

# BACKFIRE

Volume 53 No 11 March 2020

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

Summer's done and dusted. Now for autumn, arguably the best of the seasons. The weather is about right and those who suffer from allergies get to enjoy spring-like weather without the sneezing and wheezing. Apart from a few unusually wet and windy days, we've had some cracker opportunities to get the vehicles out.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Rhonda Foran. We all know she was unwell for some time but it's still a shock now she has gone. I used to love it when she was asked for a kitchen report and she'd usually reply: "No, nothing" then proceed to give us a few minutes of what was happening in the kitchen. She will be sadly missed by her family and also by her WDHVC family. My sincere condolences go out to Murray and his family and friends.

On to better club news: I was pleased to see that so many members took my advice and got in early to renew their membership! It turns out that nearly 200 members showed up and paid up last general meeting. Obviously the team in the back room processing all the renewals had their work cut out for them. So thanks to the team for doing a mighty job in a very efficient way, getting through so many.

I had some comments made to me about the length of last month's meeting. You know I like to keep proceedings as short as I can because I know you are just there for a chat, a cuppa and to eat cakes, but sometimes it is unavoidable. Really, it only went for about 20 minutes longer than normal, having the guest speaker at the beginning perhaps made it seem longer than it actually was. However, I do apologise for keeping you from your supper and socialising.

I went to the All Ford Day this year, the first time in a long, long time. The weather wasn't looking like being much fun but in the end turned out OK. The grounds were very wet and boggy, which was a bit of a shame for those who had spent hours or even days cleaning and preparing their cars. Still, all in all, a great day with lots of interesting cars, and people!

Been chipping away at my project but other things have slowed that down, as they tend to do. Still when you are working on a long term project, every little bit still gets you towards the goal. This month I lifted the body back off and started to work out how best to mount the engine and gearbox. As none of this came with the car, a lot of humming and rubbing of the chin has been necessary.

To paraphrase the famous politician JFK, "*Ask not what the club can do for you - ask what you can do for your club.*" What I'm trying to say is, have you ever thought about putting your hand up for a position on the committee? Some of the current committee have decided they need a break, having served for a considerable time. This means there is an opportunity for you to join the committee and help steer the club in the coming year. Have a think about it, new blood with new ideas is always a good thing on a committee.

So it's now time to get out in the shed or out in your car.

Well it is for me!

Dallas

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 601 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.  
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

## PRESIDING

President Dallas Jones opened the meeting and welcomed the 140 members and guest speaker Neil Harrop attending.

## APOLOGIES

Darryn Tucker, Eva Barwise, Tiny Stonehouse, Eric Lewis, Charlie Mifsud, Vince Fedele, Alan Tipper, Tony & Miriam Brincat, Len Millar, Brian Latimore, Brian & Jan Clissold, Peter & Noelene Kemp, Clive Shaw.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Roger Sykes Carried

## SICK LIST

Paul Strickland.

Our thoughts are with the Anderson family on Frank's recent passing.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the previous general meeting as published in the *Backfire* confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: Ken Parry

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

## CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

### INWARD

#### Letters In

- The Gordon - receipt for printing.
- Robyn Anderson & family - Thank you card for our thoughts on the passing of Frank.
- Bill & Tineka Harty - are resigning from the WDHVC & thanked our club for the happy memories.
- Bellarine Agricultural Society - invitation to attend their show on 8th March

#### Emails In

- Ball Joint Doctor - offering his services for restoring all sorts ball joints pitman arms, idler arms etc.
- Grampians Vintage Vehicle Club - invitation to their Show Us Your Wheels event at Ararat 14th March.
- Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club - invitation to attend their Steam Fest on 7th, 8th 9th March.
- Naracoorte Historic Vehicle Club - invitation to attend their Swap Meet on 2nd & 3rd May

### OUTWARD

#### Letters Out

- RGAPS - seeking permission to extend our kitchen.

- Vic Roads - letter to inform Vic Roads Mrs Barbara Thompson is a current financial member of the WDHVC.

#### Emails Out

Nil

Moved: Graham Cameron

Seconded: Garry Tonkin 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)

Before the formal commencement of the meeting our Guest Speaker provided a very informative presentation on the use of defibrillators.

See the *Backfire* for details on next month's event.

## LIBRARY (Gary)

Gary recommended books on a range of topics this month

## DINE OUT (Gary)

Last month's Queenscliff Dine Out was a great success. This month will be at the Great Western Hotel.

## EDITOR (Jon)

Jon asked for members' patience as both his email and PC have failed this month, delaying his responses to comments and queries.

## WEBSITE (Damien)

Continuing good level of swap meet interest through the web site. More videos have been added to the library collection.

## FEDERATION REPORT (David P)

At the recent meeting hosted in Warrnambool the following was discussed:

- There were no Federation member clubs impacted by the recent bushfires;
- Clubs should limit their VicRoads authorised officers to 2 or 3 members;
- Red Plate log books should be retained after expiry for police review if required;
- See the government web sites for details as car importation rules may change;
- Clubs must continue to trade from their Bendigo swap meet sites; and
- Vehicles classified as "Statutory Write Offs" can never be re-registered.

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

## COMMITTEE REPORT (David M)

At the recent meeting the following was discussed:

- All members are welcome to attend the All British Rally;
- The Seasick Rally will be held in May;
- Lucky Door Prizes will be held at future meetings;
- The Ladies Day will be held again this year; and
- 2020 membership fees will not increase from the 2019 level.

## MERCHANDISE (David M)

No report this month.

## TINKER DAY (Ray)

The Tinker Day will be at the Portarlington Flour Mill this month.

## MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

Manny Vella correctly guessed the 1916 Truab and so took home the Mars Bars this month.

## VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

Gus is reviewing a list of VicRoads proposed amendments provided this month.

Members are reminded that they can't park their scheme-plated vehicle in the street outside their home without a logbook entry.

## RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (Rod )

Club members reported on the following events:

- Sharyn Harris enjoyed the coffee but the venue was very noisy last month;
- Harold Newton's Crossley was one of about 10 cars at the Waterfront. Dallas Jones went to the Waterfront on another day when there were 20 cars on display;
- David Mitchell reported on the Torquay Motor Show. Once again it proved to be a great success with about 10 members cars included in the 500 on display;
- Anthony Underwood was justifiably proud of the trophy his 1972 VW Dormobile won at the Torquay Car Show;
- Graham Walker enjoyed the good display of members' and Museum cars on Australia Day; and
- Brian Edwards recommends the Launceston Motor Museum after his recent visit.
- Upcoming events:
  - ◊ Shelford Duck Races;
  - ◊ Avoca Rally;
  - ◊ Waterfront Display on the March long weekend Monday;
  - ◊ Federation Picnic in Mortlake;
  - ◊ Bellarine Show; and
  - ◊ Coffee Run.

## LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

No report.

## TECH NIGHT (Peter)

This month's topic will be breakdowns (mechanical not personal). Jewellery and beading will be the Craft Night focus this month.

## SWAP MEET (Fred)

Swap Committee meeting this month. Volunteers needed! Please make yourself available.

## KITCHEN (Pam)

The members present joined Pam in formally thanking Rhonda for her excellent work in the kitchen over the years.

Pam also thanked Debbie Christie for her recent work on the tablecloths for the new tables.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- Alex Slotha and Barry Goodear won this meeting's door prize.
- See next month's Backfire for technical help needed on a 1975 Jaguar XJ6.

## FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Ray Matthews is looking for a 3GL badge to complete a trophy he has made.
- Jon Breedveld has brought a 1953 Morris Minor.

Meeting closed at 10.03pm.

***Next meeting: to be held on  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in the clubrooms***

*- Leigh Dwyer*

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Western District Historic Vehicles Club Inc. will be held on Tuesday, 14 April 2020, following the normal meeting starting at 7:30pm.

Members are requested to bring a plate of supper.

Nominations for the committee and office bearers must be in the hands of the Secretary by the end of the March meeting.

**NO LATE NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Fred Harris  
Secretary**

## Defibrillation

Guest speaker Neil Harrop gave an interesting and timely talk about the use of defibrillators before the monthly meeting. Neil is a veteran paramedic with decades of experience and his talk followed a member's suggestion that it might be timely for us to have a reminder about using the club's defibrillator, should the need arise.



I am no first aid expert but I did learn the following in the case of cardiac arrest:

- ◇ Some CPR is better than none. Attempt CPR immediately (30 chest compressions and 2 breaths/minute). It is vital to maintain blood (and oxygen) supply to the brain and other organs. ;
- ◇ Call 000 ASAP to receive instruction and support from the operator
- ◇ Our machine is maintained and ready to go, if needed;
- ◇ Once opened, the machine itself provides clear verbal instruction about how to use it.

Neil said that cardiac arrest is caused by a blockage in the arteries supplying blood to the heart muscle. Resulting muscle damage causes the heart to "fibrillate" (flutter), leaving the patient with an irregular or no pulse.

The defibrillator works by applying an electric current to shock the heart into resuming a regular rhythm.

In Victoria there are 6,000 cardiac arrests each year: about half of these people die. Attempting CPR and using a defibrillator can increase the chance of survival significantly.

- Ed

**Photo: Neil Harrop demonstrates as Program Director, John Bailey listens attentively.**



# GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET



## 9th May 2020



### VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!

The Swap Meet has been running annually for many years and, pleasingly, gets better each year. The event is important for our club, but would not be possible without the generous support of our many volunteers, who donate their time in the lead up to, and on the day.

**Members who can volunteer, please register your name with either Kevin Smith or Murray Foran at the next monthly meeting.**

### VOLUNTEERS DINNER & INFORMATION NIGHT Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

A dinner followed by an information session will be held on this night in our Clubrooms, for all volunteers. This lovely dinner is provided by our wonderful lady members, and will commence at 6:30pm.

A comprehensive information session will follow the dinner and comprise a list of all duties that volunteers will undertake in the lead up and during the Swap Meet, together with rostering and emergency procedures.

This is your opportunity to ask any questions that you may have to ensure things run smoothly on the day.

Enquiries - Fred Harris,  
Swap Director  
0417 306 177

### SET UP DAY - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

On this day, we will need assistance from plenty of volunteers to help with the set up of the arena ahead of the Swap Meet the following day.

Morning tea and a BBQ lunch will be provided to volunteers attending. The more hands on deck we have, the quicker we will get the job done: we would be grateful if you are able to assist, even if it only be for an hour or two.

Fred Harris  
Swap Director  
0417 306 177

### SWAP DAY! Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020

We will be looking forward to another successful Swap Meet, and thank you again our generous volunteers.

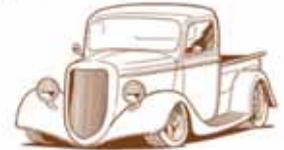
Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc

# GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET

**Sat. 9th May 2020**



**Geelong Showgrounds**  
(Melway Ref 452 E10)



Plenty of room for displays. Bargains for motorists, restorers, collectors, craft enthusiasts, DIY mechanics etc.

**7am start**

**Admission: Adults \$5 Children free**

Outdoor sites (10m X 6 m) \$10 plus \$5 admission charge.  
(No booking required for outdoor sites)

*AREA FOR DISPLAY AND SALE OF SPECIAL INTEREST VEHICLES*

Overnight camp sites available for stallholders only.

Food available on Friday evening from 4pm to 8pm.

Geelong mobile ATM facilities available on site.

**ENQUIRIES:**

*Hurry! A few indoor sites are still available.*

Phone: **0417 546 089**

Mail: WDHVC PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

STRICTLY NO DOGS ALLOWED IN SHOWGROUNDS NO FIRES PERMITTED  
NO UNAUTHORISED FOOD VENDORS  
NO RIDING OF SKATEBOARDS, BICYCLES, MOTOR BIKES OR  
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN SHOWGROUNDS

**PARKING FOR NON SELLERS IN  
RACECOURSE, BESIDE SHOWGROUNDS**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WDHVC EVENTS

See also -  
calendar summary  
on back page.

### 28 FEBRUARY - FRIDAY

**BACKFIRE FOLDING MORNING** 9am Clubrooms  
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

### 5 MARCH - THURSDAY

**MORNING COFFEE RUN** Meet at clubrooms at 9.45am sharp.  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 989)

### 6-9 MARCH - FRI to MON

**27TH ANNUAL AVOCA RALLY**  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 989)

### 8 MARCH - SUNDAY

10am—3.30pm  
**GEELONG ALL BRITISH VEHICLE DISPLAY** on the Waterfront.  
Contact: David Mitchell 0409 099 716

### 9 MARCH - MONDAY

Meet at entrance to Cunningham Pier 10am. Cars to be escorted onto pavilion lawn area for parking.  
**LABOUR DAY WATERFRONT DISPLAY**  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 10 MARCH - TUESDAY

**GENERAL MEETING** 7pm Clubrooms.

### 11 MARCH - WEDNESDAY

**DINE OUT** 6.15pm Clifton Springs Golf Club. Go into the wardrobe, shake all the pairs of pants, see what you find, and come and join us.  
Contact: Gary McCredden 5275 2544

### ~~15 MARCH - SUNDAY~~

~~8 older/English cars required please.~~  
~~**HIGHLAND GATHERING CAR DISPLAY**~~ Goldsworthy Reserve.  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 17 MARCH - TUESDAY

**COMMITTEE MEETING** 7.30pm. Clubrooms.

### 19 MARCH - THURSDAY

**TINKER DAY.** 10am start from our clubrooms for a run to Moriac to visit Dallas Jones. He has nearly completed his projects, or two, so there will be something of interest for everyone to look at. BYO everything as usual and be prepared to have a good laugh with us all. P.S. Please let me know of any venues that we can visit in the future.  
Contact: Ray van Galen 5278 9368. Mob. 0411 954 865. Barb's Mob. 0408 664 537

### 22 MARCH - SUNDAY

Meet in Inverleigh at 9.30am  
**FEDERATION PICNIC AT MORTLAKE.**  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)

### 24 MARCH - TUESDAY

**CRAFT/TECH NIGHT** Craft night topic : "Jewellery Making".  
Tech Night topic: "Why did I buy THAT car/bike?". That should promote some interesting discussions/debates/arguments/confessions! All welcome, even if you are not interested in technical stuff. Tell us about the wood gearstick knob, or the pink colour, or the "go faster stripes", or the layback seats, or the leather upholstery, or the 44 gallon drum boot, or to be flashier than the bloke next door. If you are not ready to bare your soul, you can sit quietly and listen to the others' stories/opinions. I guarantee that you will get a laugh. Ladies and guests are always welcome. We are an equal opportunity club. We arrive around 7pm, to get set up for a 7.30pm start. A plate of supper would be appreciated. Wear your name badge and be presented with a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG. See you there.  
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

### 28 MARCH - SATURDAY

**SMELL THE ROSES DAY.**  
10am start from the club rooms. This month we could go to Queenscliff for a nice cup of coffee and some yummy food at the water front cafés that are near the lookout and ferry area. Stay for lunch if you feel like a longer day. It is time to give my old Matchless a run, so that will be my ride for the day. Come in a car if you like, it is all about a day out with friends.  
Ray van Galen 5278 9368. Mob. 0411 954 865

### 30 MARCH - MONDAY

**APRIL BACKFIRE DEADLINE** By 5pm please.  
Contact: Jon Breedveld 0417 311 441

### 4 APRIL - THURSDAY

**MORNING COFFEE RUN** Meet at clubrooms at 9.45am sharp.  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 989)

### 10 APRIL - FRIDAY

**INVERLEIGH GOOD FRIDAY ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL APPEAL**  
Car display and more. Meet on site 10am. Victoria Park Inverleigh. Contact Dallas Jones, 0432 172 171.

### 13 APRIL - SATURDAY

Leave club rooms at 8.30am sharp.  
**ANZAC DAY BREAKFAST BBQ AT BARWON HEADS.**  
Contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 989)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## OTHER EVENTS

See also -  
calendar summary  
on back page.

**29 FEBRUARY - SATURDAY** COLAC SHOW 'N SHINE Memorial Square, Colac.  
Details: [colacshowandshine@colacrsl.com.au](mailto:colacshowandshine@colacrsl.com.au) Ph. 0427 821 435 or 0467 762 036

**15 MARCH - SUNDAY** WERRIBEE & DISTRICT SHOW 'N SHINE  
Wyndham Civic Centre carpark, 45 Princes Highway, Werribee.  
Details : [https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDCVC/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDCVC/events/?ref=page_internal)

**15TH MARCH - SUNDAY** GEELONG MOTOR SHOW Geelong Showgrounds. Organised by Road Kings . Proceeds to Beyond Blue. <https://cartorque.co/car-shows/geelong-motorshow-2020-hosted-by-road-kings-vic-3175>

**18 APRIL 2020 - SUNDAY** ECHUCA SWAP MEET Rotary Park, Rose St.  
Enquiries: 0456 010 665 [echucaswap@outlook.com](mailto:echucaswap@outlook.com)

**28 MARCH - 3 APRIL** AHMF NATIONAL MOTORING FESTIVAL Albury-Wodonga.  
Details : <https://www.ahmf.org.au/2020Tour/index.php>

**2-3 MAY - SAT & SUN** 39TH NARACOORTE SWAP MEET Naracoorte Showgrounds, Smith Street, Naracoorte, South Australia. Enquiries: 0408 854 658 or [naracoortehvc@gmail.com](mailto:naracoortehvc@gmail.com)

**29 to 31 MAY 2020** HISTORIC WINTON

**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.

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDCVC/events/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/WDCVC/events/?ref=page_internal)

John 0407 546 235.

- Rod Booley

**The Echuca & District Historic Vehicle Club Inc.**  
**Echuca Swap Meet Rotary Park, Rose St Echuca**  
Saturday, 18th April, 2020.  
Automotive parts & collectables welcome.  
Show & Shine open section & ladies only section.  
Prizes awarded.  
200 plus sites available at \$20/site. On site catering.  
Entry \$5 ea: children under 15 free.  
**Gates Open:** Sellers: 5am. Buyers: 7am.  
Enquiries: 0456 010 665 [echucaswap@outlook.com](mailto:echucaswap@outlook.com)  
\$500 donated to a local charity.

# RALLIES & RUNS

## Tinker Day February 2020



February tinker day was a visit to the old Portarlington flour mill. Drysdale ring road works slowed the trip a little.

A National Trust guide talked about the local aborigine people and William Buckley. He explained the history of the building. It was built as a flour mill to process local wheat and the flour was shipped to Melbourne by steamships. The mill closed after the local wheat crop became infected with rust and the machinery was moved to Horsham.

A brick kiln also operated close by but traces of this kiln have since disappeared.

The building is made of local sandstone with the tapering being walls thicker at the bottom than the top. This taper is visible when viewed from the outside. The building has a slate roof, which is supported by scissor trusses.



Upstairs, on the third floor, there was a collection of old stuff, including a woman-powered washing machine. Much more reliable than the modern electric one. (Sorry for being politically incorrect.)

One corner was a display on the SS 'Edina' – the longest serving screw steamer in the world. The Edina ended its working days on Port Phillip Bay, during which time it had many accidents, including a collision with a tug in the Bay. A local man collected artefacts when it was eventually broken up, but the collection was broken up and sold off when he passed away. A sad ending.



After exploring the mill, we went to the picnic area near the Portarlington Pier for lunch. A very good day and thanks to all.



- Lindsay Alford



# RALLIES & RUNS

## Technical Night January 2020

Toys were the thing to bring. We had lots of vintage toys on displays from members' own childhoods and some were passed down before that. I went on a Princess cruise and the average age of the passengers was 70, I think your club will beat that number!



Peter had a selection of his train set. The plastic is now getting very brittle.

Next was a model of an army work boat and an article about it and its construction crew that built the real ones.



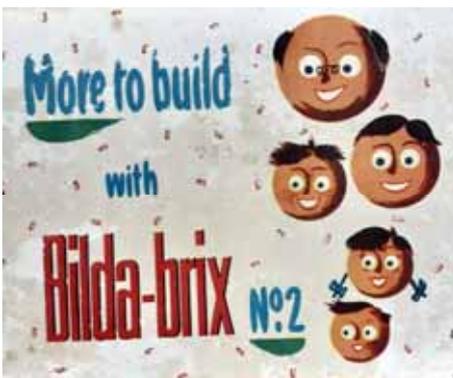
The oldest item was a cast iron money box. A coin was placed in his hand. When the button was pressed, the case opened and the money went into the case. It had an interesting story about its restoration.



There were a couple of Meccano sets and a Bilda-brix (similar to Lego). Australian toymakers during the 50's produced Ezy-bit (similar to Meccano) and Bilda-brix.



(Reference: <https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/exhibitions/construction-toys-and-instructional-play/>.)



A member told us about an unpleasant experience of wearing a hat with badges pinned to it. One of the badges was from a club with a questionable reputation. It was only produced in small quantities.

I had a Cyclops trike that was very old. I married the girl on the Cyclops trike and we still have it.



Some of the members had saved some toys they gave to their children. One was a robot, which still mostly works. Another was a portable computer game.

- Lindsay Alford



## Fred Cook Honoured

Former Club member, Fred Cook OAM, has been honoured by the City of Greater Geelong. Many readers will remember Fred Cook as an active member who was very involved in various aspects of the Club, particularly during the 1980's. and 90's.

Fred served on our Club Committee for several years and was assistant Club Captain for one year from April 1990 and then took on the role of Club Captain for the following three years. In this role he organised and coordinated club events and rallies. He was voted as Club Member of the year in both 1991 and 1992.



Fred Cook applied his skills to any task he took on and in 2010 he was awarded the "Order of Australia Medal", particularly recognising his involvement with the development of the Bellarine Rail Trail.

Fred Cook OAM, passed away on 25 September 2017 and in recognition of his community service, the City Of Greater Geelong has recently named a park in Christies Rd Leopold "The Fred Cook Reserve".

The Plaque at the Reserve reads –  
"Fred Cook OAM

*A true friend of the Bellarine Rail trail, Fred Cook was a keen environmentalist, bicycle rider, restorer, and collector.*

*From 2002 to 2017, Fred's tireless work for the Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail – collecting seeds, propagating plants and organising working bees – helped the group plant more than 80,000 trees and contribute more than 20,000 volunteer hours to improve the trail.*

*Naming of this reserve recognises his enormous contribution to the Geelong community."*

*- Trevor Schneider*



*The trailer as Fred & others built it in 1989*

Perhaps Fred will also be remembered as the builder of our club barbeque trailer, which he designed and constructed in 1989 with some help from several other members. A report in *Backfire* July 2009 summarises the history of construction of the BBQ trailer. What a success it has been and although it has required some upgrading in recent years to meet current compliance requirements, it has been an outstanding success over the past 30 years.

## More About the Mars Bar Bike

Motorbike enthusiast Manny Vella guessed the make of last month's Mars Bar Competition entry.

The rare 1916 Traub motorcycle has a cast iron, two-cylinder 80 cubic-inch side valve engine, with handmade pistons and rings - the most advanced of its time. The bike was reputedly capable of over 136 kph.

It is likely that the maker was Gottlieb Richard Traub (1883-1954) of Chicago. He was a talented machinist with a keen interest in motorcycles. He lived in Chicago from at least 1900 to 1920 and had his own shop. He wrote letters to the editor of *Motorcycle Illustrated* in both 1907 and 1910. In one of the letters to the editor he describes a motorcycle he was building that matches the 1916 Traub's specs..

The motorcycle was discovered by a worker renovating an old apartment in Paulina Street, Chicago in 1967. When he knocked down a brick wall this old bike emerged. The elderly apartment building owner claimed that her son had stolen a motorcycle before he went to participate in



*Photo: <http://bit.ly/20iw6pR>*

World War I, and never came back, likely killed in the war. She did not know the make or history of the bike.

The *Wheels Through Times Museum* acquired the Traub in 1990. The museum is in North Carolina and houses about 300 other rare motorcycles. <https://wheelsthroughtime.com/>

# RALLIES & RUNS

## February Smell the Roses Run

Well the weather was anything but cheery as I made my way to the car club rooms to start our ride off. But there they were, five other people all eager to go and check out the good food at Deans Marsh.

The rain had scared off most of our motorcycle riders as it was still raining in Geelong and all the way up to Moriac. We picked up Bryce at Moriac and went on to Deans Marsh without any more trouble from the rain as it had stopped by then. I can recommend the food at the eatery: while we were there, folks were coming and going the whole time for the nice food.

Rain is only water, and skin is waterproof. Another good day out.

### Participants were:

Ray van Galen	1986 Honda Shadow.
Rod Roach	Honda Goldwing.
Bryce Matthews	Honda 500 Single. (Raffle winner)
Barb van Galen	2008 Toyota Prado.
Bernard and Jean Ellson	1996 Land Rover.
Judith & Ray Matthews	Honda car (Raffle winner)

*Ray van Galen.*

## Torquay Motor Show

From all reports the Torquay Rotary Club Motor Show is going from strength to strength. So much so, that if you didn't arrive early this year, you couldn't get your car in! (Just ask our President!)

Some members did make it inside the sell out event with their cars. David Mitchell sent in this photo and reports:

"Here is a photo from the Torquay Motor Show today. It shows three Lancia Lambdas and their owners. John Hickford came out straight from hospital this morning to get there and Frank McKenzie, who they asked to turn his Riley hat backwards (but he wouldn't), has his neck brace on. Nothing stops these boys!!!"



## Targeting the Torpedo

A little bit of information to clear up the misuse of the "Torpedo" name. The Tucker Torpedo was a car that was never built. It would have had an aluminium body, central steering wheel, and a lot of expensive, and, at the time, impractical features.

Preston Tucker toned down his enthusiasm to build the slightly more practical Tucker 48, with a steel body, and steering wheel on the left. The press, remembering the publicity of the Torpedo, ignored the Tucker 48 name and called it the Tucker Torpedo.

Some advertisers jumped on the bandwagon, and misused the Torpedo name, so it stuck in people's minds.

There is an American specialist body builder that has built four replica Tucker 48's, using Cadillac running gear, and is now building a Tucker Torpedo replica, using Porsche running gear.



**The Tucker 48**

- Peter Telfer

# Great Mars Bar Competition

*The March Competition*



Just in time I had a member give me a picture of himself at the tender age of about 3.

Before we could reach dad's vehicle pedals, we had to make do with some really great toys that we owned or borrowed from our friends. As you can see this fellow loves bikes and is a great cats fan. I wonder who it could be?

"Be in it to win it" is the Mars Bar competition motto this month.

P.S. That was the last of my Mystery Member photos: please let me have some more. Thank you.

- Ray van Galen

## Photos URGENTLY needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen

Ph 52789 368,

or

email [rbvangalen@gmail.com](mailto:rbvangalen@gmail.com)



## VALE

### MARGARET & NEVILLE MARRIOTT

We record the passing of former club members, Margaret on the 18<sup>th</sup> January and also Neville on the 11<sup>th</sup> February.

In the formative years of the W.D.H.V.C, Neville was a very active member and was voted as "Club Member of the Year" in 1976. We express our sympathy to their family, Peter and Susan.

- Trevor Schneider



## WDHVC MEMBER PROFILE



### Name?

Ken

### Where were you born?

Baxter House, Geelong

### Family?

Wife Jenny, 1 son & 1 daughter, 4 granddaughters

### Number of years in the WDHVC?

14 years

### Other interests?

Speedway and hill climbs

### What was your first vehicle?

Austin A40

### What vehicle would you love to own ?

Cobra

### What vehicles do you have now?

1973 P76, 1965 XP Coupe

### Profession?

Fibreglass laminator, truck driver

### Skills?

Many

### What bugs you the most?

Driving under the speed limit

### What makes you happy?

Winning a hill climb

- Libby

Apologies to Harold, who was recorded last month as being a club member for 25 years. I t should have read 25+ years - and he tells me he has been a member for 37 years!

- Ed

## 2020 Membership Due

WDHVC membership fees are due by **31 March 2020**.

Bring your completed membership forms and money to the March meeting.

Monies will be collected between 6:30pm and 7:30pm before the meetings.

**No money will be accepted without a completed membership renewal form.**

### **Committee Nominations .**

Nominations for the committee and office bearers must be in the hands of the Secretary by the conclusion of the general meeting of 10 March 2020.

Nomination forms available in the clubrooms

**NO LATE NOMINATIONS  
WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the clubrooms on Tuesday, 14 April 2020, immediately after the monthly general meeting, which commences at 7:30pm.

## FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

### For Sale

**2013 Nissan X Trail.** Small 2/4 wheel drive. Excellent condition. Reg 1KF 9QV. VIN JN1TANT31A0208446. \$10,000. Call Ivan 0400 660 387. **3/20**

### **1986 Mercedes fuel injected 300 SE.**

Low kilometres and excellent presentation. Engine no. 103981.22023316. Very nice gold duco. Interior like new. On club plates. With roadworthy. \$10,000. Call Peter 0423 400 471. **1/20**



### Wanted:

**Exhaust pipe bending press,** wanted to borrow or buy. Call Leigh on 0468 763 054. **3/20**

### Clues:

**Copying Service.** Those wanting old movies, tapes, records or cassettes copied. \$10-\$15 ea. Call 0417 430 263.

## SOME MORE AUTOMOTIVE FIRSTS

From *"I Love Old Cars and Transport Stories"*  
- by Frank Rodwell OBE (\*over bloody eighty)

The first licence to drive a motor vehicle, under the South Australian Motor Traffic Act of 1904, was issued to William Arthur Hargraves, a chemist, of Woodville for his 6.5 hp Beeton-Humber, in August 1906. Later, the S.A.1 registration plate was fixed to his new 1926 Chevrolet, where it remained until his retirement in 1955. After 49 years of accident-free motoring he sold the car and handed in the plate.

*The first ten NSW plates were issued to the NSW State Government and government agencies the Police and the Fire Brigade. The plate was to be fitted to the front of the car only. Rear number plates did not appear until 1913. Licences were issued before registration plates, and usually issued locally by municipal authorities such as Councils. Plates, too, were issued by Councils in rural areas.*

The first petrol powered vehicle to be seen in Sydney was made by Mr H. Knight-Eaton of Brisbane. It was a bicycle with a small motor driving the rear wheel. It attracted a large crowd when demonstrated in George Street in 1896.

*Mrs Spencer Nolan was the first female to drive a car in New South Wales.*

- supplied by Fred Harris

For sale/wanted ads are free to Members and appear for **two issues** of *Backfire*. To remove advertisements from the newsletter earlier, email [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).

**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

POSTAGE  
PAID



1950 Armstrong Siddeley Utility

# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28 <b>Backfire</b> folding morning 9am Clubrooms	29 February <b>Colac</b> Show & Shine
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.						
1	2	3	4	5 Morning Coffee Run 9.45am	6	7
AVOCA RALLY 6 -9 MARCH						
8 <b>Geelong</b> All British Day 10am Waterfront	9 <b>Labor Day</b> Display 10am Waterfront	10 <b>General</b> Meeting 7.30pm Clubrooms	11 <b>Dine Out</b> 6.15pm Clifton Springs Golf Club	12	13	14
AVOCA RALLY 6 -9 MARCH						
15 <del>Highland</del> <b>CANCELLED</b> Gathering	16	17 <b>Committee</b> Meeting	18	19 <b>Tinker Day</b> Moriac 10am Clubrooms	20	21
22 <b>Federation</b> Picnic Mortlake. Meet Inverleigh 9.30am	23	24 <b>Craft/Tech</b> Night. 7pm Clubrooms	25	26	27	28 <b>Smell the</b> <b>Roses</b> 10am Clubrooms
29	30 <b>April 2020</b> <b>Backfire</b> Deadline	31	1 April	2 <b>Morning</b> Coffee Run 9.45am	3	4