

BACKFIRE

Volume 57 No 3 July 2023

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd 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.*



www.wdhvcgeelong.com



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The President's

Idle Chatter

Hi All,

Just thought I'd give you an update on my June travels. We spent a week in Vichy, France watching Phoebe launch her athletic career after retiring from swimming at the end of last year.

She took up athletics in February in order to keep fit but by April her coach said she had some athletic qualifying times for the 2023 Virtus Global Games, in Vichy. This competition is the largest in the world for an athlete with an intellectual disability and involves 12 different sports.

We initially hesitated as she was so new to athletics and were unsure how she would go, but then thought why not! She competed in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m running events and the 1500m walk event. She managed PB's in all events but her fitness and lack of sprint speed saw her better suited to the longer events. She obtained a bronze medal in the 800m and showed grit and determination passing two other competitors on the last lap to win the 1500 walk, therefore obtaining a gold medal, and totally exceeding our expectations in the process.

Following our exciting time in Vichy, we continued to holiday in the south of France and Switzerland.

It was interesting to observe that in Europe, which has about 25% of their new cars being electric, how cities with a lot of apartments manage the charging of these cars.

Outside where we were staying in Vichy, there were parking spots in the street for charging vehicles. These spots were often being used and there will obviously need to be a lot more of these charging spots as more electric vehicles are sold. Definitely a big challenge in inner city areas.

We also visited Zermatt, Switzerland which does not allow any petrol or diesel vehicles, only electric. They are very purpose-built for taxi, delivery, and commercial use. They are 'boxy' and functional and have to share the road space with pedestrians and speedy electric mountain bikes. You have to keep your eyes open to avoid the cars and bikes when walking about this busy street environment. The 100% electric vehicles make it seem very futuristic, a strange new world.

Stay safe and I hope to see you out and about.

David Mitchell



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 624 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC. HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2023

PRESIDING

Ray van Galen, standing in for President David Mitchell, welcomed 76 members, including new members David Jones and David Anderson.

Peter & Sandra Boast on the passing of Peters mother

Maurice & Barb Healey on the passing of Maurice's sister

APOLOGIES

Kevin & Julie Wilby, Graeme Walker, Don Sell, John Bailey, Rhonda Anderson, Phil Abbott, Jennie Green, Gus Shea, Rocco Barbaro, Graeme Paech, Rob & Lyn Anderson, Steve Stefano, Joan Stott, Courtney Field, Ray Turner, Trevor Little, Frieda Craddock, Alan Tipper, David Mitchell, Dallas Jones, Pat Evans, Peter & Sandra Boast and Barbara Thompson.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Ron Pocock Carried

SICK LIST

Our thoughts are with the families on the recent passing of Noel Simpson.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February meeting as published in the Backfire are confirmed as correct.

Moved: Graham Baldock

Seconded: Tony Brincat Carried

CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

INWARD

Letters In

- Thank you Cards –
 - Peter & Sandra Boast thanking the club for our thoughts on the passing of his mother
 - Ken Parry for our thoughts on his recent illness
- Bendigo Bank - cheque book renewal

Emails In

- Peter Simpson thanking Trevor Schneider for the Vale of his father Noel in the Backfire
- Swap stall holder inquiring if the swap is not proceeding he would be interested in taking it over

OUTWARD

Letters Out

- Welcome letters sent to new members approved at the last Committee meeting -
 - Steven Stefanoli
 - David & Julie Anderson
 - David & Fiorella William Jones
- Sympathy Cards-
 - The Simpson family on the passing of Noel

- Get Well cards –

Joan & Vern Stott

Ken Parry

- RGAPS - Statutory Declaration and Incident Report following the Swap forwarded to RGAPS

Emails Out

- Swap stall holder informing him that the Swap is going ahead in 2024
- Consumer Affairs Victoria- lodging our Annual Statement

Moved: Tony Brincat

Seconded: Ken Batson Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT (Maurice)

The Treasurer reported on receipts and payments since the previous meeting and submitted accounts to be passed for payment.

Moved: Maurice Healy

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John away)

No report this month.

LIBRARY (Phil away)

No report this month

DINE OUT (Sharyn)

Showman's Bar this month.

EDITOR (Jon)

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE (Damien)

No report this month.

FEDERATION REPORT (David P away)

No meeting since last update.

COMMITTEE REPORT (Tony)

The recent meeting discussed:

- Success of the recent Swap
- New members (see Backfire)
- More hats ordered.

MERCHANDISE (Ray for David M)

More club-branded wide brim hats available for collection.

TINKER DAY (Dallas away)

- Tinker Day will be at the Clubrooms this month.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

Ray Matthews (again) correctly named Eric Lewis. After many hints Jan Clissold correctly named Eric's dog Rowdy.

VEHICLE PERMITS (Fred for Gus)

A Torana and a Porsche have been added to the scheme over the last month.

RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (David M)

- See the Backfire for details on coming events
- Events attended by members include:
 - Fred Dosser went to the Maldon Swap and recommends it to members.

LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Fred for Sharyn)

More details in the next Backfire.

TECH NIGHT (Peter)

June topic is "Sparkplugs "

July "Brakes"

KITCHEN (Pam)

No report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

None this month

FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Tony B has sold his Packard and brought a Porsche.
- Jon is working on his Merc.

Meeting closed. 8.12pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 11 July 2023 in the clubrooms.

- Leigh Dwyer

More Photos from ...

The President's

Idle Chatter



"We also visited Zermatt, Switzerland which does not allow any petrol or diesel vehicles, only electric. They are very purpose-built for taxi, delivery, and commercial use. They are 'boxy' and functional and have to share the road space with pedestrians and speedy electric mountain bikes. You have to keep your eyes open to avoid the cars and bikes when walking about this busy street environment. The 100% electric vehicles make it seem very futuristic, a strange new world."



Club Legends

Judith Matthews

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

"Dame" Judith was born in 1938 in Birmingham England. She came out to Australia in 1959 after working in atomic research in England primarily involved with Maralinga S.A.

She went to work at the CSIRO and as she said met Ray and that was that. They have four children, 12 grandchildren and, at the time of writing, they were awaiting their fourth great grandchild.

Judith learned to drive in a DKW 2-stroke car with an umbrella like handle on the dashboard.

Judith has always toured with Ray on the bikes and, as she mentioned numerous times, the sound of a bike is the thing she loves.

Her club car is a Ford Capri. It is a challenge to drive and it's different and looks sporty. We have been behind Judith when she drives and let me tell you she is not an old lady driver.

Her dream car is a 1929 Fiat that is owned by Kevin McBain (she is just waiting in the wings for him to sell it to her).

Judith is the WDHVC chronicler, keeping the most amazing lists of things about the club: if you need to know any Club history, just ask her.

She says the most enjoyable parts of being in the WDHVC is mixing with members, going to places that you ordinarily do not see and visiting older members who can't get to meetings.

Judith is interested in everything, especially when a bonnet goes up. She is generally the first to have a look. I don't think I have ever met a woman to be so interested in bikes and she knows all about them: she has been Ray's apprentice for years.

Becoming a club legend is not all about restoring cars. Judith is different: her role is keeping the records for the club and she is doing an excellent job

Long live another legend!



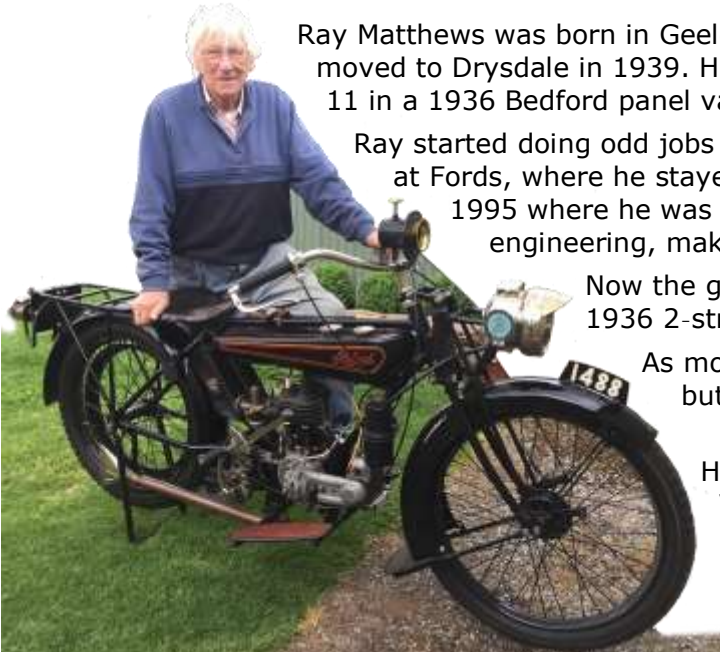
- Sharyn



The Nash has done 364 rallies with the club since 1982.

Club Legends **Ray Matthews**

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



Ray Matthews was born in Geelong in 1933. He has a brother and sister. The family moved to Drysdale in 1939. His father taught him to drive at the ripe old age of 11 in a 1936 Bedford panel van.

Ray started doing odd jobs and in 1950 became an apprentice as a tool maker at Fords, where he stayed for 9^{1/2} years. He then moved to the CSIRO until 1995 where he was involved in apprentice training and experimental engineering, making prototype machines.

Now the good stuff. He got his first motor bike at 16, a Wolf 1936 2-stroke, two speed, which he bought for 15 pounds.

As most know, Ray is predominately a motor bike man, but he did have cars. His first was a 1948 Holden 215 bought from Bill Harty's (past club member) father.

His favourite bike was a 1951 AJS: now it's a 1953 Vincent. He rode extensively at night in the milk bar scene at the Savoya Cafe in Moorabool St.

What an outrageous life style he had.

He learnt restoration at Geelong Tech (this is becoming a theme with my legends)

and he has restored all of his bikes, sometimes making most parts from scratch.

The Wolf took him two years to restore: 40 years later he bought another one.

When Judith came along she was his "Motor Bike Mumma".

His dream bike is a Kawasaki Widow Maker classic because it would be challenge to ride. I think the name says it all.

Ray was a foundation member of the WDHVC in 1967 and his first club car was a 1934 Chrysler sedan, in which he and Judith did 40 rallies. He then bought the Nash in 1970. Its first run was in 1982 after restoration and it has done 364 rallies with the club.

Ray has been Clubman of the Year twice, which he takes great pride in, and he served as *Backfire* editor for eight years.

He is also an honorary member of the Association of the Pioneer Motorcycles and Scott Owners Club.

Judith and Ray are collectors of all things including motor bikes, gramophones, and many other things.

Ray says the best thing about the WDHVC is the friendships gained, the longevity of the club and it is a pleasure to be part of a stable club and to enjoy it. This is the most important part of life according to Ray.



Ray and Judith enjoyed Norm Lehmann's Battlers Rallies and all their children were bought up within the club.

His list of motor bikes is as follows (if I miss any sorry Ray.) AJS, Corgi, Raleigh, Wolf, Vincent, Scott, Acme, Ducatti, Mosquito, Sunbeam, Phoenix, and Suzuki.

What a clever man and he is only one of many that are in our great club. I would suggest if you have a problem with anything bike related you ask Ray, as this is his main occupation in life.

- Sharyn

Other Events

- July 2 2023 **Tocumwal Swap Meet** Tocumwal Rec Reserve NSW, just across the Murray River on the Goulburn Valley Hwy
- July 16 2023 **Wagga Wagga Swap** Wagga Showgrounds
- Aug 27 2023 **Hamilton Swap Meet** Hamilton Showgrounds. VIC contact 0428 289 502
- Aug 28 2023 **Avalon Swap & Sell** Avalon Raceway, 210 Old Melbourne Rd, Lara VIC 3212
- Aug 28 to 1 Sept **Federation Open Tour** from Marong through Kerang, Swan Hill, Echuca and Shepparton. Spend time spend in the recent flood affected areas of northern Victoria and support their rebuilding efforts. Activities planned include museum visits, private tractor and bowser collections, Echuca Beer Shed and Shepparton attractions.
- Sept 10 2023 **Shepparton Swap Meet** GVMVDC Swap Meet, Shepparton Showgrounds
- Sept 17 2023 **Bairnsdale Swap Meet** Lakesters Swap Meet, Lucknow Football Oval
- Sept 17 2023 **Buloke Show & Shine** Birchip Leisure Centre,
- Oct 15 2023 **Albury Swap Meet** Twin City Swap meet & S & S, Albury Showground
- Oct 21/22 2023 **Campbells Creek Antique Fair** Campbells Creek Rec Reserve, Friars Rd.
- Oct 22 2023 **Colac Swap Meet** Colac racecourse (new venue) Contact 0428 394 249 gandproseevents.com
- Oct 29 2023 **HTPAA Antique Hand Tool Market** St. Anthony's School Hall, 164 Neerim Rd, Cnr Neerim & Grange Rds, Caulfield East
- Nov 11 & 12 **Bendigo National Swap Meet.** Entry: Sat only \$15. Sun only \$5. Children 15 and under free. Public: Gates open Sat 6 AM. Sun 7 AM. Sheds open 7 AM. Details www.bendigowap.com.au. Site bookings 0427 446 660. General enquiries 0434 730 822. info@bendigowap.com.au
- Nov 18-19 2023 **Daylesford Collectables fair** Daylesford Town Hall
- Nov 26 2023 **Maldon Swap Meet** Maldon Racecourse Reserve (Vic)

WAGGA WAGGA ANNUAL SWAP MEET
 AUTO JUMBLE - BRIG-A-BRAC - ANTIQUES
SUNDAY JULY 16 2023
 WAGGA SHOWGROUNDS

HOT FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE
ATMs AVAILABLE ON SITE

GATE ENTRY \$5
 900+ SITES

OUTDOOR SITES \$40 - INDOOR SITES \$50
SITE BOOKINGS THROUGH
WAGGA CIVIC THEATRE from 1st MAY 2023

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SHOW N SHINE

- ↳ Birchip Leisure Centre
- ↳ All Vehicles & Motorcycles!
- ↳ Bam Registrations open!
- ↳ 1:30pm Presentations!

SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

SWAP MEET & MARKET \$10 PER SITE

ADULT \$5
UNDER 12 FREE

- ★ Vehicle entry inc driver \$10★
- ★ Multiple categories & awards★
- ★ Kids Activities★

ALL ENQUIRIES PH: 0437866968 or 0427922091
 CASH OR EFTPOS PAYMENT AT EVENT

Antique Fair
Fryers Rd.
Campbells Ck.

October Sat 21 & Sun 22
WE DO NOT STOP FOR RAIN
GATES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 8AM
BOOKINGS ARE REQUIRED

Friday setup, and free camping
STALLS SIZE 10x6 metres
 Admission \$5 Kids free
Campbells Ck. Rec Reserve
Fryers Rd. Campbells Ck.
 All enquiries please **TEXT** Mark
 Mobile 0414 244 842 **TEXT** is preferred

COLAC SWAP MEET
Sunday October 22, 2023
Colac Racecourse

Sellers @ \$25 from 6.30am
Public entry - 8am-1pm - \$5

Enquiries: Graham Rose 0428 394 249

SWAP MEET
Maldon Vic.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26
WE DO NOT STOP FOR RAIN

GATES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT 7AM
 No bookings required
 Saturday setup
STALLS \$25 per 6x6 metre site
 Admission \$5 Kids free
Maldon Racecourse Reserve
Cnr Bendigo Rd. & Lewis Rd. Maldon
 All enquiries please **TEXT** Mark
 Mobile 0414 244 842 **TEXT** is preferred

Events Calendar

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

With both the Flu and Covid in the community, masks are recommended when in close proximity to others.



Thursday 6 July

Coffee Run Venue is AJ's, the recently-opened eatery just down from our clubrooms at the Geelong Showgrounds. Arrive from 10am to enjoy a coffee.

Contact: Col 0425 822 026

Tuesday 11 July

General Meeting 7.30pm in Clubrooms.

Wednesday 12 July

Dine Out at Norlane Hotel

Contact: Barb 0408 664 537

Tuesday 18 July

Committee Meeting 7.30pm in clubrooms.

Thursday 20 July

Tinker Day. Bells Beach Brewery. 22 Bains Crescent Torquay. We have lined up a tour of the facility so if your home brewing isn't working too well then here is a chance to learn a few tips. Bring your lunch and maybe a chair, although there are a few seats with some brolley cover. Leave Clubrooms at 10am for arrival around 10:30. Limited parking outside but there is a carpark on the other side of the road.

Contact: David 0409 099 716

Thursday 23 July

Run to Aireys Inlet Pub Meet in Waurm Ponds Hotel carpark, ready to leave at 11am. Numbers needed by 19 July. (Note: casserole dinner planned for this date cancelled.)

Contact: Ken 0437 254 351

Monday 24 July

August Backfire Deadline 5pm. Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441

Tuesday 25 July

Tech Night "Brakes" There will be no stopping some of you. Others will pull up in a straight line, with little pressure applied. Give yourself a boost and come along. All welcome. Wear your name badge and get a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG! Be there at 7pm, so we can set up for a 7.30pm start.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.

Friday 28 July

Backfire folding morning 9am Clubrooms.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

Thursday 3 August

Coffee Run to Curlewis Golf Club 1279 - 1419 Portarlington Rd (about 1km past the high nets of the driving range, if you're coming from Geelong).

Contact: Col 0425 822 026



Tuesday 8 August Annual Club Auction (after the General Meeting)

So start sorting out those excess items, box them up and bring them along. 10% of the sale price goes to the Club. (Of course you are very welcome to donate the entire proceeds as well.) But be warned - our auctioneer John just might have you going home with more than you brought/bought! Always a fun night.

Contact: John 0413 258 302

Sunday 13 August

Tinker Day. To MG Collection Note: it is on a Sunday rather than the usual Thursday. Visit is to an excellent and extensive collection of various MG vehicles covering pre war to early 1990s. Meet at the Clubrooms at 10am to visit 25-33 Denbigh St Moolap. As usual bring your lunch and a chair to sit down afterwards.

Contact David Mitchell 0409 099 716



The kids won't move back home if they can't find it.

A neighbour knocked on my front door at 3am.

3 in the morning!!!



Luckily I was already up, practising my bagpipes

RALLIES & RUNS

Tinker Day 15 June – Soup Line



Well folks, it was a grand event again at our annual Soup Line Day put on by our hard working kitchen ladies in our clubrooms.

We may not have had quite as many show and tell items this year, but it is always interesting to see what members bring along to show us and give a background on these items.

Over 50 members attended. We also watched some DVD's and one had John Hickford in it at the 1/4 mile races along Richie Boulevard in Geelong in 2012.

◆ *Ray van Galen*



If you'd like to see John Hickford race at the 2012 Geelong Revival, here is a link. _ Ed

[2012 Geelong Sprints Revival - YouTube](#)



Keeping it Clean

And now for something completely different – a little video that should appeal to our “filter seller feller” Peter, and to anyone else with an interest in industrial manufacture – Indian style! [\(20\) Watch | Facebook](#)

New cars make you feel comfortable



Old cars make you feel alive

Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.

Sometimes someone unexpected comes into your life outta nowhere, makes your heart race and changes you forever...

We call these people cops.

RALLIES & RUNS

Observation Run held on 25 June

I awoke to a heavy, clouded day. Barb and I got up wondering what the day would bring. On arrival at the starting destination, the Aldi carpark on Melbourne Road, we were met by the happy faces of 20 car club members, eager to get started at 10am.

Some months ago when we were cleaning up the clubrooms we came across a number of old trophies, one of which was for the Observation Run, which was started in 1974.

And to my surprise it was first won by Judith and Ray Matthews, 49 years ago. Hence we gave them the honour of being the first off in their Honda Jazz.

They were followed by Robin & Pat Evans in their BMW sports, Phill & Doreen Abbot in a Ford Ranger, Graham & Elaine Baldock in a 1935 Dodge, Colin & Lyn Jordan in a 1978 Ford Transit Van, Jan & Darren Clissold in a 1960 Pontiac Laurentian, Jenny Parry & Raylene Pretlove in a little white Mazda, and Jon & Glenda Breedveld in a 1988 Mercedes 190E. Dick and Marg Safstrom travelled with us.

The winners were Lyn & Colin Jordan (below), with 42 out of possible 50 points.



Ray points to the first winner's plaque, bearing their names, while Judith holds the Observation Rally trophy

Runners Up were Phill & Doreen Abbott (below) with 37 points.



After the presentation of prizes and trophies, we had nice time chatting and enjoying our lunch at the Little River Hotel. Thanks to all those who attended.

- Maurice & Barb Healy



The Clissolds' Pontiac took my fancy - Ed

A big thank you to Barb & Maurice for arranging the Observation Rally. Despite the biting wind and occasional shower, we all enjoyed the scenic meander through some pretty country around Anakie, Staughton Vale and Little River. Original winner, Judith Matthews commented that she had driven on roads that she didn't know existed! - Ed

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A. MARGETTS
 MERCER ST., GEELONG.

MORRIS
CARS and TRUCKS
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Examine This 12 H.P. Chassis
£175



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 THE MORRIS IS BRITAIN'S PREMIER CAR, AND HAS MORE USERS IN ENGLAND THAN ALL OTHER MARKS PUT TOGETHER.
 DIDN'T THIS FACT ALONE PROVE THE
ABSOLUTE SUPERIORITY OF THE MORRIS
 THE NEW MODEL IS NOW MADE SPECIALLY FOR AUSTRALIAN CONDITIONS

OVENDEN'S PTY. LTD.
 GEELONG and COLAC

December 28, 1953

Add to your motoring enjoyment



with **ROOTES GROUP SPECIAL ACCESSORIES**
designed for
ROOTES GROUP CARS

for YOUR COMFORT	for YOUR ENJOYMENT	for GOOD LOOKS
HEATER ARMREST ELECTRIC CLOCK EXTERIOR SUN VISOR	RADIO WINDSCREEN WASHER EXTRA HORN DOOR MIRROR	RIMPUSHING OVER-RIDERS BADGE BAR LOOSE SEAT COVERS

GET THEM WHERE YOU SEE THE SIGN

ROOTES GROUP SERVICE **Humber · Hillman · Sunbeam**

THEY LAUGHED WHEN I SAID I WOULD SAVE MONEY WHEN I BOUGHT MY 1953 BSA BANTAM

AT **FINLAY BROS.**

But they were wrong!

Going to work and back I travel 12 miles a day 5 days a week — that's 60 miles. 36000 week-ends I average about another 60 and I suppose I'd do about 25 miles each week going out at nights.

Well, that's 150 miles I travel each week on my 1953 B.S.A. Bantam.

I do all that and still don't use a full gallon of petrol — so it cost me less than 4/- a week to go all the travelling I want.

Before I got the BANTAM, tram or train fares alone used to cost me at least 10/- a week and, oh boy, what my week-ends used to cost me was nobody's business. I'm serious when I say I'm buying my B.S.A. BANTAM out of the money I save.

And apart from the money, look at the convenience — no waiting, no standing, and I've got a real interest in life.

I am really looking forward to my Easter Holidays now.

YOU TOO CAN EASILY OWN A 1953 B.S.A.

FROM ONLY £35 DEPOSIT

Listen to the **BSA Show 3KZ** every Tues. 9.00 p.m.

Call in, phone or mail this coupon for full details of Finlay's friendly, easy extended payments plan so that you too can save money

MAIL THIS COUPON

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 316-320 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE, FB1141
 Please send me free literature, without obligation on the 1953 B.S.A. Bantam

NAME
 ADDRESS



Stories From the Shed

G.C.S. - an Early Australian-built V-Twin



The G.C.S was named after George Cyril Stillwell, who commenced his business career as George Stillwell & Co at 392 Post Office Place, Melbourne in September 1912. In early 1913 Stillwell had moved to larger premises at 378 Lonsdale Street, and by the end of the year the first G.C.S. motorcycle appeared. They featured Chater Lea frames and either J.A.P. or Precision engines.

After the initial advertising for the bikes, it appears that the J.A.P. engine was preferred, although there was evidence of Precision and Blumfield engines also being used. The J.A.P. engine was used by many motorcycle manufacturers in Australia during this period. There were probably times when the demand for J.A.P. engines exceeded supply, hence the need to find alternative engines from time to time.



The above photo submitted by John Mills was taken in 1974. This model does not have the same engine but the cycle parts are the same as the model below. The paint scheme indicates it is a similar model.



Until December 1916 George Stillwell ran the business as a partnership with his father Walter, but when Walter retired Leslie Parry became the new partner in the business. The name of the company was changed to Stillwell & Parry, and in 1918 the firm moved premises again, this time to 307-311 Elizabeth Street.

By this time, G.C.S. has established a reputation as being in the upper class of Australian-built motorcycles,

being more expensive than most, though still enjoying good sales.

The G.C.S. design had become more Australian as

George started buying his frame components from A.G. Healing & Co from 1916 onwards. Healing & Co built frames between 1912 until and 1923, and supplied them to other manufacturers as either completed frames or individual components to be assembled. The G.C.S became well known for its "pong box" exhaust, which was a highly-polished copper silencer, with foot operated cutout. Its delightful sound led to the name. Around 1918 the colour scheme changed to green and black. All enameling and plating was done by outside firms, and in the early post-WWI period, Healing & Co fully assembled some G.C.S bikes, as Stillwell & Parry were busy expanding their agencies for various British motorcycles.

By 1920 the G.C.S was still the aristocrat of local makes, and was updated with a one-piece saddle-style petrol tank and the option of all chain drive with either Sturmey Archer or Burman gearboxes being used. The last batch of G.C.S. motorcycles was built by Healing & Co in 1923, although the company built one-off bikes until 1926, if the prospective buyer pre-paid for the bike. Stillwell and Parry continued as a motorcycle dealer until 1941.



- contributed by Graham Anderson



1914 GCS V-twin. Restored in Geelong, then SA. Purchased and moved to Victoria in 2018. (Source: Shannons)

More info

G.C.S.motorcycles.com | [Graham's Blog \(wordpress.com\)](http://Graham's Blog.wordpress.com)
heroesmotors.com/products/1925-cgs-twin

Letters to the Editor



Ladies Day

We felt very special when we were treated to High Tea on The High Seas.

A room overlooking the bow of the Queenscliff Ferry was ours exclusively; with savouries, sweets and a variety of drinks we could choose, of the highest quality.

A few prizes for an unusual pass-the-parcel, and a lot of chatter and laughter, went down very well.

On the return trip Devon Shire Tees were served, with the occasional view of the spume from a whale. According to the bar manager a very, very rare occurrence.

We would all like to say a big thank you to the club, and to those who arranged it, for this very special day.

Thank you,

Judith



The Way It Was

(taken from the 21st anniversary Backfire - March 1988)

"Norm Leeman has acquired a 1926 Oldsmobile tourer from Hampton ... The price for this vehicle was a ruinous half dozen bottles of beer! (Cheap you may think, but remember that the exchange took place at the height of the CUB strike!).

- November 1973

"That the Colac rally was one of the longest rallies to be run in a single day without one mishap in 230 miles is a credit to car drivers and rally drivers."

- February 1974

"We eventually arrived in Maryborough at about 4:30pm to be greeted with the news that the pub had caught fire the night before... But luckily for us a fire was confined to the bar space... Ray and Judith Matthews had no need for their electric blankets (as did the rest of us) as their room was directly above the scene of the fire the night before."

- Maryborough , October 1975

"I caught my wife at a weak moment and she agreed that we should restore a car."

- Sid Clifton, September 1978



CLUB MERCHANDISE Show You Belong

The WDHVC has items on display in the cabinet at the rear of the Clubrooms for members to purchase. You can select from:

Coffee Mugs	\$15	Lapel Badges	\$10
WDHVC Metal Car Badges	\$25	Black Geelong Plates	\$33
Replica Inaugural Metal Club Badge	\$20	50 th Anniversary Metal Badges	\$20
WDHVC pens	\$4 each or 3 for \$10	WDHVC Log Book Reminder Stickers	\$2
Windscreen Banners	\$10	Wide brimmed hats	\$20
Magnetic WDHVC Badges	\$4 each or 3 for \$10		

Contact: David Mitchell (Ph 0409 099 716)

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

For Sale VP Commodore sedan. Reg FAZ 201
180,400km. On LPG. Rust around rear window and boot. \$500.
Call Vlad 5248 5759.
7/23



For Sale. 1990 Ford Capri. Reg. 86276H.
White in colour. Fair condition. 192,000 kms.
On red plates: not transferable. \$3250 ono.
Call Glenn 5250 2255 (leave msg) **5/23**

For Sale. Land Rover Discovery TDI 300
Reg. NHP 029. Manual. 1995. 3-door wagon.
Gen.290,000+kms. Motor untouched – doesn't use oil. Bull bar & side steps, dual batteries, 12/240 volt in rear. Tow bar, brake controller & Anderson plug. New Pedders coils & airbags. 2 CB radios. Air compressor. New clutch @ 145k
With books and full service history. \$10,000 ONO.
Call Bernie 5248 5743. **5/23**

Free to a good home. Motor bike wheel alignment tool. (Details May Backfire page 12.)
Call Lindsay 0419 350 106. **6/23**



KEEP IT IN THE CLUB
Got a vehicle for sale?
Please consider advertising it in
Backfire first, to give your fellow
members the first option of buying.

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).

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

Clues

Clues. 1995 Ford Fairlane Ghia White, velour trim, registered, 6 cyl auto, 216,746kms. One lady owner from new with full service details and hand-books. Call Harold 0408 553 466 for details. **6/23**

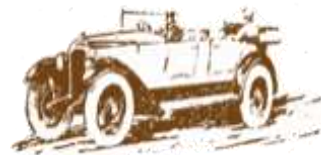
Wanted

Wanted. 6 volt klaxon horn for 1928 Chev truck. Call Graham 0409 241 558 **7/23**

Wanted. 2 lock nuts for 1938 Morris 8 side curtains. Call Jon 0417 311 441. **7/23**



Are You in the Frame?



Members who would like their club vehicles added to those already on the clubhouse walls should provide an 8 inch X 10 inch color photo of their vehicle to Dallas Jones.

Dallas will mount and display the photos.

Son: "Dad, I've got a part in the school play. I play a man who's been married for 25 years."

Father: "Well done son. Maybe next time you'll get a speaking part."

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.

If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC
PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST
APPROVED
PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



July 2023

1949 Brockhouse Corgi

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30 June	1
<p>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.</p>						
2 Tocumwal Swap	3	4	5	6 Coffee Run. 10am AJs Showgrounds	7	8
9	10	11 General Meeting, 7.30pm	12 Dine Out Norlane Hotel	13	14	15
16 Wagga Wagga Swap	17	18 Committee Meeting	19	20 Tinker Day Bells Beach Brewery	21	22
23 Alreys Inlet Pub Run. Leave 11am Waurm Ponds Pub carpark	24 Backfire Deadline	25 7pm Tech Night "Brakes"	26	27	28 Backfire Folding Morning	29
30	31	1 August	2	3 Coffee Run. 10am Curlewis Golf Club	4	8 Aug Club Auction after meeting