

# BACKFIRE

Volume 56 No 7 November 2022

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.



*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)



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



[wdhvc\\_car\\_club\\_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/wdhvc_car_club_geelong)

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## *The President's* Idle Chatter

Hi all,

This month seems to be all about the weather. It doesn't rain it pours. Our thoughts are with those that are caught in the floods.

There is so much that is changing at the moment apart from the weather. Last month the rapid growth in sales of electric vehicles was highlighted by the third top selling vehicle being the Tesla model Y. It came in behind Hilux and Ranger. Who would have thought?

It does make you wonder about plugging in your electric vehicle and having it charge overnight from burning brown coal in the Valley. I'm told that this is still better for carbon pollution than driving a petrol or diesel vehicle though.

It also makes you wonder what will happen when we go from less than 2% electric vehicles currently to a majority of electric vehicles. Are we going to have enough electricity left to keep the lights on? In California in the US where there is a very rapid take up of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) there has been a study to see how much extra electricity is required in the future. In 2030 when it is projected that California will have 4 million BEVs in use, the extra power required will only be 5.4%. So there is hope that the increase in demand will not be overwhelming.

So in Australia, where we are behind the world in the sales of BEVs, it looks like there is time to increase renewable energy production and increase storage

capacity before the coal plants are shut down. At least then when the car is charged overnight it will be with renewable energy.

It will be fascinating to watch how this develops over the coming years.

The Geelong show and the rain caused some changes to our events last month. The hot dog run was relocated to the clubrooms at the last minute but still managed a good turnout and a very pleasant get together. And it didn't even rain.

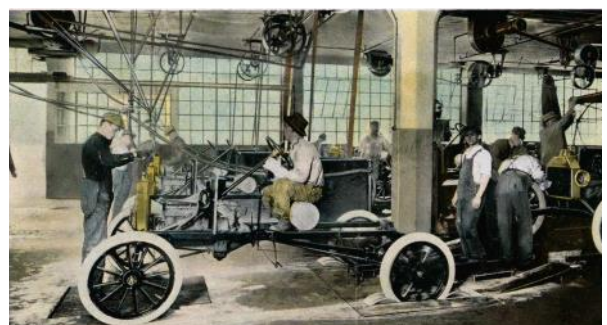
We finally managed to get the B24 Liberator speaker, Tony Nuller, to the October Club night. What an entertaining chap he is. He knew all about the Liberator and a whole lot more, including anything you wanted to know about the Leyland P76.

Thanks to John Bailey for arranging.

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

Cheers

David Mitchell



*"At the end of the assembly line. Cars run from here on their own power." Postcards showing the Ford plant in 1917.*

# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 616 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.  
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022

## PRESIDING

President David Mitchell opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitor David Jones to meeting No 616.

## APOLOGIES

Leigh Dwyer, Alex Mc Laws, Alan Tipper, Lucy Butell, Barbara Thompson, Julie & Kevin Wilby, John Bailey, Maurice Healy, Ken & Jenny Parry, Pam Shea, Murray Foran, Ray Colenso, Dick & Margaret Safstrom, Les Harrison, Garry Toulmin, Tiny Stonehouse, Rod & Lorraine Roach, Angelo De Bono, Ken & Sandra Batson, James Park, Nick Neeson and Vern Stott.

Moved: Rod Booley

Seconded: Tim Christie Carried

## SICK LIST

Barry Johansson, Eric Lewis, Rod & Lorraine Roach and Murray Foran

## MINUTES

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

Moved: Rod Booley

Seconded: Barb van Galen Carried

## CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

### INWARD

#### Letters In

- Bendigo Swap - site tickets and entry passes
- Thank you card - Lorraine Collinson and family sent a thank you card for our thoughts on the passing of Barry

#### Emails In

- Just Cars informing the club to advertise any future events
- Federation - Cancellation of meeting this month due to the floods in Victoria and now will be a zoom meeting
- Vintage & Classic Car Club Ballarat - cancellation of the Lake Bolac Campout 19th - 25th
- Longford Grand Prix Expo - invitation to attend their event on March long weekend 2023
- Australian Red Cross - seeking volunteers for the new Community Visitors Scheme
- Damien Giustini - account for hosting of the web site
- Hobson Bay Men's Shed - invitation to attend their classic car and bike show at Altona on November 20th
- Leigh Dwyer - Barwon Heads Community Hall is celebrating its centenary in 2022, and are having a Back to Barwon Heads Hall day

on Sunday 20th November 2022, from 11am to 3pm. They require Historic vehicles to display, ideally from the 1920's. anyone interested please contact Leigh Dwyer 0468 763 054

## OUTWARD

### Letters Out

- Get Well Cards - Lorraine Roach and Barry Johansson
- Sympathy Card - The Hubbard family on the passing of Jack

### Emails Out

Nil

Moved: Graham Baldock

Seconded: Max McKenzie Carried

## TREASURER'S REPORT (David M for Maurice)

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

Moved: David Mitchell

Seconded: Ray Matthews Carried

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

- Tony Nuller from the B24 Liberator restoration group in Werribee gave a great talk on the B24 Liberator. It was a long range 4 engine bomber that had the capacity to carry 8 bombs and was used in the Second World War.

## LIBRARY (Gary)

Gary thanked those that returned books

## DINE OUT (Sharyn)

Wednesday 19 Oct 6pm at the Peninsular Hotel

## EDITOR (Jon)

Next Monday is the deadline for the *Backfire*.

## WEBSITE (Damien)

Nil

## FEDERATION REPORT (David P)

- Bendigo swap is more than likely not going ahead this year. (Grounds may be needed for flood relief - Ed)
- Next Federation meeting a Zoom meeting due to floods.

## COMMITTEE REPORT (Tony)

Topics covered included:

- Auction night to be held July or August next year
- Hot Dog Run on Sunday
- Austin 7 Car Club coming to our clubrooms on 30th October for afternoon tea, we will need helpers to cater for roughly 40 members



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- Bendigo Swap bus \$25/ head
- Membership Day to renew your membership will be on the 12th February 2023

### MERCHANDISE (David M)

50th Anniversary badges 2017 are for sale at \$5 each.

### TINKER DAY (Ray)

17th November at Fred and Sharyn Harris's place at Portarlington. BYO everything, chair food and drink.

### MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

We need more childhood photos please.

### VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

- Our club currently has 10 cars with expired permits, that will now require RWC to renew their permits
- Dallas Jones will be filling in for Gus whilst he is away
- Anne De Bono brought in their 1999 Ford Fairlane Ghia for display and gave a talk on the car. It's a 5 litre V8 that they purchased in 2003.

### RALLY EVENTS (Ken)

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

- Hot Dog run on this Sunday now at the club rooms due to the flooding
- List for names for Colac 20 November Meet at Waurin Ponds parking bay at 10.15am
- 30th Oct Austin 7 car club for afternoon tea at our clubrooms. Helpers needed to help cater
- 30th Oct Holden Museum Trafalgar train trip

### COFFEE RUN (Col)

- Thursday 3rd November 10 am at Fyansford . The Door Gallery Cafe. Shop 8 Lower Paper Mills Rd Fyansford. Please allow those with walking disabilities to park closer to the venue.

### RALLY REPORTS (David M )

Events attended by members include:

- Coffee run to Portarlington attended by approx 32 members, booking got lost as they have dual bookings books but all were catered for and enjoyable
- Mystery run ended at the Little River Hotel and was a good day
- MG Car Club visit to their club was very interesting as they have a MGB car being restored by their team of club members. a very successful event for their club including all members. They have offered their hoist for our club to use on a car inspection day.
- Tinker Day was at Gus and Pam Shea's place. a great day to view Ivan Cave's showroom. Gus explained that the junk trailer still had items left on it at the end of the day

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- Hard Luck Awards were given out to three members on the Long Distance Rally to Tassie
- Bellarine Vintage Rally was attended by some members.
- Motor Classica Event was not as good as usual, with big money, more modern cars outside the building to entice younger people to the event.

### LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

Nil

### TECH NIGHT (Peter)

*Cylinder Heads* is this month's topic. A designer from Fords is coming to give a talk on the BA Ford

### SWAP MEET (Fred)

Nil

### KITCHEN (Pam)

Nil

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Max Richards was presented with his 25 year badge
- Max McKenzie thanked Trevor Schneider, Barb and Ray van Galen and Rocco Barbaro for helping him on the gates at the Geelong Show

### FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Trevor Schneider was wanting for a friend, XB Falcon mudguards
- Ron is selling a 1947 Morris 8

Meeting closed at 9.22pm.

***Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 8 November 2022 in the clubrooms.***

- Libby Booley

## 25 Year Badge Presented

President David awarded Max Richards with his 25 year membership badge at the October meeting.



## ***On Display Last Month*** ***Ann de Bono's 1999 Ford Fairlane Ghia***

Ann de Bono brought along her 1999 Ford Fairlane Ghia as the vehicle to be featured in the garage at the October meeting.

Ann bought the car second hand in 2003 with 120,000 kms on the clock. Since then the Regency Red cruiser has served Ann, husband Angelo, their two children and Ann's mother well, as roomy, comfortable, family transport. The car has done regular interstate and local trips and now shows 376,100 kms on the clock.



The headlining and driver's seat have been repaired. Apart from that, the 5 litre V8 auto has been trouble free. If you don't include the wombat!

Ann explained that in 2008, she hit the wombat at 100kph at night. Humans fine: car repaired: wombat a write off.

Since Ann's retirement the Fairlane has done much less work. "It spends more time in the garage nowadays," Ann said. "But it does have a nice note to it. It sounds good when I take it out." - Ed



## ***Gary's Giggles*** ***Tall Tales from our Legendary Librarian***

The very rich businessmen died, leaving behind a grieving family and a great many grieving creditors. At the funeral the handful of mourners were surprised to see a security truck pull up outside the church and the guards hauling out dozens of gold bars.

The chief security guard explained. "He stipulated in his will that he wanted to be buried with all the money he had hidden away in the Swiss banks and the Cook Islands. So we're here to load up the coffin."

They finished putting all the bars in the coffin and the service was held. But when the pallbearers tried to carry the coffin out, it was far, far too heavy to lift, no matter how hard they strained.

Suddenly the first pallbearer, who was also owed a great deal of money by the dead man, opened the coffin and started taking out the gold bars and putting them in his pockets. The other pallbearers, almost to almost all of whom were also owed money, started grabbing the gold bars too.

"Just a minute," cried the preacher. "He wanted to be buried with his money."

"It's okay," said the first pallbearer. "We're leaving him a cheque."

\*\*\*\*\*



# RALLIES & RUNS

## Hot Dog Rally - 23 October

The Hot Dog Rally planned for the Balyang Sanctuary would have been a very damp, smelly affair, had it gone ahead at that location. The Barwon River was still well up and it was decided to leave the inundated parkland to the ducks.

Instead about 30 members enjoyed the dry, sheltered surrounds of the clubrooms, some delicious hotdogs, cake & coffee, and each other's company. Lots of food to go round and comfy chairs and tables to sit at. (makes a change from balancing your tucker on your knees!!)

Manny even braved the leaden skies and came out on his BSA/Fiat hybrid motorbike.

A big Thank you to the organisers for arranging the venue switch.



## ***“Hard Luck” Celebrated***

During the October meeting, Manny Vella, Rod Booley and Tony Brincat were each recognised for their “hard luck” mishaps during the Tasmania Tour - Manny for a puncture on a sharp kerb in Stanley; Tony for a broken fan belt miles from anywhere (amazing how well a piece of knotted webbing serves to get you out of trouble); and Rod for the mystery “death” of the mighty Dado engine on the Western Tiers (thank goodness he remembered the kill switch - eventually). Each such incident adds to the club folklore. (See report on Page 10)







**HOBSONS BAY MEN'S SHED**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Classic Car & Bike Show**

Apex Park, Queen St. Altona 3018, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2022

- This event is open to Vintage, Veteran & Classic Vehicles – 25 years and older.
- \$10 entry per vehicle (for display or judging).
- A Gold coin donation for members of the public.
- Trophies awarded for the various classes.
- The money raised will be given to a local charity.
- Other attractions: Sausage Sizzle, Coffee & Drinks, Food van,
- Face Painting, Art & Crafts and a Petting Zoo.
- Live Bands

**Wandin Draught Horse & YesterYear Festival**  
26 & 27 November 2022  
Mont De Lancey Homestead  
71 Wellington Road - Wandin



10 AM to 4:30 PM  
Adults \$15  
Children Under 15 Free



Something for all the family

- Historic Homestead and Museum
- Working Draught Horses
- Stationary Engines
- Chainsaw Carving
- Blacksmiths
- Wood Turners
- Sheep Shearing
- Children's Activities
- Food & Market Stalls
- Vintage Cars

Cash & EFTPOS available at gate  
Further details contact 5964 2088  
Prepaid tickets and museum details  
<https://www.montdelancey.org.au/>

Getting there - Melways map 121 B2

Proud supporters of the Draught Horse Festival  
Community Bank  
Wandin-Serville  
Bendigo Bank

Exhibitors and visitors will be required to conform with the current Victorian CovidSafe Requirements at the time of the event.

NHMA and related safety guidelines will be in place.

Kindly printed by

**Bridget VALLENCE MP**  
143 Main Street, Lilydale VIC 3140.



Geelong Revival Motoring Festival to Run Twice in 2022,  
Returning to its Traditional Weekend - 25—27 November 2022

**GEELONG REVIVAL**  
MOTORING FESTIVAL

**Geelong Revival Display**  
**Sunday 27 November**

James Park and Simon Anderson are organising a display for the club at the Geelong Revival, with cars to be put on display on Sunday 27 November, to show case the diversity of the WDHVC.

**James has spots left for one car from each of the 1940s, 1950s, & 1960s.**

Please contact James to book your spot in the WDHVC Decades of Display (AKA Western District Double D's).

James Park: email; jamesspark2000@gmail.com or after 7pm ph 0466 580 922.

The combined display with the Veteran Car Club, of Brass Era cars that Simon is organising is full.  
Simon Anderson: email; ando\_84@hotmail.com  
Ph 0414 482 241.

- Simon Anderson

**Yarra Glen 2023 Swap Meet**

**Vintage Cars Parts & Accessories**  
Garagenalia - Collectibles - Trade Displays  
Show & Shine  
Vintage and Pre-War Cars  
**Sunday 12 March 2023**

Yarra Glen Racecourse - Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen Vic.  
Gates Open  
Sellers 6:30am - Buyers 7:30am - Show n Shine 8:00am  
Site Fees - from \$25  
Entry - \$10 (children u3 free)

The Vintage Drivers Club  
[www.vintageclub.com.au](http://www.vintageclub.com.au)  
Site Booking & Enquiries - [secretary@vintageclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@vintageclub.com.au) or tel: 0475 832 277

**Seymour's Annual SHOW & SHINE**

**Labour Day, 13 March 2023**  
King's Park, Seymour  
8am Start (Stall Holders 6am)

Display Cars : \$10/car incl. all occupants  
Spectators : Gold Coin Entry

\*ALL MAKES OF CARS  
\*SWAP MEET \*MARKET  
\*KIDS' ENTERTAINMENT

For all enquiries contact:  
[secretary@seymouranddistrictcarclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@seymouranddistrictcarclub.com.au)  
or Judy on 0407 562 003

**Cruden Farm Festival of Motoring RACV**  
Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Organised by the Association of Motoring Clubs and proudly supported by the RACV  
The charity for this event will be Beyond Blue.  
Open to all classic and historic vehicles 25 years and older  
Get your motoring year off to a great start by coming along to this new event at this historic property.  
More details will be available soon so please save the date.

**FLORENCE THOMSON Tour**

FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023  
Based around Wangaratta

Is proudly brought to you by the Association of Motoring Clubs (AOMC) on behalf of the RACV

To celebrate the pioneering spirit and contribution of Women to Australian motoring.

So, Ladies, please put the date in your diary so you don't miss out.

Enquiries to [florencehthomson@outlook.com](mailto:florencehthomson@outlook.com)

**ROB ROY REVIVAL**  
25 & 26 MARCH 2023

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!

PATRON JOHN BOWE AM

**NEW DATE**

A tribute to Garry Cooper's Elfin cars with 10 Elfin cars competing.

FESTIVAL OF HISTORIC MOTOR SPORT  
Australia's most authentic historic motor race meeting, staged entirely to a 1950s & 60s theme.  
General Enquiries: Event Director - Rod Cooper P: 0459118899 E: [rodcooper@westnet.com.au](mailto:rodcooper@westnet.com.au)

For more information visit [robroyrevival.mgcc.com.au](http://robroyrevival.mgcc.com.au)  
PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE MG CAR CLUB VICTORIA

**Great Mars Bar Competition**

**More photos needed**  
Please sneak in your photo submissions to:  
Ray van Galen  
Ph 52789 368,  
or  
email [rbvan-galen@gmail.com](mailto:rbvan-galen@gmail.com)

# Events Calendar

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

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



- Sunday 30 October** **Trafalgar Holden Railway Rally** Leaving Geelong Station at 7.30am. *Contact: Brian Edward 5222 6986*
- Sunday 30 October** **Austin 7 Club Visit** 2pm Club rooms. Members are encouraged to attend in their club car and welcome the Austin 7 drivers.
- Thursday 3 November** **Coffee Run.** at The Door Gallery Café at 8/100 Lower Papermills Rd Fyansford, from 10am (café does not open until 10am). Slices, toasties, muffins and my favourite- scones and cream -are available. Drive to the end of the road and follow the driveway in. Café at end of circle road for drop offs: carpark about a 100 metres further, up the rise. We are counting on a nice day so a few or a lot can sit outside. A few things to look at so you may want to be early or hang around after. *Contact: Col 0425 822 026*
- Tuesday 8 November** **General Meeting** 7.30pm Clubrooms.
- Wednesday 9 November** **Dine Out** at 6pm Leopold Sportsman's Club *Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089*
- Saturday 12 November** **Bendigo Swap Meet.** ~~CANCELLED~~
- Tuesday 15 November** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm Clubrooms
- Thursday. 17 November** **Tinker Day** at Fred and Sharyn's place. We will be starting from the PENINSULAR HOTEL on Queenscliff Road, to avoid traffic problems for most of us. Bring your own chair, mugs, food and thermos, same as always. Fred has been busy this last year or so and would like to show his toys with you all. *Contact: Ray van Galen 0411 954 865*
- Sunday 20 November** **Lake Colac Picnic.** Leave Waurm Ponds parking bay (on the highway, just past the Anglesea turnoff) at 10.30am sharp. Have your morning tea before we leave Waurm Ponds at 10.30. *Contact: Ken 0437 254 351.*
- Monday 21 November** **December Backfire Deadline** 5pm *Contact: Jon Breedveld 0417 311 441 editor@wdhvcgeelong.com*
- Tuesday 22 November** **Tech Night** . *Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938*  
Be there around 7 pm, to set up for a 7.30 pm start.
- Friday 25 November** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms *Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938*
- Sunday 27 November** **Geelong Revival Display.** 1940s, '50s & '60s cars needed. *Contact: James Park - jamespark2000@gmail.com or after 7pm 0466 580 922.*

## Other Events

Source: [swap-meets\(ozwrenches.com\)](http://swap-meets(ozwrenches.com))

- |                |  |  |
|----------------|--|--|
| Oct 30 2022    | Tallangatta Swap Meet                  | Tallangatta  |
| Oct 30 2022    | Talbot Swap Meet                       | Talbot   |
| Nov 1 2022     | Pegasus Cup Day Swap                   | Melb Gun Club, 192 Victoria Rd, Yering. Contact 0407 338 934   |
| Nov 6 2022     | HTPAA Antique Hand Tool Market         | St Anthonys Hall, 74 Grange Rd, Glen Huntly 9am start. \$5 entry<br>Info: email: toolsales@htpaa.org.au, . |
| Nov 6 2022     | Edenhope Swap Meet                     | Edenhope Racecourse  |
| Nov 20 2022    | Maldon Swap Meet                       | Maldon Racecourse Reserve (Vic)  |
| Nov 20 2022    | Trafalgar Swap Meet                    | Trafalgar Recreation Precinct, Waterloo Rd   |
| Nov 20 2022    | Wangaratta Swap Meet                   | Wangaratta Showgrounds, Evans Street   |
| Nov 26/27 2022 | Gippsland Antiques & Collectables Fair | Regional Indoor Sports Stadium, Catterick Cres. Traralgon.   |
| Nov 26/27 2022 | National Bottles & Collectables Show   | Regional Indoor Sports Stadium, Catterick Cres. Traralgon.   |
| Dec 3/4 2022   | Glenlyon Antique & Collectables Fair   | Glenlyon Rec Reserve   |
| Dec 11 2022    | Colac Swap Meet                        | Colac Showgrounds, Graham Rose event 0428 394 249.   |
| Jan 8 2023     | Korumburra Swap Meet                   | Korumburra Showgrounds Sunday, ph 0400 572 505   |
| Jan 15 2023    | Sale Swap Meet                         | Sale Vic   |
| Jan 22 2023    | Centre State Swap Meet                 | Bendigo Racecourse, Heinz St   |
| Feb 4 2023     | Berwick Swap Meet                      | Arkoona Park   |
| Feb 12 2023    | Morwell Swap Meet                      | Toners Lane Morwell.   |
| Feb 24/25 2023 | Ballarat Swap Meet                     | Location uncertain   |
| Apr 22 2023    | Echuca Rotary Swap Meet                | 0483 230 908   |



# RALLIES & RUNS

## 2022 Long Distance Rally to Tasmania

### Day 1

We had an early start this morning. Fred & I were up at 3am for a 4am start to meet the other travellers at the servo at the bottom of the West Gate Bridge and travel to the ferry. Once on board it was a long day but we had plenty of company so not too bad.

Our night time stop was in Devonport.

### Day 2

Teena & Gus met us at the motel and off we went with Gus leading the way!! Oops our first mistake: we went a long way for a short cut. Chocolate for breakfast: yummm. Then on to Sheffield, the town of Murals. Then on to Deloraine for the night.

### Day 3

This morning we set off to view some caves with a grumpy tour man (I think he got out of bed on the wrong side). After we had our choice of things to see - honey farm, wildlife park, cheese farm. Then before dinner we went on a platypus walk in the middle of town. Gus got some great videos, just wonderful.

### Day 4

This morning we set off to Westbury, famous for its newest inhabitants, the Giustinis. Morning tea was at a collection of stuff and more stuff, then onto the village green for a sausage sizzle and a meet & greet with members of the local car club, to see their cars. The highlight was a hair-raising ride in Gus's Dodge. The gentlemen went to view a tractor collection and some ladies went to sample some gin at the distillery!!!

### Day 5

Today we headed for the Great Lake Plateau, the largest freshwater lake in Australia. What a beautiful drive: something to see around every corner. We came home by way of Ross, an old English village with a colonial bridge. Dinner was at Longford, where the hotel has car racing memorabilia from the fifties.

### Day 6

Launceston is our destination today where there is a great number of things to see. Fred and I went to Cataract Gorge and rode the chair lift. Then on to the National Automotive museum of Tasmania. I will admit that I found it very underwhelming.

### Day 7

Today we said goodbye to some of our company who came back home or travelled other places. Then on to Low Head to see the pilot station and lighthouse. Then on to Beaconsfield Mine for a guided tour of the facility, where the mining is now shut down. This is where Todd Russell and Brant Webb were trapped for two weeks in 2006. How awful: my worst nightmare.

Some of our party then visited Platypus House and Seahorse World.

### Day 8

Grand Final Day. Some people stayed at the motel to watch the footy, but most went on a drive to a lavender farm and Scottsdale. Back in time for a Cats victory (boo).

### Day 9

Today we travelled to the North Coast (very wild driving) and ended at Wynyard Car Museum. What a wonderful collection of veteran cars.

On to our night stop at Smithton and Tall Timbers Resort.

### Day 10

Raining today as we drove to Stanley and The Nut. The chairlift was worth the effort even if we did get wet. Today was our first casualty when Manny blew a tyre and his jack was not so good at lifting, but we persevered and a new tyre was bought. Back to the motel and another roaring fire.

### Day 11

Barb's birthday. After a mad dash to the supermarket, a cake was bought and we had a party in the bush with a Pademelon (small kangaroo) for company. Candles and a frozen cake. We had a beautiful drive through the bush then we had our second casualty. Tony broke a fan belt in the Capri. After a lot of heads in and backsides up under the bonnet, Col managed to do a bush fix and we followed Tony back to Smithton, where he managed to buy a new one and back at the motel it was fixed.

### Day 12

Today we make our way to Strahan through the bush and winding roads. The drive was beautiful until Rod stopped. Third casualty. Libby got out of the car and said she had moved her handbag and the car stopped. Of course nobody believed her. After much head scratching it was going again, but with all the backfiring we scared half of the wildlife in Tasmania. Stopped again and the ladies did what good car club members do: got out the thermos and sat in the sun and waited, and waited, with all the male members under the bonnet. Manny saved the day when he asked where does this wire go to? Rod's reply OH MY GOD there is a kill switch!!! Libby was right, when she moved her bag she had hit the switch and the car stopped.

### Day 13

Today we went on a Gordon River cruise: what a great day.

### Day 14

This morning we get to go on a the West Coast Wilderness Rail for four hours on a little train through the rain forest - just beautiful

### Day 15

Today we made our way back to Grindelwald Swiss Motel



# RALLIES & RUNS

## 2022 Long Distance Rally to Tasmania

outside of Launceston for our last night. On the way we stopped at *The Wall in the Wilderness*. This wall of carving was the highlight of my whole trip to Tasmania. What one man can do with a chisel is absolutely amazing. I could rave on for hours about this but if you go to Tasmania you must see this.

### Day 16

Off to Devonport today to catch the night ferry. Smooth trip and home to Victoria. What a great trip organised by Teena and (helped) by Gus. From all of us THANK YOU!

My strangest conversation was someone referred to me as a "mainlander". I wondered who he was referring to. I thought it was part of Australia!!

- Sharyn



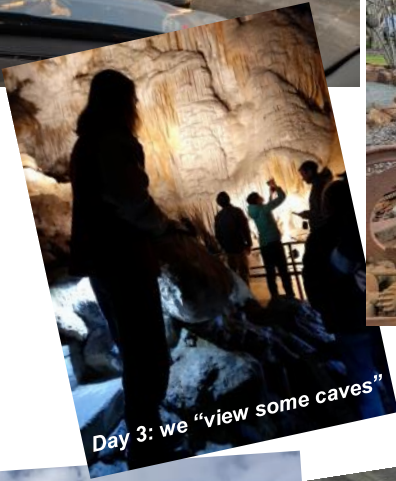
Day 1: "travel to the ferry"



Day 4: "stuff & more stuff"



Day 4: "a hair-raising ride in Gus's Dodge"



Day 3: we "view some caves"



Day 6: "National Automotive Museum"



Day 7: "Low Head"



Day 9: "Wynyard Car Museum"



Day 5: "the Great Lakes Plateau"



Day 5: "the Great Lakes Plateau"



## B-24 Liberator Restoration Presentation

October's guest speaker was Tony Nuller, from B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia, a volunteer group located at the old Werribee Airfield and dedicated to the restoration of a WW2 B-24 Liberator bomber to its original specifications.

Tony said the plane was one of only eight of its type left in the world and the only one in the southern hemisphere. The fuselage for this plane was found in a backyard in Moe: the wings and a tail in New Guinea. (The tail subsequently fell off the ship transporting it to Australia!) Other bits have come from all over the world, including from RAF and RAAF sources and new in boxes under a suburban house! The project receives no government grants, with all funding coming from bequests, benevolent funds, donations and museum entries.

As well as the Liberator, the group has an Airspeed Oxford trainer, an Avro Anson twin engine trainer and an Australian Boomerang fighter being restored in its hangar on the former Werribee Airfield, off the Princes Highway (cnr Old Farm Rd), coming into Werribee. The display is open from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Tues, Thurs & Sun.

The B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia group is part of an Australia-wide Aviation Museum National Network, dedicated to preserving, restoring and displaying Australia's aviation heritage in museums all around the country.

### The B-24 Liberator

Over 186,000 Liberators were built and they were a vital Allied work horse, including in Papua New Guinea and the islands to Australia's north. These long range heavy bombers were powered by four Pratt and Whitney rotary engines, each driving a 3-bladed variable pitch propeller, and carried an 8,000lb (3,600kg) payload. Because of the long distances flown, the Liberators could not always be given fighter cover (the fighters didn't have the range). As a result the bombers were heavily armed, with up to 10 machine guns mounted in nose, waist, tail and upper turrets (armament varied, with several versions). Despite this they were vulnerable to ground fire and both Japanese and German fighter planes.

Original designs were derived from a flying boat – as evidenced by their deep, slab-sided fuselages. They were created as an alternative to the B-17 Flying Fortress, with design specs requiring a bigger payload, higher cruising speed, greater range and higher ceiling. The first plane was completed in December 1939, and England and France ordered 155 and 122 respectively. With the fall of France, all of these planes went to England.



### RAAF

Australian aircrew seconded to the Royal Air Force flew Liberators in all theatres of the war, including with RAF Coastal Command, in the Middle East, and with South East Asia Command, while some flew in South African Air Force squadrons. Liberators were introduced in the RAAF in 1944. The USAAF transferred some aircraft to the RAAF, while the remainder would be delivered from the USA under Lend-Lease. Some RAAF aircrew were given operational experience in Liberators while attached to USAAF squadrons. Seven flying squadrons, an operational training unit, and two special duties flights were equipped with the aircraft by the end of World War II in August 1945.

The RAAF Liberators saw service in the South West Pacific theatre of World War II. Flying mainly from bases in the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia, aircraft conducted bombing raids against Japanese positions, ships and strategic targets in New Guinea, Borneo and the Netherlands East Indies. Some also supported covert operations conducted by the Allied Intelligence Bureau; and others were converted to VIP transports.

A total of 287 B-24s were supplied to the RAAF, of which 33 were lost in action or accidents, with more than 200 Australians killed.

Following the Japanese surrender, the RAAF's Liberators participated in flying former prisoners of war and other personnel back to Australia. Liberators remained in service until 1948, when they were replaced by Avro Lincolns.

# B-24 Liberator Restoration Presentation (ctd)

## QANTAS

In June 1944, Qantas Empire Airways began service with the first of two converted LB-30 Liberators on the Perth to Colombo route to augment Consolidated PBY Catalina flying boats that had been used since May 1943.

(Source: Wikipedia)

For more info:

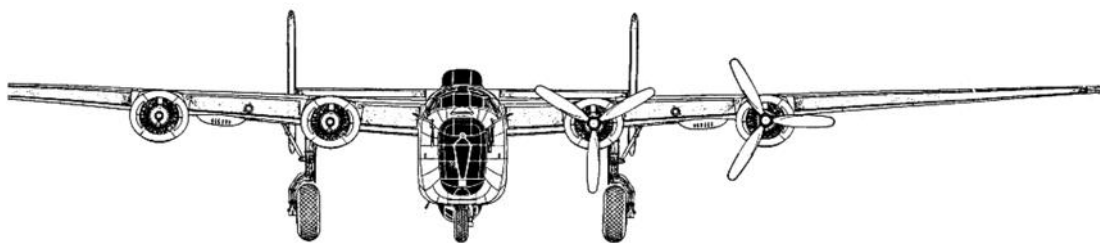
[B-24 Liberator Memorial Australia](#)

[Consolidated B-24 Liberator - Wikipedia](#)



## The B-24 Liberator in Summary

## B-24 Specifications



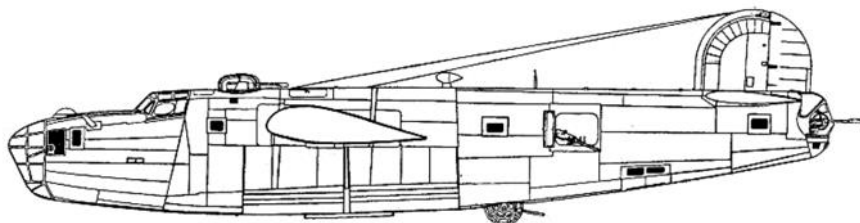
Engines: 4x P&W Twin Wasp R1830-65 (1200 HP each)

Weights: 16 tons empty, 31 tons laden

Wingspan: 110 feet

Height: 18 feet

Length: 68 feet



Bomb load: 4 tons - various mixes

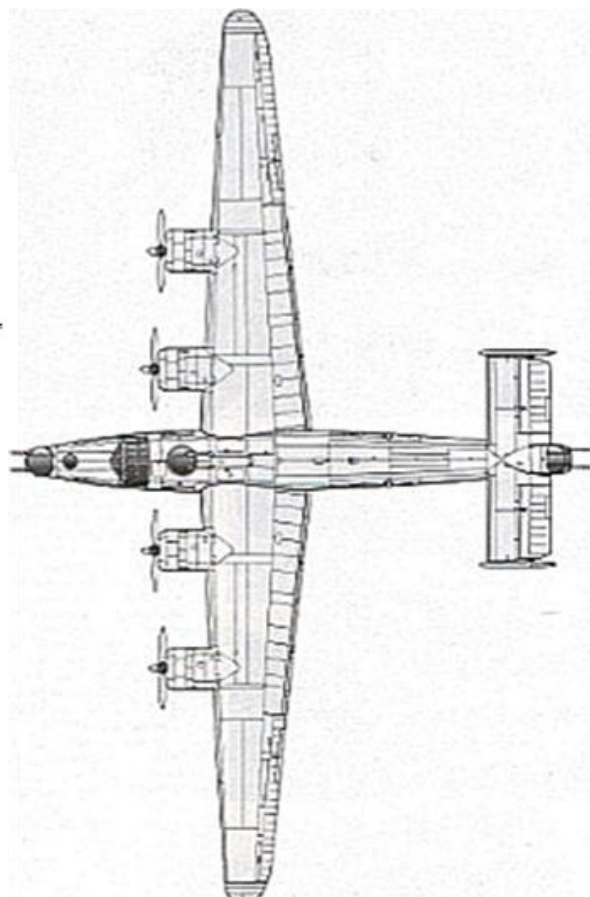
Armament: 10 Browning -50 cal heavy MGs

Speed: 290mph max, 215mph cruise

Ceiling: 28,000 feet laden

Range: 2,100 miles, 3,000 miles on aux tanks

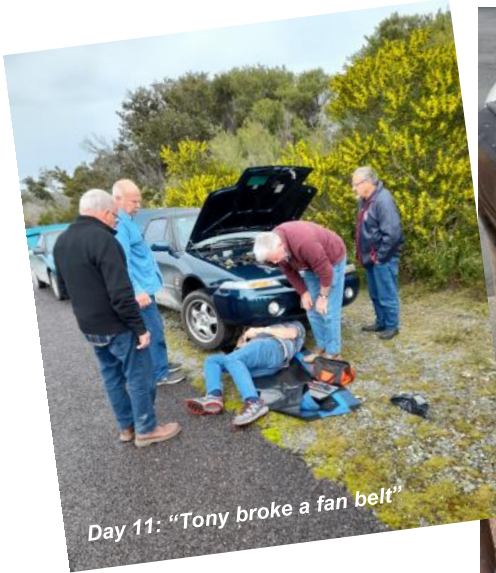
Crew: 2 pilots, engineer, 2 navigator-bombers, 2 radio operators, 4 turret gunners





# RALLIES & RUNS

## 2022 Long Distance Rally to Tasmania Photos (ctd)



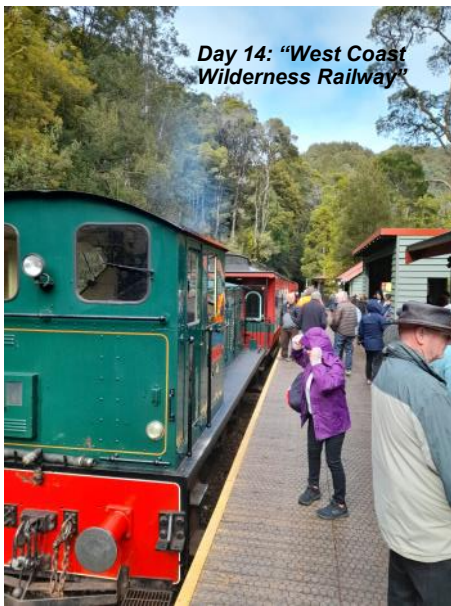
Day 11: "Tony broke a fan belt"



Day 10: "Manny blew a tyre"



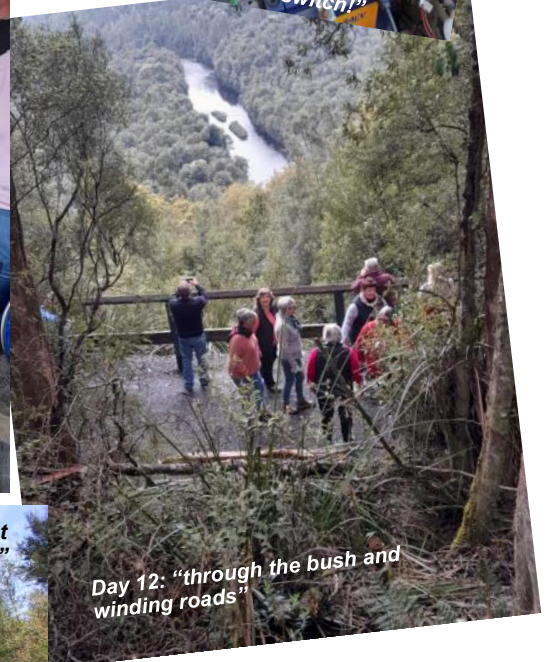
Day 12: "there is a kill switch!"



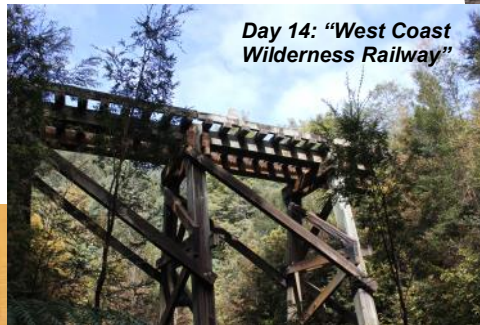
Day 14: "West Coast Wilderness Railway"



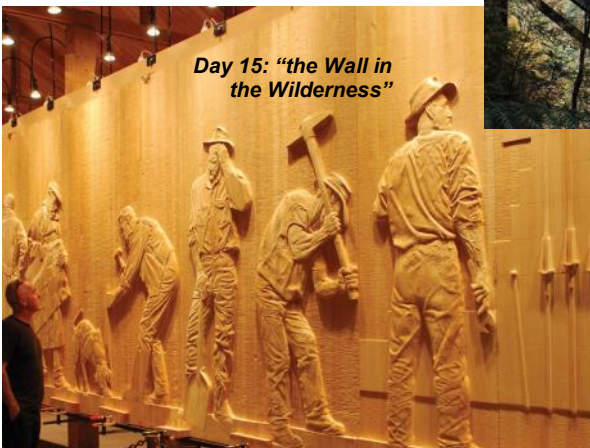
Day 11: "Barb's birthday"



Day 12: "through the bush and winding roads"



Day 14: "West Coast Wilderness Railway"



Day 15: "the Wall in the Wilderness"



Day 13: "a Gordon River cruise"

The views/comments expressed in the publication of this newsletter are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily endorsed by the current Committee of the Club. Whilst every care is taken to determine the safety of any technical information provided and the accuracy of the information supplied for inclusion in this newsletter, it is printed in good faith and neither the Committee nor the Club accept any responsibility for any loss or injury incurred by any application of such information.



## FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

### For Sale

**1975 Mazda 1000 Ute.** On club permit. 1000cc engine, 4 speed. Repainted about 10 years ago. \$17,000. Call Simon 0414 482 241. **11/22**

### For Sale

1947 Morris 8 E series 2 door sedan. VIN 119722. \$16,000.ono. Call Ron 0425 890 346. **11/22**



### For Sale

#### **Number Plates**

Victorian black & white number plates FX-444. \$444. Call Ken 0412 692 836. **10/22**



### Wanted

**Wanted** Either a Wolseley 1500 or a Riley 1.5 of around 1960-ish. Call Geoff 0437 704 063 if you can help. **10/22**

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).

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

## FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

### Wanted

**1920s club cars for Barwon Head Hall Centenary display** 11am - 3pm Sunday 20 November. Call: Leigh 0468 763 054.

### For Sale

**1939 MG TB.** Imported to Australia in 1980's. Unbroken ownership record. Matching numbers, fully equipped and full tools. Engine balanced, blueprinted.

Sports cam. New crankshaft, +60 thou pistons, 9:1 compression ratio. Larger valves, new clutch plate with stronger springs. Gearbox overhauled and stronger half shafts in rear axle.



Has performed faultlessly on a number of rallies.

Original London registration plates & reserved Victorian plates MGTB-39 included in the sale



TBs in this condition appear for sale in Great Britain and Europe at over A\$100,000. Looking for offers around \$85,000.

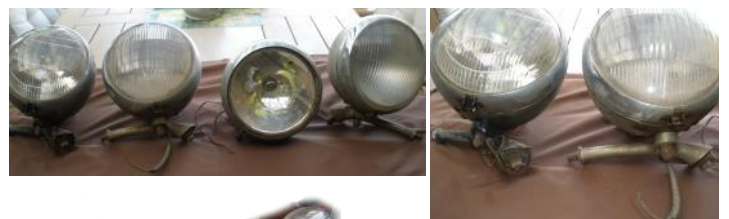
Call Geoff Brown. 0491 033 652

[gkbrown44@hotmail.com](mailto:gkbrown44@hotmail.com)

**10/22**

### For Sale

**4 classic vintage head lights.** VG condition - will clean up and restore perfectly. Off 1934 Chevrolet but will suit any 1933 to 1936 car. 1 missing glass lens: 3 have mounting brackets. Can deliver to club members. \$150 ono. Call Rocco 0407 040 054. **9/22**





If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC  
PO Box 200  
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST  
APPROVED  
PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA



1969 Ford Capri

# November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 <b>EXTREME WEATHER</b> (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.	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>30</b> Trafalgar Holden Rally Austin 7 Visit-Talbot Swap T'Ingatta Swap	31 October	1 Pegasus Cup Day Swap, Yering	2	<b>3</b> Morning Coffee Run Fyansford	4	5
6 Edenhope Swap HTPAA Hand Tool Market Glen Huntly	7	8 7.30pm November Meeting	<b>9</b> Dine Out 6pm Leopold Sportsman's Club	10	11	12 Bendigo Swap Cancelled
13	14	<b>15</b> Committee Meeting	16	<b>17</b> Tinker Day @ Harrises	18	19
<b>20</b> Lake Colac Picnic Maldon Swap Trafalgar Swap	<b>21</b> Dec. Backfire Deadline	<b>22</b> Tech Night Clubrooms 7pm	23	24	<b>25</b> Backfire folding morning 9am Clubrooms	26 <b>26/27</b> Gippsland Antiques, Collectibles & Bottles Traralgon
<b>27</b> Geelong Revival Display Waterfront	28	29	30	1 December	2	<b>3 Dec</b> Xmas Breakup. Dinner-Clubrooms