

# BACKFIRE

Volume 52 No 1 May 2018

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



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



**Cover story Page 14**

*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.

## HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2018/2019

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Dallas Jones	0432 172 171
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	David Mitchell (Libby)	0409 099 716/5266 2009
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Fred Harris (Sharyn)	secretary@wdhvcgeelong.com.au 5259 2053
<b>TREASURER</b>	Maurice Healy (Barbara)	mbhealy@gmail.com 5251 3413
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
Rod Booley (Libby)	52815340	Cheryl Elliot 5248 0734
Damian Giustini (Teena)	0418 587 415	David Perkins (Jennifer) 0409 432 128
Rod Roach (Lorraine)	0438 783 902	Leone Saliba 0421 081 013
Gus Shea (Pam)	0400 203 151	Barb van Galen (Ray) 5278 9368
<b>RALLY CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Rod Booley (Libby)	52815340
<b>LONG DISTANCE RALLY CO-ORDINATOR</b>	Sharyn Harris (Fred)	5259 2053
<b>PROGRAM DIRECTOR</b>	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
<b>EDITOR</b>	Jon Breedveld (0417 311 441)	editor@wdhvcgeelong.com.au
<b>WEB SITE</b>	webd3sign@wdhvcgeelong.com.au	Damien (Gus) Giustini (Teena) 0418 587 415
<b>MINUTE SECRETARY</b>	Leigh Dwyer (5254 3149)	Em. Laurie Mills, Libby Booley
<b>CRAFT NIGHTS</b>	Shirley Kaub	0450 874 025
<b>CLUBROOM &amp; EQUIPMENT CARETAKERS</b>	Max McKenzie 5248 2380	Syd Clifton 5243 0053
	Bernie Turner 5248 5743	
<b>MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR</b>	Barb van Galen (Ray)	5278 9368
<b>TINKER DAYS</b>	Ray van Galen (Barb)	0411 954 865 5278 9368
<b>SOCIAL SECRETARY</b>	Jeanette Dragt	nettedgt@gmail.com 5282 1510
<b>VEHICLE COMPLIANCE OFFICERS</b>	Gus Shea (Pam) 0400 203 151	Dallas Jones 5266 1319
<b>BAY CITY SWAP DIRECTOR</b>	Fred Harris (Sharyn)	5259 2053
<b>BAY CITY SWAP COMMITTEE</b>	John Bailey 0413 258 302	Murray Foran 5248 2553
Max McKenzie 52482380	Mike Hanneysee 5222 3197	Ray van Galen 5278 9368
<b>CLUB MERCHANDISE SALES</b>	David Mitchell 0409 099 716	Rod Roach (Lorraine) 0438 783 902
<b>PRINTING OFFICER</b>	Peter Telfer (Gaylene)	5248 8610
<b>CLUB PHOTO MAINTENANCE</b>	Barry Collinson (Lorraine)	5259 3625
<b>LIBRARIAN</b>	Gary McCredde (Sadie)	5275 2544
<b>FEDERATION DELEGATES</b>	Max Tucker and Cheryl Elliot	
<b>LADIES COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATORS</b>	Pam Shea (Gus)	0487 696 097
Rhonda Foran (Murray)	5248 2553	Jeanette Dragt 5282 1510
<b>RGAPS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE</b>	vacant	
<b>LIFE MEMBERS</b>	Max Tucker	Trevor Schneider
	Fred Harris	Tom Ivory
<b>CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR</b>	Rod Booley	
<b>ERIC BAKER MEMORIAL AWARD</b>	TBA	

# CONTENTS

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2018/2019 .....	2
CONTENTS .....	3
PRESIDENT'S PIECE .....	3
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES .....	4
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd APRIL FEATURE VEHICLE.....	5
AGM MINUTES AND PHOTOS .....	6
SECRETARY'S & PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018 .....	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS .....	8
CALENDAR OF EVENTS ctd & 2018 PRESIDENT'S REPORT ctd .....	9
FINANCIAL FAILURES (Amphicar) .....	10
RALLIES & RUNS .....	11
SWAP MEET ADVERTISEMENT .....	12
SWAP MEET VOLS NEEDED & MEMBER PROFILE .....	13
AN ENQUIRY FROM THE USA .....	14
MARS BAR COMPETITION & SALES, WANTED & CLUES .....	15
CALENDAR .....	16

## President's Piece

Well, the last meeting was something different: well it was for me.

Thank you to the members for entrusting me with the role of leading the club for the next year. I am all about the club doing the stuff we like and enjoying the fellowship whilst getting out in our vehicles of choice. After all, it's what brings us together in the first place.

I thank the out-going President for all his work in making this wonderful club just that bit more wonderful. He and his committee have taken on many challenges over the last 3 years and in my mind, the club is in a better place for their efforts.



*New President, Dallas Jones*

I welcome the new committee and look forward to working with them. We have some new faces which often means they bring with them new ideas. We have some, dare I say "old" faces, and with them they bring experience. It should be a good mix. Of course as there were more candidates than positions: some missed out.

I thank these members for nominating and urge you to do so again next year. The fact that there were so many members wanting to be involved with the management of the club is a good sign of how healthy WDHVC is.

In the meantime, get out with your vehicle or get out in your shed.

Dallas

**Photo: Outgoing President John welcomes new President Dallas at the AGM.**



# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 579 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.  
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 at 7.30PM

## PRESIDING

President John Bailey opened the meeting and welcomed 126 members to the meeting.

## APOLOGIES

Alex Booley, Coral & Brian Nicholson, Allan Tipper, Lorraine Roach, Tiny Stonehouse, Lindsay Hose, Neil Remeus, Robert East, David Mitchell, Barbara Healy, Ern Miller, Gwen Tucker, Les Harrison, Hank Fiolet, Mike Hanneysee.

Moved: Damian Giustini

Seconded: Jim Coates Carried

## SICK LIST

None this month.

## MINUTES

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

Moved: Roger Sykes

Seconded: Graham Cameron Carried

## CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

### INWARD

#### Letters In

- Wool Exchange restaurant menu.
- Geelong East Rotary acceptance for the Swap Meet.
- City of Greater Geelong food premises permit for the Swap Meet.

#### Emails In

- Separate resignation emails from Lorraine Lee, Cliff & Rhonda Domaschenz, John & Joan Lydom.
- Geelong Revival request for 2018 event volunteers.
- Eden Park confirming visit on 11<sup>th</sup> April.
- MotorEx car show at Melbourne Showgrounds on May 26 and 27.
- New member enquiry from Scotty M.
- Consumer Affairs Victoria annual statement reminder.
- City of Greater Geelong reminder on Swap signs.

## OUTWARD

### Letters Out

- Vic Roads to advise that David Wright is a current financial member.

### Emails Out

None

Moved: Graham Cameron

Seconded: Ken Parry Carried

## TREASURER'S REPORT (Maurice)

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

Moved: Maurice Healey

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

Hopes to have an undertaker quest speaker for a future meeting.

## LIBRARY (Gary)

Library books on motorbikes and sports cars recommended this month.



President John presented Gary with a bag of Morgan spare parts (wood shavings) and a bow tie made from discarded interior trim.

## DINE OUT (Gary)

Next Dine Out will be at the Valley Inn.

## COMMITTEE REPORT (David)

No report this month.

## TINKER DAY (Ray)

Next Tinker day is at a water jet cutting business in Grovedale.

## MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

Leigh correctly guessed Libby Booley.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

### VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

- The Club now has 500 cars on the Vehicle Permit scheme.
- Members are reminded to please let the Club know if you sell a car on the club scheme.

### DISPLAY VEHICLE

John Hickford and Warrick Beanland (John's son in law) brought in Warrick's Lancia V8 Ford Special. John had worked on the car as a boy in 1945 at a Hawthorn car wrecker when the car was shortened from 4 to 2 doors and the V8 engine fitted. A very interesting car from a time when the Lancia had little value and could be heavily modified to give it a second life.

### CRAFT NIGHT (Linda)

Tassels this month's craft night.

### RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (Rod )

- The coffee run last month was to Basil's Farm near Queenscliff.
- Despite the bad weather on the day about eight members cars were at the recent Highland Gathering.
- About 90 old cars attended the Federation picnic at Mortlake this year including about 10 cars from our Club.
- The P76 Nationals were recently held in Wodonga.
- The Inverleigh Good Friday event was very successful again this year, raising over \$30,000.
- ANZAC day run will be to Barwon Heads.
- Ladies Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Van Loons. Partners can meet at Fred's for a BBQ. Please let him know if you will be attending.
- The Sea Sick rally numbers are still not finalised.

### LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

Current organising this year's rally.

### TECH NIGHT (Peter)

Brakes are the topic of this month's Tech Night.

### SWAP MEET (Fred)

All preparations are well under way but more volunteers needed on Saturday.

### KITCHEN (Rhonda)

Thanks to the members who brought a plate for the supper tonight.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Vic Roads has sent out a survey on the plate permit scheme. Two members at the meeting have been asked to respond.

### FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Dallas Jones has purchased a Lotus Clubman replica. He is looking for the right engine and gearbox. Please contact him if you can help.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

***Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 8th May 2018 in the clubrooms.***

- Leigh Dwyer

## April Feature Vehicle

For the April meeting John Hickford and Warrick Beanland (John's son in law) brought in Warrick's 1927 Lancia V8 Ford Special for display in the workshop. The original car had been heavily modified and was powered by a 1936 Ford "flat top" V8, which was fitted in the 1940s for use in hill climbing competitions.



John had worked on the car as a 14-15 year old boy in 1945 at a Hawthorn car wrecker owned by Ron Chandler and his brother. The car was shortened from 4 to 2 doors, with a canvas cover over the shortened tail. John recalls putting his bicycle in the back and getting a lift home after his weekend at the wreckers. Now 72 years later he is still driving the car and both men will take the wheel at the Winton Regularity Trial.

A very interesting car from a time when the Lancia had little value and could be heavily modified to give it a second life.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC. HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018.

## PRESIDING :

President John Bailey.

## APOLOGIES

As tendered at the April General Meeting.

## MINUTES

Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on April 11th 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: Rod Booley Seconded: Jim Coates Carried

## REPORTS

The President and Secretary presented their Annual Reports, to be published in the May *Backfire*.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer read the statement of incoming and outgoing expenses as compiled by our auditor, Gary Harbert, which is available for members to review.

Moved: Maurice Healey  
Seconded: Libby Booley

Carried

Ken Parry moved that the auditor be re-appointed.

Moved : Ken Parry

Seconded: Barb van Galen

Carried

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

President John noted that Mike Hanneysee, Ray van Galen and Peter Telfer had chosen not to re-nominate for a Committee position. He thanked them for their support and contribution to the Club.

President John vacated the Chair and introduced life member Trevor Schneider who took the Chair, thanking John and all the office bearers for their work over the previous year.

All executive positions were declared vacant. Committee nominations exceeded the positions available and so a vote was held.

The successful nominations were:

*President:* Dallas Jones

*Vice President:* David Mitchell

*Secretary / Public Officer, Consumer Affairs*

*Notification for Incorporated Association:*

Fred Harris

*Treasurer:* Maurice Healey

## *General Committee:*

David Perkins

Rod Roach

Gus Shea

Rod Booley

Leonie Saliba

Barb Van Galen

Cheryl Elliott

Damian Giustini.

## PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

25 year membership badges were presented to:

- Robert & Shirley Kaub



- Les Mervin



- John & Pat Hickford



- Murray & Rhonda Foran



- Colin & Rhonda Gardiner



- Ian Duncan

The Club Person of the Year award was presented to Rod Booley.



Meeting closed at 9:50pm followed by supper.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

When I look back over the last 12 months one wonders how quickly time can go by, but our club has had a very successful year.

The Swap committee along with an army of volunteers organised another great day. Stall holders came from near and far and along with good weather, good attendances and our volunteers and the ladies with Devonshire Teas all culminated into an successful Swap.

Many thanks to every volunteer who helped to make it so.

We require many more volunteers for our Swap next month.

Our Club has held many rallies, bus trips, BBQs, luncheons, dine-outs, tinker days, coffee runs, display days, ladies rallies, tech nights, craft nights, long distance rallies, motor bike runs and many more. There is always good attendances and a great variety of vehicles, but it would be nice to see some of the ones that don't see much daylight.

The committee have again worked very tirelessly over the last 12 months to keep steering the club in the right direction. There have been many issues to address and I am sure the right outcomes have been achieved.

There is an enormous amount of work and time given by a lot of members who most of the membership don't realise the job that is done. The list would be too long to mention, but to all of them we appreciate what you do to keep our club running smoothly.

I, along with you all, would like to thank our outgoing President John Bailey for the three years he has been at the helm. He has brought humour, friendliness and organised bus trips, for which he has been the driver, and addressed many issues along the way.

I would also like to thank our Treasurer Maurice Healy for his commitment in keeping the club finances in order.

Also to Vice President Dallas Jones for filling in for John when needed.

We all look forward to the next 12 months of club activities so keep those wheels turning.

Enjoy the driving and the friendship.

Fred Harris  
Secretary

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2018

### Final Presidents Report - 11 April 2018

Three years have come and gone so quickly, and I find myself looking back over those years with a great deal of satisfaction. I feel I have done the best I can to continue all that makes our club so strong, and one that people want to be part of.

The highlight for me was having the honour of being your President on the occasion of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Wow, what a year! So many of you contributed to an exciting menu of events, for which I am so grateful.

The advent of our special ladies day is now a calendar favourite, an opportunity to express our thanks for all that our lady members continue to do, mostly behind the scenes.

Our bus trips to the various swap meets have proved most worthwhile. We always managed to return with more strange objects that seem to make us happy.

Our Tinker Days are another winner, offering such a broad range of interesting pastimes that lots of you are offering to share with your fellow club members. Who would have thought that so many intriguing activities take place behind shed doors? Good on you Ray van Galen for initiating this favourite – a job well done. Keep it up!

Ray also pops in an occasional Smell the Roses outing for those who want the chance to fall off their motorbikes!

Yet another favourite is the craft and tech night. The ladies enjoy their crafty pursuits as some ladies and men participate in a tech activity. Lots of discussion about all sorts of topics, making it a most enjoyable, fun evening. Good on you to Linda Parker and Peter Telfer: another job well done. Keep it up!

Once again, there has been a wonderful range of car runs to places of interest. The organisation and time involved to make these trips available to you for your enjoyment men enormous amounts of time and effort. For all this we have our rally directors Rod and Libby Booley. Sincere thanks: good on you both, keep it up!

Who doesn't love the morning coffee runs! How clever to seek out so many hidden spots to enjoy coffee cake and lots of jibber! Good on you Rod Booley: well done, keep it up!

The monthly dine outs on Wednesdays provide yet another opportunity to socialise and explore a range of tasty destinations. Good on you Gary McCredden: well done, keep it up!

During these years we have lost more of our long-time members. They are missed. (Ctd P9)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WDHVC EVENTS

**See also -  
calendar summary  
on back page.**

### **25th APRIL - WEDNESDAY** -

### **ANZAC DAY BREAKFAST RUN TO BARWON HEADS**

8.30am at the Clubrooms. SUPPLIED - bacon, eggs, bread, boiling water, tea, coffee, sugar, milk. BYO - table, chairs, crockery, cutlery and anything else you require. If you want to bring something to cook and stay for lunch, the BBQ will be there for your use until after lunch.

*Contact: Murray Foran on 5248 2553 or 0409 841 700.*

### **28 APRIL - SATURDAY**

### **SMELL THE ROSES DAY.**

10.30am start from our clubrooms for a ride led by Manuel Vella to local places suitable for older bikes. The ride will end up at Manuel's place and he will have a snag on the Barbie for us to enjoy as well. What more could you ask for?

*Contact: Ray van Galen 5278 9368*

### **3 MAY - THURSDAY**

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

Barwon Edge Boat House, Newtown. Dust off the old girls (cars) for a short run.

*Contact: Rod Booley 52815340 (0417 021 982)*

### **6 MAY - SUNDAY**

### **SEA SICK RALLY.**

Meet at Queenscliff Ferry Terminal at 9.45am to pick up our passengers. Morning Tea & BBQ Lunch supplied.

*For catering please contact: Rod Booley 5281 5340 (0417 021 982)*

### **8 MAY - TUESDAY**

### **GENERAL MEETING** 7.30pm. Clubrooms.

### **9 MAY - WEDNESDAY**

### **DINE OUT** 6.15pm. White Eagle House, Breakwater

Shake all your trousers in the wardrobe, pick up the notes and coins, and join us.

*Contact: Gary McCredden 5275 2544.*

### **10 MAY - THURSDAY**

### **SWAP MEET VOLUNTEERS' INFORMATION DINNER** 6.30pm

Clubrooms. (for all those who are volunteering on Swap Meet Day—Sat 12 May)

### **11 MAY - FRIDAY**

### **SWAP MEET SET UP DAY** Volunteers needed to help set up the

arena for the Swap Meet. Morning tea and a BBQ lunch provided. The more hands on deck, the quicker we will get the job done: even if you can assist for an hour or two.

*Contact: Fred Harris (Swap Director) 5259 2053*

### **12 MAY - SATURDAY**

### **BAY CITY SWAP MEET.**

*Contact: Fred Harris (Swap Director) 5259 2053*

### **15 MAY - TUESDAY**

### **MAY COMMITTEE MEETING** 7.30pm.

### **16 MAY WEDNESDAY**

### **CAR DISPLAY AND VISIT WITH GenU.**

Details at next meeting.

### **17 MAY – THURSDAY**

### **TINKER DAY.**

A 10.30am start from our clubrooms this time. We have a treat in store for you this time, as we are going to visit a workshop where classic racing bikes get built and restored to racing specifications. Brendan O'Neil will show us all his machines for restoration, and the results of his labours when the work is finished. Brendan did the crankshaft work of my Indian for me. We can then have our lunch at a destination of choice on the day.

*Ray van Galen. Home Ph 5278 9368. Ray's mobile 0411 954 865. Barb's mobile 0408 664 537*

### **19 MAY- SATURDAY**

### **SMELL THE ROSES DAY.**

10.30am start from the Drysdale Train Station, NOT THE CLUBROOMS, for a pleasant run for very old or not so old bikes. Greg Stephenson is going to lead us astray on this run, but it will not be a long run and at the end of it we can relax at Greg and Vicki's backyard for a coffee or a cold drink.

*Ray van Galen 5278 9368.*

### **20 MAY- SUNDAY**

### **PUPPY DOG PICNIC DAY.**

Bring your pooch out for a picnic at the Bellbrae Reserve. BYO everything including dog , lead and poo bags.

*Contact: Rod Booley 52815340 (0417 021 982)*

### **22 MAY - TUESDAY**

### **TECH NIGHT** Here's one for all you bright sparks ; we will be cover-

ing IGNITION. Bring along anything related - distributors, caps, rotors, coils, leads, plugs, ballast resistors, modules, transistors and other electronics. Timing equipment, magnetos and trembler coils would also be nice to see, as well as anything else you can think of. Be at the clubrooms around 7pm, so we can get set up for a 7.30pm start. As usual, visitors are welcome.



Ladies also welcome to attend Tech Night or Craft Night, or to just have a cuppa and a chat. A plate would be appreciated, so we can enjoy a nibble with our cuppa at the end of the night.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

**25 MAY - FRIDAY**

**JUNE BACKFIRE DEADLINE**

Contact: Jon Breedveld 0417 311 441

**3 JUNE - SUNDAY**

**LUNCH RUN TO RAILWAY HOTEL, BANNOCKBURN.**

Meet at clubrooms 10.45am. Contact Rod Booley, 52815340, (0417021982)

Contact: Rod Booley 52815340 (0417 021 982)

**7 JUNE - THURSDAY**

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

Contact: Rod Booley 52815340 (0417 021 982)

**17 JUNE - SUNDAY (Note Date Change)**

**EX-PRESIDENT'S RALLY.** Meet at Gus and Pam

Shea's, at 10.30am. Dickens Rd, Mt Duneed. BYO Lunch and chair. Club BBQ in attendance.

Contact: Rod Booley 52815340 (0417 021 982)

***OTHER EVENTS- 2018***

**29 APRIL- SUNDAY**

**SWAN HILL SWAP MEET**

Showgrounds, cnr McCallum & High Sts. Sites \$20. Entry \$5.

Contact: Craig 0419 574 414.

**8 -11 JUNE**

**HAMILTON & DISTRICT VETERAN VINTAGE AND CLASSIC**

**DRIVERS CLUB.** Queen's Birthday Weekend Rally at Hamilton.

**LAST SUN EVERY MONTH**

**Werribee & District Collectable Vehicle Club Inc meet.**

9am to noon (weather permitting) car park cnr. Cherry St & Kelly St Werribee. Free entry. Have a bite to eat and a coffee. Talk car stuff with car-minded people.

Jeff 0412 705 245. John 0407 546 235.

- Rod Booley

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Ctd)**

Now for the most important summing up of my thoughts –

The sincere thank you's.

To Dallas Jones, my right-hand man who took meetings in my absence, and all the chats we had on the phone to support me, and for your valued opinions on so many levels. Thanks so much for your support.

To Fred Harris, our secretary. Thanks so much for the wonderful job you continue to do in your role, and once again, the support that has been needed along the way in order to reach the best outcomes.

To Maurice Healy for the outstanding job managing our finances. You never failed to be reliable and give support when needed. Thanks so much.

To the general committee. You have been a pleasure to work with. I feel we have been a cohesive group always working in the best interests of our club. I'm sure you all feel as though you are able to express your opinions freely and are happy to go with what best for the majority. This is how successful committees and clubs work.

A big thank you to our minute-takers at the meetings – Leigh Dwyer, Laurie Mills and Libby Booley. What a task you have undertaken so willingly and well. Thank you so much.

We love our magazine which just gets better and better. For this we have Jon Breedveld to thank. A great job so well done. Good on you to John. Keep it up!

To three special people who have helped me immensely throughout my three years. Their wisdom when more thought was required beyond my expertise, and further opinion was required, was invaluable. They are Trevor Schneider, Max Tucker, and David Perkins for his legal advice. Sincere thanks to you all.

And to all those who continue to do wonderful things in the club, mostly unseen and unacknowledged. Please know that these efforts are appreciated: the glue that keeps us connected and motoring along happily.

To Dallas, I wish you all the best as you take up the position as President. I know you will be wonderful for our club.

To David Mitchell who has taken on our Vice President's role, I thank you also and know what a strong team you will make together.

When I began in this role of President, one of my ambitions was, whatever state of mind you entered our clubrooms with, it was important to me that you left with a smile on your face. You haven't let me down. That makes me happy. Thank you.

John Bailey  
President

# The World's Worst Cars?

As taken from *The World's Worst Cars* by Craig Cheetham

## MOTORING MISFITS

*Please don't take offence if your car features in this segment - the series is only a bit of fun to add to our magazine. And after all, the views expressed are only one man's opinion!*

"Some cars are truly awful, yet it is impossible to pinpoint why. They are either out of place because they are so obscure, or – worse – are completely wrong in almost every respect. They are motoring monstrosities that should never have seen the light of day ... Many of them are historically interesting and may even have acquired something of a cult reputation."

### AMPHICAR (1961-68)

#### Specifications

TOP SPEED: 113KM/H (70MPH)  
0-96KMH (0-60MPH); 42.9 SECS  
ENGINE TYPE IN-LINE 4  
DISPLACEMENT: 1147CC (70CI)  
WEIGHT: 1041KG (2315LB)  
MILEAGE: 8.8L/100KM (32MPG)

Germany has one very small coastline, right up in the freezing cold north of the country. So quite why its creator, a slightly eccentric engineer called Hans Trippel, thought his Amphicar would entice German buyers is anyone's guess. But Toppel's barmy creation was nothing if not ingenious and was designed to be just as capable in the water as it was on the road.

In reality, though, it wasn't a success. For starters, any car that's supposed to be capable of travelling in water should surely be properly rust-proofed. Trippel thought otherwise, which meant that many of the vehicles sprang leaks and sank when corrosion took hold. Then there was the fundamental issue that, despite the best laid plans of its creator, it was no good either as a road vehicle or as a boat.

On tarmac, the upright body made the handling perilous, while in water, the gasoline engine was prone to seizure through water ingress.

The power plant itself came from the British Triumph Herald, despite the availability of a number of alternative German units that might have been more suitable, and would certainly have been less expensive or complicated for Trippel to source. But for some reason he chose the overhead-valve unit, which at least meant it was easy to source replacement parts when you inevitably drowned your first engine.

You would expect an amphibious car to be well-waterproofed, wouldn't you? But many an Amphicar failed when water got into the engine, causing it to seize, while water traps in the body seams encouraged rust.

Even the wheel arches were sculpted in a style to echo the look of ocean waves. Hans Trippel's creation was nothing if not unusual. It was also innovative – to turn the Amphicar into a boat, all you had to do was drive it into the water, whereupon a propeller took over from the road wheels to provide motion. Sadly, the amphibious car was too much of a compromise. It wasn't brilliant in water, and it was awful on the road, offering terrible handling and no grip whatsoever, while the Triumph-sourced engine felt underpowered.

**IS IT A CAR? IS IT A BOAT?** The Amphicar was certainly unusual- and quite advanced for its time. The problem was that it was no good either on the road or in the water. And who on earth would actually want one?

#### Taken from *March JUST CARS*.

Recently added to the collection of the Gosford Classic Car Museum (GCCM) in the form of a 1966 Amphicar 770. Between 1961 and 1968, it's estimated that 3,878 Amphicars were built by German company IWK. Of that total, almost 80 per cent went to the USA, where the GCCM's example was sourced from late last year.

The car featured a particularly low first gear ratio that made for easier egress on boat ramps and river banks with gradients as steep as 37 per cent. The GCCM's test on Brisbane Water and Sydney Harbour, but it's very much a 'still water' vehicle, despite decent freeboard of 14 inches (355mm). An electric bilge pump was standard equipment.

The Amphicar never reached anywhere near IWK's 100,000-unit break-even point before the project was wound up.

- Graham Pretlove



# RALLY & RUNS

## March Tech Night at Bailey's Shed

John Bailey looked through the Morgan web site and found a damaged Morgan for sale and could not resist buying it to match his other Morgan. It had been parked and a car ran into the back of it. It was to be restored/repared but the previous owner did not have time and sold it to John. It is a 1980 Morgan with a Cortina GT motor with a steel chassis with a steel and wooden framed passenger compartment.

John is rebuilding the wood/steel section, replacing the English wood with good Australian Mountain Ash. He showed us how he bent wooden rear wheel arches from plywood. A number of sheet of plywood was bent over a form and then clamped together. The mudguards then have an extension pressed out of steel.

Rob Kaub showed us how to panel beat the dent out of this guard. I have written a Technical Night report on Rob ('Backfire' August 2017, P 11. Find it on the club web site. <http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com.au/backfireaug17web.pdf>



John showed us how to expand and shrink sheet metal angle to produce a curve, using a special tools. A very useful tool for making curved panels with a 90 degree bend in them.

He also had made a sheet metal bender. Commercial ones are made from cast iron, but John fabricated his by welding steel plate together. It also featured cam activated clamp to hold the steel in place.

Tea coffee and biscuits where provided. A good night by all: thank you John for showing us your restoration and shed.

- Lindsay Alford

## April Tinker Day

This month Ray arranged for the Club to visit a business in Grovedale that cuts things with a water jet.

Water Cutting Geelong is in Bailey Street, run by Colin and Sandy and they can use their machine to cut almost any material. They use Computer Aided Design to make the shapes of what they want to cut and then this file is loaded onto the cutting machine and cuts exactly to the file. No manual operation, it is all done by computer.

They can cut garden creations, letterboxes, engineering components, all metals, pavers, tiles, rubber, gaskets, flat pack fire pits etc.

While we were there they demonstrated by cutting a Corvette shape in metal and a plywood "tree of life". (see photo below)



The machine uses a 1mm water jet at very high pressure with fine garnet grains mixed in to help cutting. It is capable of cutting steel up to 120mm thick but also does very thin soft materials.

Many thanks to Colin and Sandy for the hospitality and they even included a cuppa. Afterwards Helen and Graham kindly invited everyone back to their place for lunch. We had a large turnout from the club with 38 people attending and we thoroughly enjoyed a very informative day. Even the weather was great.

David Mitchell

## March Smell the Roses Run Cancelled

Due to the Total Fire Ban on the day, we were forced to cancel the run as is the WDHVC total fire ban day policy.

- Ray van Galen.

Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc

# GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET



Sat. 12th May 2018



**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:**

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**

# GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET



12th May 2018



## WDHVC MEMBER PROFILE

### **VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!**

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

At the April and May meetings, we will require members who wish to volunteer, to register their interest with either Kevin Smith or Murray Foran.

### **VOLUNTEERS DINNER & INFORMATION NIGHT**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

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  
(03) 5259 2053

### **SET UP DAY - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

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  
(03) 5259 2053

### **SWAP DAY! Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

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



#### **Name?**

Mick

#### **Where were you born?**

Geelong

#### **Family?**

Wife Trish, 3 daughters and 4 grand children

#### **Number of years in the WDHVC?**

11 years

#### **Other interests?**

Woodwork

#### **What was your first vehicle?**

1949 Ford Prefect

#### **What vehicle would you love to own?**

Shelby Cobra Mustang, top of the range

#### **What vehicles do you have now?**

1948 Chevrolet

#### **Profession?**

Wood machinist

#### **Skills?**

Woodwork and pottering

#### **What bugs you the most?**

Flat batteries in Avoca

#### **What makes you happy?**

Comfy bed and a good night's sleep



- Libby

#### *Footnote:*

Mick made the raffle ticket spinning barrel that Barb van Galen and Rod Booley use on our tinker days and runs.

# Affordable British Classics

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

## MGA

**T**HE Abingdon-built MGA was a dramatic step forward for MG in terms of their production sports cars. Compared with the T-series it was totally different, although it was actually close to a special TD raced at Le Mans in 1951 by George Phillips.

Sporting motorists thrilled to the MGA when it was launched in 1955. It was built on a solid steel chassis, which thrilled the purists, and it had a top speed of almost 100mph, a substantial improvement for the company. The low, sleek body was graceful and purposeful at the same time, and the cockpit provided comfortable accommodation for two.

Because of BMC's rationalisation plans the car used an updated version of the B-series engine, breathing through twin SU carburettors. Power output was initially 68bhp, raised soon after the launch to 72bhp. There was a four-speed gearbox, with synchro on the upper three ratios only.

Front suspension was by wishbones with coil springs,



1961 shot of the MGA 1600 Mk II with 1622cc engine

with leaf springs at the rear. The car had rack and pinion steering, with large drum brakes all round.

It was a fabulous car to drive, and everything a sports car should be. It was fast for the mid fifties, handled particularly well, had very good steering and really looked the part. It was, however, a bit too heavy to be seriously successful in competition work but, nonetheless, it did well in

competitions and rallies all over the world.

To improve performance, the Twin Cam was introduced in 1958, producing 108bhp from a twin overhead camshaft, 1588cc version of the B-series engine. Unfortunately, the engine proved unreliable, and required extremely high-octane petrol to run properly. It was dropped after only 2111 had been built.

However, from May 1959

the car was given a pushrod version of the Twin Cam engine and this model, the MGA 1600 Mk I, was welcomed with open arms. Because of its extra speed (more than 100mph) it was given Lockheed front disc brakes.

Final version was the 1600 Mk II, from 1961-'62, using a 1622cc version of the engine, with twin carburettors.

When buying, examine the chassis carefully and the more vulnerable areas of the body. The engines are long-lasting, as are the gearboxes, and parts are readily available. A really good 1600 roadster will cost around £12,000, but an average-condition fixed head version will be £4000 to £5000.

### ENGINE/POWER

1500 .....	1489cc/68-72bhp
1600 .....	1588cc/79bhp
1600 Twin Cam .....	1588cc/108bhp
1600 Mk II .....	1622cc/86bhp

**SPEED** ..... 100-113mph

**PRODUCTION** ..... 1955-62

**ECONOMY** ..... 22-28mpg

## AN ENQUIRY FROM THE USA

I was delighted to receive the following email last month. Apart from being testimony to the far reach of the WDHVC, I also noted Mark's enquiry about the original artwork that inspired the cover of the early *Backfires*. If anyone can tell me how to find out who did the original artwork, I would be pleased to pass the details on to Mark. - Ed

6 April 2018

Jon Breedveld,  
Backfire Editor

My sister is touring Australia now and happened on the 50th Anniversary issue of *Backfire* with its singular cover.

I thought you might like to see a photo of the original which is proudly displayed in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

It was given to Dave Doman, an original co-secretary of the club, when he left Australia after three years at Fords in Geelong.

I'm Dave's son and was at many of the early WDHVC gatherings as a teenager. I'm tickled to know that the club survives and thrives.

Do you have any idea who created the original artwork? There was no hint on or behind it when I had it re-framed after seeing the 50th anniversary *Backfire*.

All the best,

Mark

Mark Doman

Ann Arbor, Michigan



The re-framed original artwork that inspired the *Backfire* covers

(Post script: Dave Doman and Malcolm King shared the WDHVC secretary's job in 1967-68. Mr Doman was among those who initiated the formation of the Club and recorded the Minutes at its first organisational meeting, held in a private home at 90 North Valley Rd Highton on Wednesday 15 March 1967. In 1968 he was listed in Club records as owning a 1908 Franklin and a 1922 Packard.)

# Great Mars Bar Competition

## The May Competition



Now this young feller would not tell me how old he was in this photo, but I know he was riding motor bikes and driving all sorts of other vehicles well before he got hold of his licence to do it legally. (Didn't we all!)

But that SAFETY PITH HELMET is straight from the wars in Egypt soooo long ago.

Your guess will win you a monster big Mars Bar if you get it right.

- Ray van Galen

### More photos needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen

Ph 52789 368,

or

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



Our 25th Avoca Run made the local paper, something event organiser Gary McCredden drew attention to during his "Library Ramble". Pictured are Gary Mellington and Graeme Paech with the Pyrenees Advocate.

# SALES, WANTED & CLUES

## Wanted

Weber side draft carby, manifold and air cleaner for crossflow 1600cc motor.

Early Mini, Marina, Austin 1800 etc wiper motor mechanism, arms, blades etc. Prefer flexible cable type but will make do with hard tube type if needed. Call Dallas 0432 172 171 **5/8**

3 legged puller to remove brake drums off FJ Volvo & Morris cars. Call Gus 0400 203 151 **5/18**

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

[editor@wdhvcgeelong.com.au](mailto:editor@wdhvcgeelong.com.au) (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.au/wdsale.html>

**All ads remain on the [website](#) until you request their removal.** To remove an ad from the [website](#), email [webd3sign@wdhvcgeelong.com.au](mailto:webd3sign@wdhvcgeelong.com.au) (Ph 0418 587 415)

## Quotes About Cars

"The elderly don't drive that badly; they're just the only ones with time to do the speed limit."

- Jason Love



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 undelivered return to:  
 WDHVC  
 PO Box 200  
 Newcomb VIC 3219

**PRINT POST APPROVED**  
**PP 1000/19091**

POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 AUSTRALIA

# BACKFIRE



## May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24 Craft/Tech Night 7pm Clubrooms	25 8.30am Anzac Day B'fast Run to Barwon Heads	26	27	28 Smell the Roses 10.30am Clubrooms
29 Swan Hill Swap Meet	30 April	1 May	2	3 Morning Coffee Run Clubrooms 9.45am	4	5
6 Seasick Rally 9.45am Q'cliff Ferry	7	8 General Meeting 7.30pm Clubrooms	9 Dine Out 6.15pm White Eagle House	10 Swap Meet Vols Info Dinner 6.30pm Clubrooms	11 Swap Meet Set up day	12 Bay City Swap Meet
13	14	15 Committee Meeting 7.30pm	16 Car Display & visit to GenU	17 Tinker Day 10.30am Clubrooms	18	19 Smell the Roses 10.30am Drysdale Station
MOTHER'S DAY						
20 Puppy Dog Picnic Day Bellbrae	21	22 Craft/Tech Night "Ignition" 7pm Clubrooms	23	24	25 June 2018 Backfire Deadline	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 June	2 (3 June Lunch run to Railway Hotel, Bannockburn)