" Pearl Harbor speech declaring war on Japan on December 8, 1941.

### The major problems with the story are;

1) As erroneously reported by many, the real Capone Cadillac doesn't match the Presidential Cadillac car taken in a photo on December 8, 1941, enroute to Congress. *(Photo right)*

For that matter, neither of Capone's two Cadillacs match the Presidential Cadillac leaving the White House December 8, 1941 or any photos of FDR motorcade after that. This was a rumor started by later authors who got the Michael Reilly story wrong. This has been perpetuated until today.

Car on the right with flags is FDR's Cadillac leaving the White house for Day of Infamy speech at Congress on December 8, 1941. This was not Al Capone's armored Cadillac.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1971

### Car of Al Capone, FDR Auctioned for \$37,000

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. (AP)—  
A bulletproof Cadillac sedan, once owned by gangster Al Capone and later used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, brought \$37,000 at an auction of antique automobiles here.

The car with a quarter-inch-thick boiler plate, and one-inch-thick windows, was among 43 old-timers sold Saturday by the Antique Auto Museum, which is going out of business.

The second highest price—\$29,000—was paid by a private collector for a 1963 Lincoln Continental used by the late President John F. Kennedy.

Roosevelt used the big Cadillac once owned by the mobster because of its safety features, which included self-sealing tires and tubes.

1971 story mentioning FDR/Capone



(1941 ACME photo)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WDHVC EVENTS

See also -  
calendar summary  
on back page.

### 30 AUGUST - FRIDAY

**BACKFIRE FOLDING MORNING** 9am Clubrooms

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

### 2 - 10 SEPTEMBER

**LONG DISTANCE RALLY TO ALBURY.**

We will travel to Wangaratta, Albury, Temora, Yarrowonga and Echuca. There will be lots to see and do and great company. If you are interested please ring *Sharyn* on 0417 546 089.

### 5 SEPTEMBER - THURSDAY

**MORNING COFFEE RUN.** Meet at clubrooms at 9.45am sharp.

Contact: Barb Van Galen, 5278 9368 (0408 664 537)

### 10 SEPTEMBER - TUESDAY

**GENERAL MEETING** 7.30pm. Clubrooms.

Guest speaker Judith Matthews on "The Intricacies of Adoption".

### 11 SEPTEMBER - WEDNESDAY

**DINE OUT** 6.15pm Waurm Ponds Hotel, Princes Hwy,

Waurm Ponds. Touch the grandchildren for a loan and come and join us.

Contact Gary McCredden 5275 2544

### 15 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY

**LUNCH RUN TO COBDEN HOTEL.** Names needed by 10th Sept

please. Meet in car park at Inverleigh at 10am.

Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 17 SEPTEMBER - TUESDAY

**COMMITTEE MEETING** 7.30pm. Clubrooms.

### 19 SEPTEMBER - THURSDAY

**TINKER DAY.** Start time 10am from our clubrooms.

We can do a pleasant short drive along 13<sup>th</sup> Beach on our way to Manuel and Lillian Vella's place. He has some more stuff to show us this time, and we will also be able to enjoy a snag in bread on the barbie if you want one. Bring your own chair, mug and lunch as well as woofing into a snag.

P.S. I am in need of more places to visit for Tinker Days. We have been Tinker Daying for 12 years now. Please pass on your venue clues to me and I will check them out for visitation. Thank you all.

Contact: Ray van Galen 5278 9368. Mob. 0411 954 865. Barb's Mob. 0408 664 537

### 23 SEPTEMBER - MONDAY

**OCTOBER BACKFIRE DEADLINE** By 5pm please.

Contact: Gus Giustini 0418 587 415

### 24 SEPTEMBER - TUESDAY

**CRAFT/TECH NIGHT** Craft Night topic is "Card Making".

Tech Night topic is "Filters" - oil, fuel, air, cabin, particulate and any other kind of filters that you can think of. We might even discuss the great toilet roll filter con. Be there around 7pm, so we can get set up for a 7.30pm start. All welcome. We share the main room with the craft ladies, so all are warm, with a pre-heated room. Wear your name badge and get a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG. A plate of food would be appreciated for supper. Hope to see you there.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

### 29 SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY

**RUNNING BOARDS & FOOT PEGS RALLY**

An outing for pre-1950 vehicles. A short run around the Geelong area. Meet at Geelong Motor Museum, Hamlyn Heights, 10.30am. All club vehicles welcome. More details at the Sept meeting.

Contact Simon Anderson 0414 482 241

### 3 OCTOBER - THURSDAY

**MORNING COFFEE RUN.** Meet at clubrooms at 9.45am sharp.

Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 13 OCTOBER - SUNDAY

**OBSERVATION RALLY.** Meet at Waurm Ponds Bunning's Car

Park beside the Plant Section facing Colac Rd at 10.30am. Rally finishes at an eatery that offers light lunches for \$12.50, or BYO lunch.

Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 17 TO 21 OCTOBER

**GEELONG SHOW CAR DISPLAY.** Details Later.

### 2 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY

**BUS TRIP TO LAKE GOLDSMITH STEAM RALLY.**

Details Later.

### 7 NOVEMBER - THURSDAY

**MORNING COFFEE RUN.** Meet at clubrooms at 9.45am sharp.

Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 16 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY

**BUS TRIP TO BENDIGO SWAP.** Details Later.

## Quotes About Cars

"If everything comes your way, you are in the wrong lane."

-- Author Unknown

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See also -  
calendar summary  
on back page.

## OTHER EVENTS

### LAST SUN EVERY MONTH

Werribee & District Collectable Vehicle Club Inc meet.

9am to noon (weather permitting) car park cnr. Cherry St & Kelly St Werribee. Free entry. Have a bite to eat and a coffee. Talk car stuff with car-minded people. Jeff 0412 705 245. John 0407 546 235.

### 27 OCTOBER - SUNDAY

SHOW AND SHINE & PAWS in the PARK

Willys Overland Club of Victoria and Macedon Ranges & District Motor Club Inc. Show and Shine with the Gisborne Veterinary Clinic annual fundraiser day, "Paws in the Park". All money raised goes to local charities. Have a walk through Gisborne's Botanical gardens with your dog. Entry with car \$5 per car and \$5 person to join the walk.

Contact: Kalinda McIntyre 5428 2805 (AH 0430 373 494) or email [pawsinthepark@gisbornevets.com.au](mailto:pawsinthepark@gisbornevets.com.au)

### 28 MARCH - 3 APRIL, 2020

AHMF NATIONAL MOTORING FESTIVAL Albury-Wodonga.

Details : [ahmf.org.au/2020Tour](http://ahmf.org.au/2020Tour)

- Rod Booley

## VALE - FLORENCE PRICE



We were saddened to learn that Florence Price passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Florence and Ted joined the W.D.H.V.C when it was formed in 1967, and living in Colac, maintained a vital contact with members from that area.

For many years Ted was our Club's vehicle safety officer for that region. Despite the separation of distance, Florence and Ted regularly attended W.D.H.V.C events, particularly our Christmas meetings. They participated in the Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations and Ted always has a site at our Swap, this year being one of the first to arrive.

They have had many rare vehicles, initially a 1910 Fiat tourer and a Swift. Over the years they have accumulated several other very interesting cars, the most recent being a 1930 Singer Junior. Ted explains that Florence liked a "boat tail" roadster, so he went ahead and restored the Singer.

Florence and Ted were married 66 years ago following a four-year courtship. They enjoyed holidaying and in recent years they have booked on several cruises, with one to New Zealand last year.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Ted, his son Keith and the extended family.

- Trevor Schneider

## Christmas Dinner Dance Reminder

A reminder that the Christmas Dinner Dance will be held on 30 November at the club room as usual.

More details later.

There will be a list for names and money will be collected at the October Meeting.

Rhonda Foran

## Backfire Deadlines

The deadline for material for inclusion in Backfire has changed from a Friday to the following Monday  
Copy deadlines for the rest of 2019 are:

\* Oct Backfire 5pm Mon 23 Sept

\* **Note: Editor away so Gus Giustini will be stepping in for October edition.**

Nov Backfire 5pm Mon 28 Oct

Dec Backfire 5pm Mon 25 Nov

The views/comments expressed in the publication of this newsletter are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily endorsed by the current Committee of the Club. Whilst every care is taken to determine the safety of any technical information provided and the accuracy of the information supplied for inclusion in this newsletter, it is printed in good faith and neither the Committee nor the Club accept any responsibility for any loss or injury incurred by any application of such information.

# Affordable British Classics

- first published in *Popular Classics* magazine,  
November 1999

## Singer Vogue

**T**HE Singer Vogue was the first Rootes model to use the redesigned body destined for all the group's saloons from late 1961, and was introduced in July of that year.

The Vogue was distinctive in that it had twin headlamps and a rounded grille, while the interior, more luxurious than that of the Hillman Minx, was not unlike that used for the Humber Sceptre.

Less than a year after the launch an estate car was added, one of the most attractive estates built for many years.

The cars were powered by a 1592cc engine, producing 62bhp, and giving a top speed of 83mph. From October 1962, front disc brakes were introduced, but performance improvements had to wait until the Series II models of 1964 when, as well as other developments, the engine



faster family saloons of its day.

As well as being attractive cars, all Vogues are enjoyable and, especially with the faster models, satisfying cars to drive. A Series IV, for example, will cruise all day at 80mph if required. They are also reliable mechanically, and easy to put right when things finally go wrong.

Bodywork is quite tough, although they rust badly around the sills, spring hangers and wheel arches.

They are not expensive: an extremely good

saloon should cost no more than £1500.

### 1965 Vogue distinguished by more upright rear window

was changed to a more powerful version, with alloy head, producing 78bhp and lifting the top speed to 90mph. Reclining seats were now fitted as standard.

The final, Series IV, version of the Vogue – before the

1967 Arrow type – was given the five-bearing long-stroke 1725cc engine used in the other cars of the Rootes organisation.

This unit produced 85bhp, enabling the car to reach 98mph, making it one of the

### ENGINE/POWER

1592cc/62-78bhp, 1725cc/85bhp

**SPEED** ..... 83-98mph

**PRODUCTION** ..... 1961-66

**ECONOMY** ..... 22-33mpg

## Home Visit Appreciated

*The June Backfire* included a story about an initiative to visit members unable to attend club activities in their homes. Since then these home visits have been going on quietly and this month I received the following card of appreciation. - Ed

24/7/19

To WDHVC

What a marvellous idea of Judith & Graham to visit older members who can't get to meetings or events as regularly as they would like, but always look forward to receiving the "Backfire" to keep up with happenings in the club.

What a great surprise it was to get an unannounced visit by Judy, to talk about old times etc.

Very much appreciated.

Kindest regards to all.

June & Kevin Baker

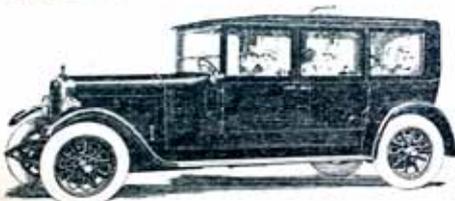
*(If you can help by visiting another member, contact Graham Pretlove or Judith Matthews for details.)*

*Austin*

BRITAIN'S QUALITY CAR  
FOR LUXURIOUS COMFORT

ASCOT SALOON

**£880**



--- Also See the ---  
**Wonderful Austin Seven**  
THE MOTOR FOR THE MILLIONS.  
COMPLETE FAMILY CAR  
**£199**  
At Motor Cycle Running Cost

**Ovenden's Pty. Ltd. Stand 10**  
GEELONG AND COLEAC.

# RALLIES & RUNS

## August Tinker Day

We headed down the coast via the back road to John's workshop. Here we saw two Lancias, one a sports/ racing car.



John also has two old Ford trucks, which he is going to restore. He has a Ford truck side valve engine set up on a stand for restoring and testing. He started it up, just like the B24 Liberator engine at the Truck

and Machinery show in January. It created just as much excitement.

There was a Bolwell kit sport car, in good condition, but needed a little work to get it back on the road.



We then headed off the Frank's place for lunch. We sat around a camp fire eating our lunch while Ray cooked sausages over the fire. They taste better than being cooked over gas. John then showed us his old cars and an old school house.



**(Right)** John B (Past President) tried to see if getting into a Riley is as hard or easy as a Morgan.

Thanks to both John and Frank for making it a great day.

*Report: Lindsay Alford*

*Photos Barb van Galen & Lindsay Alford*



# RALLIES & RUNS

## A Taste of the Rob Roy Hill Climb



On Sunday 18 August an enthusiast from another club (a fellow Morris 8 owner) invited me to an event at the Rob Roy Hillclimb, located in the Christmas Hills, east of Hurstbridge. I'd heard of the track but never been there. I was in for a surprise!



A gorgeous 6-wheel equipped 1920s Graham Paige

I spent a couple of hours making coffees in the refreshment tent, while all around me old, loud engines throbbed and roared. My mate (an old hand) spent his allotted time manning a gate and after our tour of duty was over we met up to take in the sights. While I readily admit my ignorance of the intricacies of the various classes and categories at this VSCC event, I was blown away by the range of beautiful old bangers, both competing on the track and on show in the display area. The site is well set up, with all the basics well covered. It was breezy but sunny (we got out before the rain started in the early afternoon). I was mightily impressed with the speed and power of the 20s & 30s cars and they raced up the steep winding track—and even more impressed when I realised

the age of some of the drivers as they slowly extracted themselves from little machines in the pits area.



I had a great day out and really enjoyed seeing some beautiful old motors. I ran across WHDVC minute secretary Leigh Dwyer and his son, and later heard Lancia lover, John Hickford, being interviewed on the course PA.

- Ed



# RALLIES & RUNS

## A Taste of the Rob Roy Hill Climb

Rob Roy goes back to 1935, when members of the then Light Car Club of Australia inspected the property known as Clinton's Pleasure Grounds, to establish a suitable venue for hill climb meetings. When built the Rob Roy track was one of only three bitumen-surfaced, purpose built hill climbs in the world, the other two being Shelsley Walsh and Prescott (UK).



Two of the beautiful Alvis cars on display

The actual track commences on a slight incline, proceeds through a sharp right turn which originally passed a rusty iron shed (whose memory is perpetuated by the name **Tin Shed Corner**), down a slight incline to a level stretch along the top of an embankment holding back a half acre dam, then rears up a one-in-three gradient. The track then winds its way uphill through a series of left turns to the finish line. The start and finish lines are 760 yards (695 metres) apart.



1934 Ford V8 Special

The first meeting was run on 1st February 1937, and the track fully bituminised in 1939. The Light Car Club held many meetings over succeeding years, including nine Australian Hillclimb Championships. Outright and Class record holders include eight Australian Grand Prix winners and one a triple F1 World Champion (Jack Brabham). In 1962 the area was ravaged by bushfires and the track fell into disuse.

In 1992 the MG Car Club secured a 10 year lease on the property. Reconstruction involved re-laying the entire surface, improving access roads, and the installation of

guard rails on the causeway. The result was a faithful re-creation of the original track. An immense amount of voluntary work was put in by MGCC members.

In February 1993 the first "Return to Rob Roy" Historic Meeting was run with outstanding success and a huge spectator attendance. In November 1999 the MGCC ran its eighth Historic and Classic Hillclimb at Rob Roy and the venue remain popular today. In 2005, a shelter known as the **Octunda** was constructed. This houses permanent barbecue facilities. (- taken from the Rob Roy website)



An early Alvis



A Morris 8 Special waits for its turn up the hill

# Great Mars Bar Competition

The September Competition



I have here a photo of a member who appears to be headless as he looks into the motor of a tractor.

It was taken some time ago now. Who was this man and did he like to have a good laugh?

The Mars Bar is yours if you guess correctly.

P.S. **I HAVE NO MORE** Mystery Member photos, so please let me have some more. - Ray van Galen

### More photos needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen  
Ph 52789 368,  
or  
email rbvangelen@gmail.com



\*\*\*\*\*

A woman came home, screeching her car into the driveway, and ran into the house.

She slammed the door and shouted at the top of her lungs; 'Honey, pack your bags. I won the lottery!'

The husband said; 'Oh my God! What should I pack, beach stuff or mountain stuff?'

'Doesn't matter,' she said: 'just get out.'

\*\*\*\*\*

# WDHVC MEMBER PROFILE



### Name?

Jim

### Where were you born?

Hamilton

### Family?

Wife Sadie (dec), 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren

### Number of years in the WDHVC?

17 years

### Other interests?

Music, Dancing, Piano Accordion, Bowling, Geelong Cats, Travelling, Walking Group, Dining Out Groups, All Saints Anglican Church.

### What was your first vehicle?

1960 Tank Fairlane

### What vehicle would you love to own ?

Rolls Royce Corniche

### What vehicles do you have now?

Modern

### Profession?

Insurance Broker

### Skills?

Jack of all trades and master of none.

### What bugs you the most?

Angry People

### What makes you happy?

Family and friends

- Libby

## FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

### For Sale

**Fiat 600, 1966.** Almost complete car in sound original condition. Stored in shed for years. Suit resto. VIN 2137950. \$1,000.  
Call Tony 0438 694 293. **9/19**



**EJ-EH Mesh style sun visor** with mounting brackets, silver in colour. \$120.  
Call Simon 0414 482 241. **9/19**

**Two Dodge 114 Utes** style sides. 1967 reg KOJ 492 plus one complete for spares. \$4,000 or nearest offer. Located Snake Valley.  
Call Tim 0400 924 707 for photos. **9/19**



**Trailer axle and springs** with Peugeot 403 wheels attached to remnant wooden trailer. \$50.

**Early Chev** (possibly) wheels on caravan axle and wooden chassis. \$50.  
Located near Snake Valley.  
Call Tim 0400 924 707. **9/19**

**Holden 1967 HR Special sedan.** Unregistered. 42k gen miles. 186, 3 spd col shift. Original white paint. 2 tone aqua interior. Some rust in doors & front guards. No accident repairs - no hidden surprises. An original 52 y.o. car.  
Eng No 186A156978 \$10,500 ONO.  
Call Bruce 5265 1240. Please leave message if no answer—will return call ASAP. **8/19**

### Wanted:

**Pre 1918 American Bosch magneto switch** (key style) any condition.  
Call Simon 0414 482 241. **9/19**

### Wanted:

**Mazda 1970-77 1000 Ute** front bumper.  
Call Simon 0414 482 241. **9/19**

**Volkswagen 1200 carburettor.**  
Call Neil Remeus 0415 140 886. **8/19**

### Clues:

#### **Peugeot Collection**

1983 505 SRD Turbo; 1979 504 Diesel; 1977 504 Petrol. All have been stored in a shed: all in good condition for restoration: all running. Also good for parts.

Enquiries: Gerald Baker Mobile: 0408 176 084

**Contact Fred Harris** if you are interested in a 1925 Chrysler Doctor's Coupe. **8/19**

**Copying Service.** For those of you wanting those old movies or records copied.



- VHS transferred to DVD - \$10
- 8mm Camcorder Tapes to DVD - \$10
- Mini VHS to DVD - \$10
- Music Cassette Tapes to CD - \$10
- Vinyl Records to CD - \$15

**PH: 0417 430 263**

For sale/wanted ads are free to Members and appear for **two issues** of *Backfire*. To remove advertisements from the newsletter email earlier [editor@wdhvcgeelong.com](mailto: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](mailto:webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com) (Ph 0418 587 415).

If undelivered return to:  
 WDHVC  
 PO Box 200  
 Newcomb VIC 3219

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BACKFIRE



Morgan

September 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27 Craft/Tech Night 7pm Clubrooms	28	29	30 <i>Backfire</i> folding morning 9am Clubrooms	31 August
1	2	3	4	5 Morning Coffee Run 9.45am Clubrooms	6	7
LONG DISTANCE RALLY 2 -10 SEPT			LONG DISTANCE RALLY			
8	9	10 General Meeting 7.30pm Clubrooms	11 Dine Out 6.15pm Waurm Ponds Hotel	12	13	14
LONG DISTANCE RALLY 2 -10 SEPT						
15 Cobden Hotel Lunch Run	16	17 Committee Meeting	18	19 Tinker Day 10am Clubrooms	20	21
22	23 Oct 2019 <i>Backfire</i> Deadline	24 Craft/Tech Night 7pm Clubrooms	25	26	27 <i>Backfire</i> folding morning 9am Clubrooms	28
29 Running Boards & Footpegs Rally	30	1 October	2	3 Morning Coffee Run 9.45am Clubrooms	4	5