

# BACKFIRE

Volume 58 No 1 May 2024

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

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



*Humber*

**Douglas**



*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](http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com)



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## *The President's Piece - notes from a big country*

Greetings All,

Once again this wonderful autumn weather has given us all perfect opportunities to get out and about in our vehicles, to enjoy the activities the club provides. Right now I'm in Wilmington South Australia and we about to visit the toy collection and Land Rover collection in this small town. Tomorrow we will visit a large tractor, truck and car collection on a farm near Coonalpyn. From there we'll start the trip home to complete a trip that has taken us around four cattle stations in South Australia that I have worked on.

I find myself once again in the president's chair and thank David for his dedicated work in this role. Thanks also to retiring Past President Dallas for his dedication. We welcome Anne De Bono to the committee and thank Tony Brincat for his contribution. I look forward to the year ahead, working with the committee, all other members having agreed to remain in their roles.

At the AGM I was delighted to present 25 year membership badges to Merv & Marie Batson, Linda Parker and Ray & Barb van Galen. Such an honour for these loyal members. Supper afterwards was enjoyed by all together with much socialising.

A Swap planning meeting was held before the general meeting last month and all is looking in good shape, thanks especially to David and the committee. We still need more volunteers – remember you get free entry and a Devonshire tea. Please contact Murray Foran on 5248 2554.

Please always refer to your Backfire to check the calendar of the many events and activities which provide something for everyone and keeps us all busy.

Enjoy your cars

John



*Some photos of the current trip.*

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 634 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.

HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024

## PRESIDING

President David Mitchell welcomed all members attending, including visitor Brian Woodman.

## APOLOGIES

Jennie Green, Tiny Stonehouse, Brian Edwards, Rod & Loraine Roach, Simon Anderson, Jeanette Dragt, Marg & Lindsay Hose, Col & Lyn Jordan, Darryn Tucker, Jack Harmon, Kevin & Julie Wilby, Nick Neeson, James Park, Rhonda Alexander, Tim Paech, Ken & Sandra Batson, Graham Baldock, Graeme Walker, Evelyn Hill, Barbara Johnson and Robert Jenkins.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Peter Telfer Carried

## SICK LIST

Gaylene Telfer is currently in hospital.  
Ken Batson is now home from a hospital stay.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting published in the Backfire are correct.

Moved: Karl Lorenz

Seconded: Gary Mellington Carried

## CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

### INWARD

#### Letters In

- Lyn Johansson - informing the club she will not be renewing her membership due to health reasons
- Freda Craddock - thanking everyone who helped her when she collapsed on membership renewal day
- Lorraine Collinson - thanking all members who organised and attended the tinker garage sale day.
- Bendigo Bank - statement
- Aust Taxation Office - club tax file number approval

#### Emails In

- Resignation notifications from - Barbara & Malcolm Burnell; Rod Dorman; and Don & Shirley Sell
- Cool Cars - to watch on 7 Mate at 1.30 Saturdays from 6th July for 8 weeks
- Roger Spooner - donation of short film of our club rally if interested

## OUTWARD

### Letters Out

- Welcome letters to new members approved at the last Committee meeting:  
David Learmonth & Vicki Donald  
Jeff & Harriet Lawrence
- Get Well cards - Lindsay Hose and Neville Mustica

### Emails Out

Nil

Moved: Fred Dosser

Seconded: Libby Booley 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: Jim Coates Carried

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

AGM this month, so no speaker.

## LIBRARY (Phill)

Phil has sorted through the donated magazines and the Committee will advise next steps in the months following the Swap.

## DINE OUT (Sharyn)

This month at the Shell Club.

## EDITOR (Jon)

No report this month.

## WEBSITE (Damien)

No report this month.

## FEDERATION REPORT (David)

No report this month.

## COMMITTEE REPORT (Tony)

Topics covered:

- New members approved;
- Members who have not renewed;
- Club logo stickers are being printed; and
- Considering a members' car calendar for 2025.

## MERCHANDISE (David M)

Looking into the printing of Club logo window stickers

## TINKER DAY (Dallas)

Next Tinker Day in Bannockburn.  
See Backfire for details.

## MARS BAR AWARD (Ray away)

After a couple of hints, Ray Matthews correctly guessed Lillian Vella.



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

### VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

Gus is investigating if a roadworthy certificate is required when a member's car on full registration is transferred to the permit scheme.

### RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (Ken)

See the *Backfire* for details on future events.

The coffee run to the Eastern Gardens Rotunda was very well attended. John Hickford thanked President David for taking him and Frank to the Eastern Gardens.

Events attended by members include:

- Robin Evans went on the Bushman's Rally in Broken Hill;
- Karl Lorenz went to the Rheola Easter Carnival; and
- Fred Dossier reported back on the Mortlake picnic.

### LONG DISTANCE RALLY (TBC)

No update

### TECH NIGHT (Peter)

Door fittings will feature at the next Tech night.

### SWAP MEET (David)

Many more volunteers needed!

### KITCHEN (Pam)

No report

### GENERAL BUSINESS

None

### FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

None

Meeting closed at 8:32pm.

***Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 14 May 2024 in the clubrooms.***

- Leigh Dwyer

## Secretary's Report to the AGM

### Annual Report 2023/24 - prepared by Fred Harris, Secretary WDHVC

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed us by. It has been another year of many miles driven, journeys taken and social events.

We started the year with a single change to the office bearers: we thank David Perkins for his service on the committee, and we welcomed Ken Parry as his replacement. I'd like to thank our president, David Mitchell, for his input and effort over the past three years, to Maurice Healy for overseeing our finances and to our committee for keeping the engine of the club running smoothly.

Congratulations to Ken Batson and Ray van Galen on becoming Life Members. They have each contributed enormously to the club over the years, and I am sure all will agree that they were worthy recipients. Congratulations also go to Barb van Galen who was awarded Club Member of the Year, and Annette Marshall for receiving the Eric Baker Award: again more of our members earning well-deserved recognition.

I'd like to thank our Rally Coordinator – Ken Parry and our Morning Coffee Coordinator – Col Jordan; our Tinker Day coordinator – Dallas Jones; our Dine Out and Long Distance Rally Coordinator – Sharyn Harris - for ensuring an eventful calendar of activities. There are many other members who contribute hugely to the functioning of our club, such as our editor, our tech night organiser, a social secretary, our vehicle compliance officer, our Federation delegate, our ladies committee coordinator, our program director, our minute secretary, our website coordinator and our membership registrar. To all other members who volunteer their time and efforts throughout this year – I thank you greatly.

We held our annual Anzac Day breakfast at Barwon Heads, which was again well attended and Murray Foran oversaw the barbecue. Also various visits to collections from MGs to motorbikes, the Geelong Revival, waterfront displays, auction night, Christmas party at St Leonard's, Christmas break up at the clubrooms and a number of other successful events. There have been many and varied rallies and activities throughout the year, with something to suit nearly everyone. There have been far too many to mention and it is our hope that these continue to be of interest to our members.

In May, our annual Bay City Swap Meet was held again after Covid interruptions. Many club members again volunteered their time and expertise to make another very successful event. After having organised this event for the last 16 years, I have tendered my resignation as swap coordinator. I have decided to step back to allow for some new enthusiasm and fresh ideas. I would like to thank enormously ALL the members and volunteers who have assisted me over this time. Such an event could not be possible without this assistance. It is pleasing to me that this event has grown to now be one of the more popular swap meets in Victoria.

Overall we have had a very successful 12 months, and I look forward to yet another year in enjoyable vintage motoring.

- Fred "Ford" Harris



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING No 57 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC. HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024

**PRESIDING:** President David Mitchell welcomed 82 members to the AGM.

## APOLOGIES

The apologies be accepted as per the preceding General Meeting.

Moved: Jon Breedveld

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

## MINUTES

Minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on April 11 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Gary Tonkin Carried

## REPORTS

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

### TREASURER REPORT (Maurice)

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 Healy

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

Maurice moved that the auditor be re-appointed.

Moved: Maurice Healy

Seconded: Ray Matthews Carried

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARER

President David vacated the Chair and introduced life member Trevor Schneider who took the Chair and thanked all the out going Committee members for their work over the year.

Trevor noted that Tony Brincat had chosen not to re-nominate for a Committee position and thanked him for supporting the Club.

He also thanked Dallas Jones for contribution to the club across many roles.

All executive positions were declared vacant. Committee nominations did not exceed the positions available and so no vote was necessary.

The successful nominations were:

President: John Bailey

Vice President: Barbara van Galen

Secretary / Public Officer, Consumer Affairs

Notification for Incorporated Association:  
Fred Harris

Treasurer: Maurice Healy

General Committee: Graeme Anderson, Simon Anderson, Jon Breedveld, Anne De Bono, Col Jordan, Ken Parry, Gus Shea.

## PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

John took the Chair and thanked Trevor for his assistance.

Ken Parry was named as the Club Member of the Year for his continuing support of the Club.

The following people are eligible for 25 year membership badges:

Ray & Lynn Davis;

Merv & Marie Batson;

Daniel & Maryle Monk;

Linda Parker; and

Ray & Barbara van Galen.

Merv & Marie Batson; Linda Parker; and Ray & Barbara van Galen were present and President John presented these people with their badges.

Meeting closed at 9:10pm.

## President's Report to the AGM

It has been a privilege as President of the WDHVC to be able to look back on the very large number of varied events and activities that we have conducted over the last 12 months with great satisfaction and enjoyment.

Coffee runs to many different places, tinker days, tech nights, dine outs, many rally events, Anzac Day BBQ, the swap event, renewal BBQ, water-front displays, Christmas party, Christmas BBQ and more.

The busy and varied options provided by this great club has allowed members to be actively involved in whatever interests they may have and just as importantly with lots of social interaction.

Many thanks to the team behind these events. Col Jordan for coffee days, Ken Parry for rally events, Dallas Jones for taking on tinker days, Sharyn Harris for dine outs and Christmas lunch, Peter Telfer for tech nights, and all other members who help out in many varied ways. I need to apologise in advance for whomever I have missed out because there are so many people who contribute. We had some special events such as the Ladies High Seas (tea), Aged care visits, Lara School visit and the long distance rally, which was very successful. This was the final run by Fred and Sharyn. Over many years Fred and Sharyn have put an enormous amount of work into arranging these events and we sincerely thank them for this undertaking. We will miss their organisation and skills for sure.

## President's Report to the AGM (ctd)

There are many other members willing to help out with other jobs including the catering and organising of the Christmas party, the running of the kitchen (thanks Pam for leading), finding monthly guest speakers, running the various BBO events and of course the Swap. This was another very successful event in 2023 and thanks to Fred Harris for all his efforts and achievements. He has made the 2023 Swap his last event as director after 15 years. We thank him wholeheartedly for making this such a notable and successful event. It was made clear by the members after last year's event that the enjoyment and team camaraderie experienced, provided a very good and valid reason to continue this meet involvement. Hence it is on again in 2024! For those that haven't yet got your name down please do so and help make this year's event a continued success.

Many thanks to all the committee members for all their work in keeping the club running smoothly all year and for your unwavering support to me as President. There are many others outside the committee who take on roles and assist towards the running of the club too and many thanks to these members as well. Special thanks to Dallas Jones who is retiring from the committee as past president and also Tony Brincat our minute secretary. We also welcome Anne De Bono to the committee and look forward to her involvement too.

It is a great pleasure to welcome John Bailey back to the president's chair. He will be ably supported by Barb van Galen as vice president. With these two at the helm, our club is in very good hands.

I hope to see you all out and about at our various activities through the coming year. Thank you once again for your continued support of the great WDHVC!

David Mitchell



### PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Membership renewal fees were due by 31 March. If you have cars carrying Red Plates that are registered through our club and we do not receive your completed membership renewal form and money by 31 March, VicRoads considers those cars to be unregistered and you cannot legally drive them on public roads.

If you no longer wish to be a club member, please email or post your resignation to the Secretary, Fred Harris.

## RALLIES & RUNS

### Club Run to the Mortlake Picnic

After a successful run up the ring road out of Waurn Ponds at 45mph topping the crest at Barrabool road overpass at 40 mph and then down to the Batesford Hotel for a morning coffee run in March, the Dodge had the bit between its teeth and needed the run to Portarlington for the tinker day at Lorraine Collinson's to view Barry's treasures.

Following on, the Federation's Mortlake Picnic beckoned and so after a 6am wakeup we were off around 7.30am, with the Dodge enjoying its second climb out of Waurn Ponds and on the Hamilton Highway to Mortlake.

Apart for a couple of pit stops on the way we arrived on the outskirts of Mortlake around 10.30am with that Green 8 cylinder Packard of Fred Dosser breathing down our necks, wheeling around the roundabout and entering at caravan park grounds we arrived first cab off the rank.

Whooooo, 4 cylinder beats 8! Yeah right.

Parked with Fred, probably in the wrong spot and settled in for an enjoyable day catching up with ex club president John Smith and his fair lady Judy, as well Max and Gwen Tucker and Shane and Simon Perrot, Crossley owners who had trailered their 15/30 Crossley from Inverleigh.

Walking around we found where we were supposed to park with the 8.30am departure mob including Ken and Jenny Parry in the Falcon hardtop, Rod in the Triumph Stag, Bob in the Ford Capri, Bill Guthrie in the Holden ute with period caravan, Richard and Margaret Saffron in the Mercedes and Keith Harris in the 1952 Riley sedan.

Enjoyed a lunch as part of being there and chatted with all.

Raffle time around 2 resulted in no wins for the Newtons and departed the grounds around 3 after saying our fair wells and safe trip home. Arrived home around 6 after a non-stop run home recording an average fuel economy figure of 15 miles per gallon.

A great day's vintage motoring and if Ken can keep the weather gods in place we will be 'out and about'.

- Harold Newton





# Events Calendar

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

- Thursday 25 April** **Anzac Day BBQ Breakfast** at Barwon Heads. Meet at Clubrooms at 8.15am OR 8.30am on the riverbank. *Contact Murray Foran 0409 841 700*
- Friday 26 April** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms. *Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938*
- Sunday 28 April** **Club Run** Visit to the Werribee and District Collectable Vehicle Club at one of their regular gatherings. A pub lunch later and then those who want can call into the B24 Liberator restoration, to check on progress. Numbers needed by 23 April. *Contact: Ken Parry 0437 254 351.*
- Thursday 2 May** **Coffee Run Anglesea Chocolaterie** 10am. *Contact: Col 0425 822 026*
- Tuesday 7 May** **Swap Committee Meeting** 6pm in Clubrooms. A last check on our plans before the big event. For those involved or anyone else wanting to help please, come along. *Contact: David 0409 099 716*
- Thursday 9 May** **Swap Volunteers Briefing Dinner** 6pm Clubrooms. (only for those who are volunteering on Swap Meet Day - Sat 11 May) *Contact: David 0409 099 716*
- Friday 10 May** **Swap Meet set up day** Clubrooms from 9am. Give what time you have to help set up for our big annual fundraiser. *Contact: David 0409 099 716*
- Saturday 11 May** **Swap Meet** Clubrooms from the early hours (depending on what job you have)! *Contact: David 0409 099 716*
- Tuesday 14 May** **General Meeting** 7.30pm in Clubrooms.
- Wednesday 15 May** **Dine Out** 6pm at the White Eagle Club, Townsend Rd. *Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089*
- Thursday 16 May** **Tinker Day** We will journey down to our newly-minted President's place in Ocean Grove. Meeting at the clubroom for a 9.30am departure arriving at John & Julie's around 10. Those on the Bellarine may like to go straight there. What will we see? What will we do once there? John said it will be a surprise! *Contact Dallas 0432 172 171.*
- Sunday 19 May** **Mystery car run & pub lunch.** Names needed by 14 May (at the meeting). *Contact: Ken 0437 254 351*
- Tuesday 21 May** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm in clubrooms.
- Monday 27 May** **June Backfire Deadline 5pm.** *Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441*
- Tuesday 28 May** **Tech Night "Rubbers"** No, not erasers. Grommets, seals, plugs and beading. All types - natural and synthetic; soft or hardened and brittle with age. Arrive at 7 pm, so we can set up for a 7.30 pm start. *Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.*
- Friday 31 May** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms. *Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938*
- Thursday 6 June** **Coffee Run Venue TBC.** *Contact: Col 0425 822 026.*

## Other Events

- |           |                                |  |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| May 4 & 5 | Naracoorte Swap                | Naracoorte Showgrounds, Smith St. 0408 854 658 (4-8pm)               |
| May 5     | Speewa Swap                    | Beverford, Vic (16km north of Swan Hill) Enquiries: Ken 0427 500 669 |
| May 11    | Geelong Swap                   | Bay City Swap Meet, Geelong Showgrounds 0451 641 924                 |
| May 19    | Lockington Swap                | Lockington Park  |
| June 9    | Maldon Swap                    | Maldon Racecourse Text Mark 0414 244 842                             |
| June 30   | "Fridge" Swap                  | 302 Dana Street Ballarat Central, Ballarat Road Rodders              |
| Sept 8    | Shepparton Swap                | Shepparton Showground  |
| Oct 29    | HTPAA Antique Hand Tool Market | St. Anthony's School Hall, 164 Neerim Rd, Caulfield East             |
| Nov 16-17 | Bendigo Swap                   | Bendigo Showground   |
| Nov 24    | Maldon Swap                    | Maldon Racecourse, Text Mark 0414 244 842                            |

### It's Your Newsletter, so Keep Contributing!

Don't forget to send me your contributions. Emailed, hand delivered, posted, by SMS or carrier pigeon! Hand written or typed. Don't leave it to the faithful few or your editor. If you are at an event, take a photo on your phone or scribble a few notes.

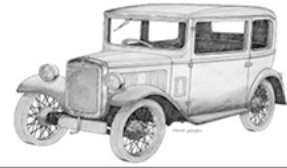
Send them to: Mob. 0417 311 441 or editor@wdhvcgeelong .com

Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc Presents

# GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET

Sat 11th May 2024 gates open 7am

Geelong Showgrounds (Melways Ref 452 E10)



## Costs:

\*Gate entry, Adult/Teenage \$10 per person, Under 13 yr Free

\*Outdoor site, \$20 per 10x6m site + gate entry costs \$10 per person

(no booking required for outdoor sites)

\*Limited indoor sites, Bookings via email/phone

\$30 per site + gate entry costs \$10 per person

\*Area inside the grounds for cars/motorcycles For Sale or Display

(\$20 per car/bike + gate entry costs \$10 per person)

\*Parking for Non sellers at Geelong racecourse, Breakwater Rd.

\*Please have correct money for site and gate entry.

\* Geelong Mobile ATM Facilities on site

**Friday night:** Camp sites available for stallholders only.

Entry from 4pm, gates will close at 9pm sharp. (site + per person entry costs)

**Rules:** Strictly no animals allowed in showgrounds. No fires permitted in anyway. No unauthorised food/drink vendors. No riding of a bicycle, scooter, motorcycle or rec vehicle. No Alcohol permitted.

Mobility scooters permitted but must not exceed 4kph.

**Updates:** Via, Geelong Bay City Swap Facebook page

**Contact:** email: [geelongswap@wdhvcgeelong.com](mailto:geelongswap@wdhvcgeelong.com)

**Ph:** 0451 641 924

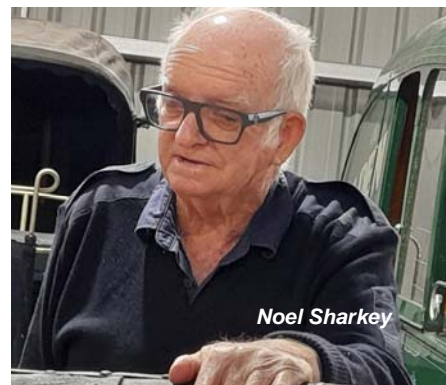
WDHVC PO Box 200 Newcomb Vic 3219



# RALLIES & RUNS

## April Tinker Day - a Horse-drawn Heaven in a Shed to Die For

Members showed up at the Fyansford Hotel carpark wrapped in their winter woollies as the day turned out to be a harbinger for the weather ahead. We had 31 souls venture out to visit Noel Sharkey's amazing horse drawn vehicle collection. To say it was amazing, doesn't nearly come close to doing it justice. The passion Noel has for these horse drawn vehicles of yesteryear is shown in both the sheer number he has and the standard to which they are restored and displayed. There are bread vans, milk carts, jinkers, carriages and even a hearse. He has collected them from all over the country and the world.



Noel Sharkey

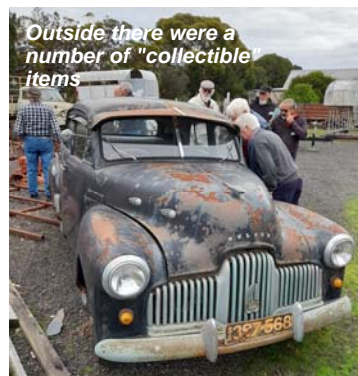
Now about that shed!



Now, about that shed: I think there was a great deal of shed-envy by the male members. I certainly speak for myself but I'm sure I wasn't alone.

It was massive and well laid out.

Oh and outside there were a number of "collectible" items lying about the yard, which also drew some admirers. We are most fortunate that there a people like Noel with the passion to preserve and restore these vehicles so they will be seen and enjoyed for generations to come.



Outside there were a number of "collectible" items

Rod Roach & John Hickford catch up



After about an hour or so, we thanked Noel for showing us his collection and some of us headed off to a park in Bannockburn. Refreshments were had along with much discussion on what we had just seen. The weather held off but it was getting colder by the minute and gradually we all made our way to the warmth of our vehicles and headed home.

Huge thanks to Col Jordon for making the contact with Noel that allowed us to visit this amazing place.

- Dallas



Two carriages had engines!  
A Vauxhall 6 & a Mini.  
(The restored Mini is for sale.)



# RALLIES & RUNS

## The Bushman's Rally at Broken Hill

Six couples made their way to Broken Hill for the Bushman's Rally over the Easter weekend. Luckily it was an uneventful journey. We stopped at Mildura on Thursday night and traveled the last 300km to Broken Hill on Good Friday morning.

There were 74 vehicles entered on the rally. We had a delicious afternoon tea as we registered for the rally. Saturday's run involved a visit to an operating mine. Sunday's run visited the local museum at an abandoned railway station. There were lots of interesting exhibits covering medicine, immigration, mining and of course some trains.

Fabulous food each evening at the Musicians Club. Although none of our cars won awards, we got a door prize and a raffle prize. We also visited Silverton, the miners' memorial and solar farms over the weekend, independent of the rally.

- Lil Vella





## *What cars are these?*

John Hickford has contributed the photo below. It was taken on Anzac Day 1927 in Spring St Melbourne, outside Parliament, and shows the official cavalcade associated with the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). The royal couple toured Australia, opening the new Parliament House in Canberra as an important event during the tour. The question arises: who can identify any of the vehicles in the photo? (I read that the Crossley brand may have been involved??)



And while delving into the past, this photo is from a Geelong collection that I scanned at the Geelong Heritage Centre. The man leaning on the car is Hubert Woodward and the notes on the back of the photo suggest it may have been taken at the Humble & Nicholson's (Vulcan) Foundry in the 1920s. Woodward may have been a coachbuilder there. The foundry was located in Little Malop Street, on the present Officeworks car-park and the Chemist Warehouse.)

William Humble built the first car made in Geelong in 1903. The chassis and body were made in the foundry and a De Dion engine was added to the car, which his family used for many years. Question is – can anyone tell me the make of either of the two cars shown? The circular radiator surround with the crank handle impinging at the bottom may narrow the field?

No Mars Bars on offer – just a chance to claim glory in the June Backfire. Send your thoughts to the Editor.





## **Ken Parry Club Member of the Year**

*Members present elected Ken Parry as the 2024 Club Member of the Year at the AGM.*

*President John congratulated Ken on his award.*

## **25 Year Badges Presented**

*Incoming President, John Bailey presented 25 year membership badges to Merv & Marie Batson, Linda Parker and Ray & Barb van Galen during the Annual General Meeting*



## **President Inducted**

*In what is becoming a Club tradition, outgoing President, David Mitchell, presented his successor John Bailey with the ceremonial chain of office during the AGM.*





## The Humble & Nicholson Foundry

*(A Footnote to the story on Page 12)*

In 1866 Humble & Nicholson bought the Vulcan Foundry in Geelong. By 1888 they had won £60,000 in government contracts, their main source of profits. They built the £5000 bridge at Cressy, the hydraulic crane at Echuca and boilers, tanks and pumps for several public authorities. They also had an extensive private market linked to the agricultural economy around Geelong. The firm made the Ferrier wool press, began building reaping and binding machines in 1872 and was one of the first Australian companies to manufacture refrigerating machines on the absorption principle.

Humble was active in community affairs.

A councillor from 1869, he ended his municipal career as mayor of Geelong in 1888-89. He was the first treasurer of the Gordon Technological Institute and one of its original three trustees. He was also a trustee of the Geelong Free Library and a member of the board of the Geelong Hospital.

As a zealous Methodist he staunchly supported temperance and was a director of the Geelong Coffee Palace Co. Ltd in 1888-89. He helped to form the short-lived Chilwell Gold Mining Co. and was a director in 1878-79. His great sustaining interest was his business and he was always a keen inventor.

In 1869 he began to manufacture velocipedes and in 1903 built the first car made in Geelong. Called a Humble, it was presented at the 1904 "Melbourne Road Show". The open tonneau vehicle was powered by a single cylinder De Dion Bouton had a single rear door and seated four people.

The chassis and body were made in the foundry and the De Dion engine was added to the car, which his family used for many years. The car was apparently bought by Geelong merchant Solomon Jacobs who became mayor of Geelong.

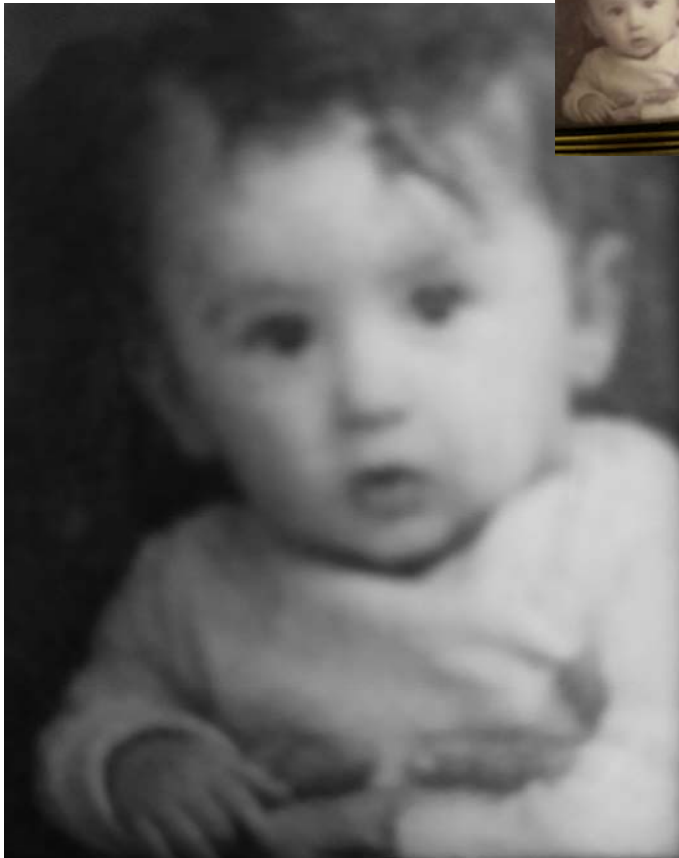
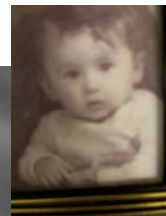
Humble died at Geelong on 27 February 1917.

*(Source: Australian Dictionary of Biography & Facebook posts)*

**Humble & Nicholson also built this very early bus in Geelong in about 1903.**



## Great Mars Bar Competition May



This month's Great Mars Bar competition will have us guessing well and truly whom it may be. It has been said that if you use an early Kodak Box camera near a cemetery, your photos may come out with a ghostly finish. This may have been what happened in this case. We will have to ask the member on the night!

A second Mars Bar could be collected for naming the cemetery closest to where he lived at the time.

- Ray

### 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)



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 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](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).

## FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

### For Sale

**For Sale:** 4 new 175 X 14 Michelin radial tyres in the original STOP pattern X. Suit historic vehicle. \$150 ea or offer.



Cement mixer  
\$200 or offer.

Call Doug 0409 084 589.

5/24

## Changing Times



Lil Vella sent in this shot of their Valiant sedan nestled between two more modern SUVs. In its day, the Valiant would have been considered a fair-sized family car. The photo shows it is almost dwarfed by the modern family SUV parked either side! Just as well Manny didn't sidle up to a Ram or an F250!

It got me thinking about how cars have grown in size. The Corolla is now 44% larger and the Ford F series 75%!

Finally, I couldn't resist comparing a personal favourite with an American beast - a 1957 Morris Minor Traveller (3.608m) and a current Ford F250 Raptor (5.522m).

In all cases its not just length but height too - Ed



### Toyota Corolla



Toyota Corolla LE - (2023)  
182.3L x 70.1W x 56.5H - 106.3WB  
Height: 70.1 in  
Length: 182.3 in

Toyota Corolla (E10) - (1966-1970)  
151.4L x 58.1W x 54.3H - 90WB  
Height: 58.5 in  
Length: 151.4 in

↑ 44% Larger

### Ford F Series



Ford F Series - (2023)  
266.2L x 81.0W x 77.4H - 176WB  
Height: 81.0 in  
Length: 266.2 in

Ford F Series - (1948-1952)  
207L x 70.3W x 77.4H - 122WB  
Height: 77.4 in  
Length: 207 in

↑ 75% Larger



If undeliverable return to:

**WDHVC**  
**PO Box 200**  
**Newcomb VIC 3219**

Backfire

**PRINT POST**  
**APPROVED**  
 PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 AUSTRALIA



**1938-40 Humber Super Snipe.**  
 Army staff car - Singapore 1941

**May 2024** at a glance (details Page 8)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 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.	22	23	24	25 <b>Anzac Day Breakfast Barwon Heads. 8.15 am clubrooms</b>	26 <b>Backfire Folding Morning</b>	27
28 <b>Club Run Werribee</b>	29	30 April	1	2 <b>Coffee Run. 10 am Anglesea Chocolaterie</b>	3	4
5 Narracoorte & Speewa Swaps	6	7 <b>Swap C'ttee 7pm</b>	8	9 <b>Swap Vols Briefing 6pm</b>	10 <b>Swap Set Up 9am</b>	11 Bay City Swap Meet
12	13	14 <b>General Meeting 7.30pm</b>	15 <b>Dine Out 6pm White Eagle</b>	16 <b>Tinker Day Bailey's Ocean Grove</b>	17	18
19 <b>Mystery Club Run</b> Lockington Swap	20	21 <b>Committee Meeting 7.30pm</b>	22	23	24	25
26	27 <b>Backfire Deadline</b>	28 <b>7pm Tech Night "Rubbers"</b>	29	30	31 <b>Backfire Folding Morning</b>	1 June