

BACKFIRE

Volume 57 No 2 June 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



[WesternDistrictHistoricVehicleClub](https://www.facebook.com/WesternDistrictHistoricVehicleClub)



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The President's Idle Chatter

Hi All,

It's been a big month in May dominated by the Bay City Swap Meet organised by the Club. We haven't had a swap since May 2019, and a lot has moved on in four years, including Covid-driven changes, which meant it was much more challenging to put on a swap this year. All in all, it was a major effort.

I would like to start by thanking our swap leader Fred for the massive work he has put into the event. This was the 15th event he has organised and, as most of you will know, this was his last as leader. Well done Fred for all your work this year and over the previous 14 years.

Also thanks to all the volunteers for the great work they did in planning for and running an incredibly successful swap. It was helped by having perfect weather on the day of course, but the feedback from sellers, buyers and volunteers has been overwhelmingly positive.

This is a very important event for the club and there is no doubt that the benefits are much more than as a fundraiser. It is also a great event for getting members involved in a huge team experience working on a common goal. There is no doubt that having everyone focussed on the success of the swap means it is an extremely positive experience. It means members working together, helping each other to achieve a great result.

It is particularly rewarding when the event is as outstandingly successful as it was this year.

At our post event review to discuss things that worked well and opportunities to improve, there was overwhelming support to run it again next year. It will be organised somewhat differently but it will run. Not all the details are in place so stay tuned as we work through how this will take shape. Just pencil in the second Saturday in May 2024 for another great event.

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

David Mitchell



"Area 56 ac. 76 ac floor space under roof. More than 700,000 Ford cars come from this factory each year. Average number of Ford Motor Company employees 42,000. Additions now underway will double the capacity of the plant." Postcards showing the Ford plant in 1917.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 623 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2023

PRESIDING

President David Mitchell welcomed everyone to the 623rd meeting

APOLOGIES

Julie & Steven Coles, Jack & Jess Harman, Brian Edwards, Bob Thompson, Rod Campbell, Trevor Sayers, Jodi Alymer, Vern & Joan Stott, Pat Evans, Vlad Furst, Libby Boleyn, Alan Tipper, Alex McLaws, Jennie Green, Helen Graham, Graeme Paech, Tim Paech, Rhonda Alexander, Simon Anderson, Ken Parry, Kevin & Julie Willy, Gus Shea.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Mal Woodhouse Carried

SICK LIST

Vern Stott. Hip issues.

MINUTES

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

Moved: Rod Booley

Seconded: Fred Dosser Carried

CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

INWARD

Letters In

- Bendigo Bank - bank statement
- Federation - membership renewal statement

Emails In

- Consumer Affairs Victoria - notification of Annual Statement required
- Federation - copy of fuel emissions calculator
- Stephen Duniam - resignation from the club
- Trafalgar Holden Museum - Invitation for ex Holden employees to attend a BBQ luncheon on 18 June
- St Anthony School student letters received thanking the club for bringing the old cars.

OUTWARD

Letters Out

- Welcome letters sent to new members approved at the last Committee meeting - Jodi Aylmer; Stephen & Julie Coles; Colin & Cheryl Stokes; Graham & Heather Perkins; Jordan & Maddison Manukauskas

Emails Out

- RGAPS - requesting a key to unlock the disabled toilets on meeting nights

Moved: Dick Saffron

Seconded: Graeme Anderson 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: John Bailey Carried

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

No report this month.

LIBRARY (Phil)

Nothing to report but kept tradition in telling a joke.

DINE OUT (Sharyn)

St George's Pako St West Geelong

EDITOR (Jon)

Nothing to report.

WEBSITE (Damien)

No report this month.

FEDERATION REPORT (David P)

Meeting held in Bendigo.

- Discussed moving venue for Bendigo Swap. Will be held on 11th Nov 2023 at existing venue.
- Red Plates discussed: how long to keep old log books?
- Tax for clubs. No guidance yet. 2024?
- Check dates for club runs so they don't clash with Federation runs.
- Confirm that constitutions & model rules allow Zoom meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORT (Tony)

The recent meeting discussed:

- Club room rent paid
- 5 new members last month - Graham Perkins, Stephen Coles, Colin Stokes, Jodi Aylmer, and Jordan Manikauskas.

MERCHANDISE (David M)

More club-branded wide brim hats on order.

TINKER DAY (Dallas)

- Run at Clifton Springs went well and attended well.
- June run will be Soup Day at Club room.
- July Inspection at Bells Beach Brewery at Torquay.
- August: inspect car collection, which will be held on a Sunday. More information to come.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

Name the bike (a Raleigh Trent Tourist) won by Ray Matthew. Name the person (Geoff Lenton) won by Judith Matthews.

VEHICLE PERMITS (Dallas)

Nothing to report .

RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (David M)

See the Backfire for details on events when scheduled, including:

- 20 May. Smell the Roses ride to Queenscliff.
- 21 May National Motoring day run. To be held at Club rooms.
- Swap report. Thursday 11 May for volunteers. 6pm at Club rooms for pizza and information. Friday 12 May 9am for swap setup. Saturday after Swap, cleanup of oval and club room.
- 25 June Observation run. More details to come

LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

To be held from 1 September around Griffith.

TECH NIGHT (Peter)

23 May: "Batteries"

June topic is "Sparkplugs"

KITCHEN (Pam)

Kitchen preparing for Saturday as it will a busy day.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Trevor Smith donated magazines and cuttings for all . (Bicycle repair, fuel consumption, car brochures, RACV magazines etc.
- John Bailey asked for help in finding guest speakers.
- John Hickford mentioned broken hand dryers in toilets.

FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Fred Dosser has a coil tester as someone asked to borrow one last month. (Eric)
- Max Anderson award found in storage. Asked Graeme Anderson to find out how awards are presented.
- Karl Lorenz spoke about his success in overhauling his water pump.
- Angelo lost prescriptions glasses and asked if anybody has found then.

Meeting closed. 8.52pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 13 June 2023 in the clubrooms.

- Tony Brincat

Annette wins the Eric Baker Award

Annette Marshall was announced as the 2023 winner of the Eric Baker Award at the May meeting.

The award is presented by the Committee each year in appreciation for a club member who has contributed significantly to the club over time, or made a particular contribution that year.

Annette has been an unassuming member of the kitchen volunteers for a number of years. She is always available to help out whenever needed and helps to produce the delicious and timely food & drink that features at so many club events. Congratulations Annette.



Annette holds her personal trophy. President David holds the Eric Baker Memorial Appreciation trophy, which Annette also gets to keep for the next 12 months. The trophy takes the form of a bowler hat. Past member Eric Baker (A.K.A. "Mr Swap") revitalised the Club's annual swap meet, where he was seen sporting a bowler hat - hence the trophy.

"Holden" the Family Together



The RACV website currently contains a great story about the DeBono family and their EK Holdens. (We had the green one in the workshop at a recent Club night.)

To see the story, photos and a terrific video, go to:

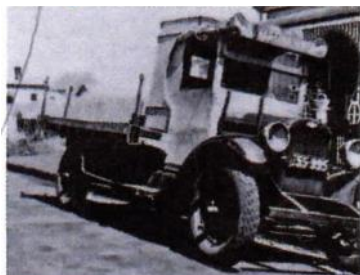
[How a 1961 Holden EK Special brought this family together | RACV](#)

- David Mitchell

◇ Photo courtesy RACV

Graham's Truck Featured

Members may be familiar with Graham Baldock's beautifully restored 1928 Chevrolet 1 ton truck, which has graced Club events since 2011. Graham's restoration of the vehicle was reported in the January/February edition of *Vintage Trucks & Commercials* magazine, and subsequently in the *Winged Arrow*, the Skoda & Tatra Register newsletter. It is reproduced here with permission.



My 1928 Chev truck, .Model LP, with a 4-cylinder OHV, running 21.7hp, has a local history, and some may remember it as the truck used by B. Martin & Sons timber yard, where it was used for carting and delivering timber

throughout Geelong and surrounding areas, from their premises located in Ryrie Street, Geelong, VIC. The truck is part of Geelong's heritage, as Martin's was established in 1861 and remained in the same family until its closure in 1954. Before acquiring the truck, the firm used a horse drawn dray to make deliveries.

Mr Bill Stephenson was the only employee to drive the vehicle and it is said that "he treated it like a baby".

Following the closure of the yard, the truck was moved on to another timber yard, where it was not afforded the same 'kid glove' treatment - due to the non-existence of forklift machinery, workers used the Chev to ram stacks of timber and dislodge them. However, fortuitously, despite this rough treatment, it was never known to have broken down, or stopped working.

The Chev came into my possession in mid-2003, when I purchased it from a friend, and though in poor condition and in need of total restoration, it was near complete.



I had the motor stripped down and fully reconditioned, then set about doing the rest, which I would have found to be a much harder task without a great deal of invaluable help and advice from my friends and fellow members of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club.

After re-building the cabin and tray, panel beating, and painting (using a very steady hand and some gold leaf), the upholstery was the final task to be done. I did this myself, using a light-industrial sewing machine.



The full restoration was completed in May 2011, and put on club plates, and is now one of my prized possessions.

At a comfortable travelling speed of 40mph, (65kph), I won't be breaking any land-speed records, or driving any long distances, but I do enjoy taking it out on a run every now and then.

Please note the club plate in the photo isn't the correct plate for a vintage vehicle - this one was mistakenly issued by the authorities at the time, and was rectified on the renewal. Twelve months later. It now correctly sports 6•283 on the rear. * Graham Baldock



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)



Stories From the Shed

From the Sublime to the Ridiculous



Please find attached a few photos from Rob Roy Revival of Darren Visson's recent reconstruction of a replica of Eldred Norman 1945 (approx.) race car. This vehicle used a truck chassis and running gear, wheels and tyres. The engine was two side valve Ford V8's fitted end to end to form a V16.



The brake drums were cooled by four electric fuel pumps spraying water on each brake drum.

His lunch, consisting of a tin of baked beans or spaghetti, was wired to the exhaust manifold. This was eaten after practice or a race, ensuring that he could have a hot dinner.

Dave told me Eldred drove from his home city of Perth to Fisherman's Bend airfield racetrack, where he raced it. I witnessed this race myself. Then two days later he drove to the Rob Roy Hill climb, where he recorded a very fast time. Eldred then drove the car back to Perth. The road at that period of history was an unmade, rutted track.

Eldred later went on to build a very advanced race car using a Ford Zephyr engine on its side with Holden front suspension bolted to the front of the engine and a short connection to the back axle. It had virtually no chassis and was miles ahead of its time.

Eldred's wife, Nancy Cato, was the author of the book "All the Rivers Run".

Darren drives his three cylinder Suzuki-engined race car at Rob Roy. It is about 450 to 500 mm in height and often records the fastest time of the day - about 25 seconds. Darren also has a land speed record for a tractor, with an Australian built Chamberlain recording 56 mph. - John Hickford



Eldred De Bracton Norman (9 January 1914 – 28 June 1971) was an Australian inventor and racing-car driver. Norman was born in Adelaide, the second of six children and attended Scotch College, Adelaide. On 15 May 1941 Norman married Nancy Cato, then a 24-year-old journalist.

Eldred was notably famous for producing sliding vane superchargers. The rare and iconic supercharger started as a base model, the Type 65, and is highly sought after in the early Holden community. The Type 65 was a bolt on, performance enhancing product to suit the Holden Grey motor.



Norman built and modified cars. He contested the Australian Grand Prix several times; he was leading the 1951 Australian Grand Prix when his twin V8 engine Ford suffered mechanical failure. He finished fourth in the 1954 Australian Grand Prix. In 1956 Norman retired from motor racing and focused on inventing, but his prototypes did not reach production. He died in Noosa Heads, Queensland. Source: Wikipedia

[Nancy Cato - Wikipedia](#)

[Eldred Norman - Wikipedia](#)

How much carbon does your vehicle emit?

There is a lot of discussion about global warming, greenhouse gases and the need to reduce carbon dioxide. There will be increasing pressure to reduce fossil fuel (hydrocarbon) usage as this is a major producer of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

If we are to preserve Australia’s cultural heritage in operating condition and continue the social and economic benefits that flow from this, we will need to eliminate or offset our carbon emissions.

Operating Heritage Australia supports a three-step approach to minimising carbon emissions from historic machinery:

- ♦ minimise the use of fossil fuels in all aspects of daily life
- ♦ use renewable fuels where appropriate.
- ♦ where no alternative is available, offset emissions by supporting projects that consume more carbon dioxide than we produce.

We need your support to inform decision-makers and the general public that our contribution to climate change is tiny and that we are working to eliminate, through renewable fuels or offsets even that tiny amount.

First, start by understanding the size of the problem – how much carbon dioxide does your historic vehicle actually emit each year?

Find where your vehicle’s fuel consumption intersects with its km/year to find CO₂ in kg.

For example, on average, Australian historic cars (based on the latest FIVA survey) travel around 1200 km/yr and if we assume a 14L/100km (20mpg) fuel consumption, then the amount of carbon dioxide produced is 504kg for the year.

As a comparison:

- ♦ A human breathes out around 240kg CO₂ per year
- ♦ A medium-sized dog produces (breathing and food) 700-800kg CO₂ per year
- ♦ A typical electric car driving 10,000 km per year and charged from the grid produces around 1150kg

In 2023 the majority of historic motor vehicles could have their total carbon emissions offset through ethical revegetation schemes for under \$20 per year.

Some other information:

The total amount of petroleum fuels used each year by the 500,000 owners of historic vehicles accounts for around 0.05% of Australia’s total petroleum-based fuel consumption. There is no viable alternative available at this time.

The average electric vehicle will produce less carbon per kilometre than an internal combustion vehicle – around half that of a modern vehicle and around a quarter that of an historic vehicle (and less if charged by solar or wind).

Any new vehicle (electric or internal combustion) will produce carbon dioxide during its construction (materials, assembly and transport). According to the International Energy Agency, manufacturing a mid-sized internal combustion vehicle will produce around 6t CO₂ and a similar electric vehicle around 8-10t depending on the type and size of battery. This means that if you replace your historic vehicle with any new vehicle, it could take around 20 years before you have saved the carbon used to manufacture the new vehicle.

OHA will try to keep you up-to-date in this rapidly changing area of alternative energy sources for motor vehicles. If you have any questions, please contact your local association/AHMF/whatever.

*Information provided by
Operating Heritage Australia*

		Road Motor Vehicles						
		kg CO ₂ Produced per Year						
		km driven per year						
		500	1000	1200	1500	2000	2500	3000
Average fuel consumption L/100km	3	45	90	108	135	180	225	270
	4	60	120	144	180	240	300	360
	5	75	150	180	225	300	375	450
	6	90	180	216	270	360	450	540
	7	105	210	252	315	420	525	630
	8	120	240	288	360	480	600	720
	9	135	270	324	405	540	675	810
	10	150	300	360	450	600	750	900
	11	165	330	396	495	660	825	990
	12	180	360	432	540	720	900	1080
	13	195	390	468	585	780	975	1170
	14	210	420	504	630	840	1050	1260
	15	225	450	540	675	900	1125	1350
	16	240	480	576	720	960	1200	1440
17	255	510	612	765	1020	1275	1530	
18	270	540	648	810	1080	1350	1620	
19	285	570	684	855	1140	1425	1710	
20	300	600	720	900	1200	1500	1800	



Filming "Top Gear" in Australia before OH&S!

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 1 June **Coffee Run to Anakie Roadhouse** on the bend at 2135 Geelong- Ballan Rd Anakie, from 10am. There are some parks out the front but if most cars can park on the grass on the opposite side of the road that would be appreciated. *Contact: Col 0425 822 026*

Tuesday 13 June **General Meeting** 7.30pm in Clubrooms.

Wednesday 14 June **Ladies Day** We are going on the noon ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento and having High Tea. A hat would be nice and there could be some prizes. Homemade or your race wear - just your prettiest. Numbers by 6 June - please call Sharyn if you are coming. Please pass on to those without email. *Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089*

Thursday 15 June **Tinker Day Soup Line Day** 11am start at the clubrooms. Well folks it is that time again where we remember those dreadful days of the 1930 World Depression. Please join us at the clubrooms for our Soup Line Day. The club is providing the soup and bread, and we ask that you bring some food along to share with the members. Bring along an interesting item to show the members and have a good laugh. *Contact: Barb 0408 664 537*

Tuesday 20 June **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm in clubrooms.

Sunday 25 June **Observation Run** Details TBC. *Contact: Maurice Healey 5251 3413*

Monday 26 June **July Backfire Deadline** 5pm. *Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441*

Tuesday 27 June **Tech Night "Spark Plugs."** Uncoil yourself from the reclining chair, ignite your passion and come along. You never know where it could lead. 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 30 June **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms. *Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938*

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*

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*

Other Events

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

- June 10-11 2023 Daylesford Collectables Fair** Daylesford Town Hall
- June 11 2023 Maldon Swap Meet** Maldon Racecourse Reserve (Vic)
- June 25 2023 Fridge Swap Meet** Armstrong St South, Ballarat .
- July 2 2023 Tocumwal Swap Meet** Tocumwal Rec Reserve NSW, just across the Murray River on the Goulburn Valley Hwy
- 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
- Oct 15 2023 Albury Swap Meet** Twin City Swap meet & S & S, Albury Showground
- 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.bendigowswap.com.au. Site bookings 0427 446 660. General enquiries 0434 730 822. info@bendigowswap.com.au
- Nov 18-19 2023 Daylesford Collectables fair** Daylesford Town Hall

RALLIES & RUNS

2023 Geelong Bay City Swap Meet

After a three year break it's fair to say that there was a little uncertainty about how the Swap would go, but we need not have worried. A perfect autumn day, hundreds of stall holders and thousands of patrons lit up the Showgrounds! Around 70 members volunteered to make the event the huge success it turned out to be - fitting recognition for the efforts put in over 15 years by retiring Swap Director, Fred Harris. Thank you to all who helped make it succeed!

And although we will need to approach organising the event differently in future, plans are already well underway to ensure it can go ahead again next year without Fred at the helm. So be ready to take part again in 2024 - as a volunteer, as a patron and/or as a stallholder.

By spreading the load, we can do it and ensure the event remains our club's major fund raiser and an important day in Geelong's calendar.

Photos: Lindsay Alford & Ed



RALLIES & RUNS

Old and New at St Anthony's

We were invited to visit St. Anthony's School, Lara, for our coffee run on 4 May. Twenty cars with a range of ages were put on display on a lovely, sunny, autumn day.

The School Principal, Mrs. Natalie Heard (who is Sandra Batson's daughter) greeted us and the school staff made us very welcome.

The Grade One and Two classes are studying "old and new", and the day was to introduce them to older vehicles. They came out first and were well prepared, with questions about the age and type of vehicles. Many club members invited the students to sit in the cars or the "dicky" seat, and car horns got a workout. The children were respectful and interested. One student was heard to say "Wow, this car is older than my Mum!"

These were followed by the Prep. students, who, amazingly, were just as interested. Principal Natalie then invited us into the school hall for a sumptuous morning tea as a thank-you. This consisted of mini quiches, sausage rolls, fresh sandwiches and a variety of luscious looking slices.

After we returned to our cars, the rest of the school was allowed to come and look. Then the Principal invited those who were interested to take a tour of the school. Most people took advantage and were taken on an informative tour of a modern day primary school. The school is very well run and organised for 450 students. A couple of car club members said they wish school had been like this in their day.

The visit was arranged to give students the benefit of learning about vehicles of past years and we understand this was achieved. However our members received great satisfaction in presenting our cars and we enjoyed the day immensely.

Following our visit many students from Grade Two wrote thank you letters which were read out at our May meeting. There was also a thank you card from all of Grade One.



Thanks to Col Jordan for organising the day.

*Text: Sandra Batson & Trevor Schneider. Photos: St Anthony's
* More photos on the website. - Ed*



RALLIES & RUNS

Smell the Roses Run - 20 May

Well the rain was a worry early in the morning, but it all cleared up as we rolled up at the Peninsular Hotel for the start of our run.

Seven other members were just as silly as me and joined me for the run to Queenscliff. When we got there, the new ferry terminal was where we had our hot drinks and a doughnut for some. A very pleasant morning indeed.

The brave souls were:

Ray van Galen	RD350 LC Yamaha
Ray Matthews	Honda MY125
Ollie Matthews	Suzuki ST 550
Mick Wright	Ducati
Geoff Lenton	Triumph
Dick and Marg Safstrom	Mercedes Benz
Judith Matthews	Honda car
Manuel and Lillian Vella	VE Valiant



Letters to the Editor

The rule book for the speed limit on highways changes the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h for traffic lights or railway crossings. I found an 80km/h speed camera on a railway crossing at Bagshot on the Midland Highway (A300) between Shepparton and Elmore. To be fair, the crossing is not a good one. It has a bend on the crossing and limited vision due to lots of trees.

The Department of Transport in 2022 found that an estimated 370,000 motorists drove over regional level crossings without slowing down. In the five years leading up to 2022 there were 63 incidents reported at regional level crossings, including four serious collisions.

- Lindsay Alford

Editor's Comment: Even when there are no 80 signs?. This was news to me! Lindsay is backed up by the Transport Department's Speed Zoning Policy Edition 2 – December 2021, which states:

3.11 Railway level crossings in rural areas

At railway level crossings on rural roads, the maximum speed limit in the vicinity of the railway level crossing is 80 km/h. This position was adopted as part of the Victorian Government response to the recommendations of the 2008 Parliamentary Road Safety Committee inquiry into improving safety at level crossings.

Speed Zoning Policy Edition 2 – December 2021
Department of Transport

RALLIES & RUNS

Tinker Day 18 May

It was a dark and stormy night, err, no it wasn't; it was a dark and rainy day when we all travelled to Haydn and Leanne's place to enjoy another social Tinker Day. Around 30 hardy souls ventured to Clifton Springs to have a look at



a number of interesting motorcycles. We were greeted with two speedway motorcycles in the driveway under a marquee. Then in the shed a nearly completed Triumph Bonneville and an early 350cc AJS sitting on its stand



awaiting the restoration process.

Haydn told us a little of his long history of riding speedway bikes and how he first found his love of motorcycles through his father who had a 500cc Matchless. He started one of the speedway bikes, and I can tell you, the smell of burning methanol is better



than any perfume I've ever come across!



While on the subject of pleasing fragrances, a big thank you to Leanne for making a wonderful pot of vegetable soup. Not only did it smell good, it tasted pretty damn good too. Just the thing on this rather cool wet day. Of course, the BBQ was going at lunchtime so snags and onions on bread were the order of the day. Food, hot drinks, motorcycles and good company made for a really wonderful Tinker Day. A huge thanks to Haydn and Leanne for their hospitality and for opening up their place for us to invade. It is no small amount of effort



our hosts make to ensure we have a great day out so it is wonderful to see so many members make the effort to attend.

As an aside: considering the way our last two Tinker Day hosts have fed and watered us, it might be worth noting that the precedent is now well set for the future Tinker Days!

- Dallas

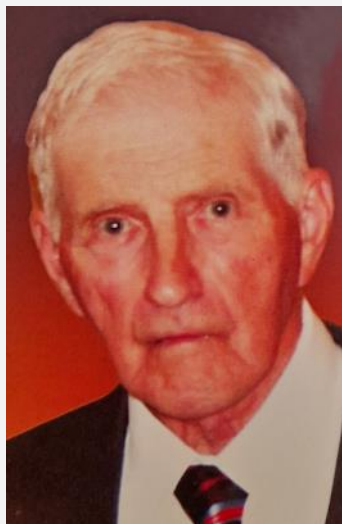


VALE – NOEL SIMPSON

9/3/1927 – 10/5/2023

Club member Noel passed away peacefully on 10 May aged 96 years. He joined the club in 1986.

Noel's parents lived in Shelford and he grew up on the family farm. He completed his secondary schooling at Geelong Tech and qualified as an electrical engineer at the Gordon. He boarded in West Geelong and rode his bike some 40 kms into Geelong from the farm.



Noel first worked for the SEC in Yarraville, commuting on the train. Later he worked as an electrical engineer for Dalgety's in Geelong and as a radio and TV repairman for Webb's Radio. (He was doing this in 1956, when TV first came to Australia.) In 1959 Noel started his own radio & TV repair business from home. In the 1970s the business moved to a shop at the southern end of Pakington St where it remained until Noel retired in 1992.

He used his skills to assist our Club at our then clubrooms in Norlane by setting up a TV for our use. When we moved to the present clubroom site at the Showgrounds, Noel provided a very suitable colour TV which we used until the large screen projector was acquired.

Noel was a self-confessed "collector" and enjoyed tinkering in his industrial shed in Moolap in his retirement years. He loved post war English cars and had a 1960s Morris Major and an Austin A30. He was a regular attendee at club meetings.



Noel was a Rotarian and he spent over 25 years in an active role on the Newcomb Neighbourhood Watch Committee.

Noel's wife Trish pre-deceased him. We extend our sympathy to his four sons, David, Geoff, Peter, Gary, and their families.

- Trevor Schneider

Great Mars Bar Competition

The June Competition



This month our member is on the farm with his beloved dog.

There is a Great Mars Bar for guessing our member's name and also another Mars Bar to correctly name his pet woofier.

- Ray van Galen

More photos needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

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



The Way It Was

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

"The subscription is still \$4, and worth every bit of it too. Just the price of a tank and a half of petrol!"

- Ray Matthews, June 1969

"The 1926 Austin 7 ... In about 1961 I pestered a neighbor to sell it to me for 15 quid, which I borrowed for the purpose. I didn't have a starting handle, so always parked facing downhill, with the starting being achieved by running alongside and pushing. One could reach over and throw it into gear, and when it fired up, hop in!"

- Trevor Schneider, Sept 1977

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.

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 handbooks. Call Harold 0408 553 466 for details. **6/23**

For Sale

For Sale & Some Free -

Parts for 1920s Dodge Brothers Cars.

Engine block w/- crank and cam shafts, flywheel, valves & mounts. No pistons or rods. 2 sets of 4 pistons & rods. Water pump bits. North East 12 volt starter/generators, 2 work; 1 for parts. LH & RH split screen windscreen posts. 3 DB carbys; 1 early 2 later. Dash panel inc'g black faced speedo, ignition switch (1925). Pair drum style cowl lights. 1 Type B DB tail light complete. 6 Magneto's, Bosch ZR4; 1 large, 1 small Eisemanns all incomplete; 2 small complete Eisemann; 1 Lucas with flick attachment. 7 DB head light buckets with reflectors and rims; 1 complete with DB lens. 2 black faced working DB speedos. 1 white face - works but lettering damaged. 4 X 20 inch artillery wheels & 6 rims. 3 steering gears - complete and parts. 2 front axles, no kingpins or stubs axles. 3 1925 DB cylinder heads. Rear axle diff carrier and torque tube, diff & axles with bearings; spare diff carrier. Quantity of body brackets, chassis springs and clutch assemblies.
2 X Ford T model 23" wheels rims and tyres VG condition. Call Harold 0408 553 466. **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

For Sale

For Sale 1940 Packard. Straight 8

Man. 3 speed + overdrive. 6 wheel equipped. Leather interior.

Travelled about 20,000kms since ground up resto 6 years ago. On club plates: 6233-H9.

Price reduced to \$45,000.

Call Tony on 0437 453 259. **6/23**



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**

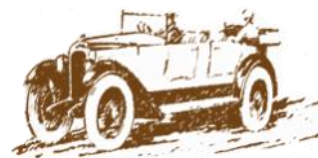
For Sale T.O.M.M. A large quantity of T.O.M.M. [The Old Machinery Magazine] magazines. Ideal for filling gaps in collections. They go back more than 20 years and are in mint condition. \$3 each.

Call Karl 0413 074 733. **4/23**

Free to a good home. Motor bike wheel alignment tool. (Details in *Backfire* May 2023 page 12.) Call Lindsay 0419 350 106. **6/23**



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.

If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC
PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

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POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



1957 Austin A35

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 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.	29	30	31 May	1 Coffee Run. 10am Anakie Roadhouse	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Dalesford Collectables Fair
11 Dalesford Collectables Fair. Maldon Swap	12	13 General Meeting, 7.30pm	14 Ladies Day Queenscliff Ferry	15 Soup Line Tinker Day 11am	16	17
18	19	20 Committee Meeting	21	22	23	24
25 Observation Run. B'rat Fridge Swap	26 Backfire Deadline	27 Tech Night "Spark Plugs"	28	29	30 Backfire Folding Morning	1 July
2 Tocumwal Swap	3	4	5	6 Coffee Run. AJs Showgrounds	7	8