

BACKFIRE

Volume 56 No 6 October 2022

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

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



Indian



TRIUMPH



*Backfire is the monthly newsletter of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club (Reg No A00011857H).
Member of the Federation of Victorian Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Clubs.*



www.wdhvcgeelong.com



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



[wdhvc_car_club_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/wdhvc_car_club_geelong)

CONTENTS

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2022/2023	2
CONTENTS & PRESIDENT'S IDLE CHATTER	3
MEETING MINUTES	4
MEETING MINUTES (ctd) & GARY'S GIGGLES	5
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	6
CLUB LEGENDS (Frank McKenzie)	7
TRAFALGAR HOLDEN RAILWAY RALLY & OTHER EVENTS POSTERS	8
EVENTS CALENDAR	9
CLUB LEGENDS (ctd) & GEELONG REVIVAL DISPLAY	10
ON DISPLAY LAST MONTH (Itala & electric Celica)	11
RALLIES AND RUNS (Machinery Show & MG Club Visit)	12
RALLIES AND RUNS (Tinker Day at Shea's)	13
VALE BARRY COLLINSON & JACK HUBBARD	14
FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES	15
EVENTS CALENDAR	16

The President's Idle Chatter

Hi all,

Isn't it great to finally see a little bit of spring weather at last? So nice to have some warmth in the air.

We had a very busy week in September with a General Meeting, Dine out, Tinker Day, Committee Meeting, MG Car Club visit, Long Distance Rally departing and the Mystery Run, all in only five days. It has made the rest of the month seem very quiet. It has also probably set a new record for Club activity.

It was great to have an invitation from our near neighbours at the MG Club of Geelong to see their new facility. We had a large turnout on a magnificent sunny morning and I'm sure you will agree they have a very impressive set up at their new workshop/display and meeting room. It was also interesting to hear how positive an experience the restoration project has been for their club members. The number of people involved in small groups working on various parts of the car, with so many members wanting to be involved and help has exceeded their expectations. Even the number of their members who came along on the day to share their involvement showed the interest from the club members. Thanks again to the MG Club for inviting us along.

The 3 December end-of-year function at the clubrooms, with the Soul Sister Swing group to entertain us, is filling up fast. If you are interested make sure you bring your \$10 per ticket along

and get your name down to make sure you don't miss out. It will be a great night out - not to mention great value.

Don't forget with the approaching Geelong Show in October, we have a clash with our usual timing of our General Meeting. We can't use the Clubrooms on the second Tuesday on the 11th of October so we have had to change the date to the 18th. See you there.

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

Cheers

David Mitchell



*"Pressed steel department, where small parts are made."
Postcards showing the Ford plant in 1917.*

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 615 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2022**

PRESIDING

President David Mitchell welcomed 84 members attending, including new member Fred Vella.

APOLOGIES

Tiny Stonehouse, Graham Peacock, Alan Tipper, Simon Anderson, Rod & Lorraine Roach, Peter Tillotson, Joan Stott, Graham Baldock, Dick & Marg Safstrom, Jeanie Green, Barbara Thompson, Gary McCredden.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Graeme Anderson Carried

SICK LIST

Barry Johansson

MINUTES

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

Moved: Ken Parry

Seconded: Max McKenzie Carried

CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

INWARD

Letters In

- Bendigo bank statement

Emails In

- The Austin 7 Club confirmed their (rescheduled) visit to Geelong to 30 October. More details to follow.

OUTWARD

Letters Out

- Sympathy card was sent to Lorraine Collinson on the passing of Barry.

Emails Out

None

Moved: Rod Booley

Seconded: Karl Lorenz Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT (Maurice)

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

Moved: Maurice Healy

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

No report this month

LIBRARY (Gary)

No report this month.

DINE OUT (Sharyn)

The George in Pakington St this month.

EDITOR (Jon)

Jon is recovering well after is recent fall and operation.

Backfire deadline moved to October 3rd next month due to Tasmania Rally.

WEBSITE (Damien)

No report this month.

FEDERATION REPORT (David P)

No report this month.

COMMITTEE REPORT (David M)

Topics covered included:

- End of Year junction will be a supper with Soul Sisters performing;
- The Club Auction night will be on Jan 10th;
- The membership renewal day will be Feb 12th next year.

MERCHANDISE (David)

No update.

TINKER DAY (Ray)

This month will be at Gus' place.

MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

Max McKenzie correctly picked a 21 year old Merv Baum milking cows.

VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

Gus reported that Packard, Austin, Lancia and Cadillac members' cars were recently added to the permit system.

Fred Vella brought in his 1980 Celica that he has converted to be fully electric. He has travelled approximately 4000km since the conversion and the installation is a credit to his skills and knowledge.

Kevin Wilby also had his 1921 Itala Type 51 on display. Kevin purchased the car in 1964 from a farm paddock near Bannockburn. He is justly proud of getting the car back on the road after many years work.

RALLY EVENTS (Ken Parry)

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

- ◊ After a very persuasive presentation, a visit to the Trafalgar Holden Museum will be scheduled;
- ◊ The Mystery Run to a country pub is on this Sunday;
- ◊ Don't forget the Hot Dog run; and
- ◊ The Coffee Run to Portarlington.

RALLY REPORTS (David M)

Events attended by members include:

- Good attendance at the afternoon Coffee Run to Moorabool Valley Chocolate;
- The Lal Lal Falls picnic run was a great success on a very cold day;
- Alex Slota had another successful rally with the Kimberly at the Austin national Rally in Wodonga; and
- Evelyn Hill went to a Model T swap meet.

LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

Rally to Tasmania starts this week.



Gary's Giggles

Tall Tales from our Legendary Librarian

There was a very promising horse which ran away with all the races, so that Tommy Smith wanted him to run in the Melbourne cup. A marvellous horse, he could do anything, even talk. In fact, he used to grumble at the strict training, when he was kept away from mares. By the eve of the Cup he was thoroughly fed up and insisted that unless he had a mare for the night he would not perform on the day. Tommy argued, but the horse was adamant: he must have a mare. Giving in, Tommy said, "I'll make a bargain with you. If I can find a mare, you must promise me that it will be no more than once." Pawing and snorting, the stallion agreed.

Tommy searched around, but the best he could find was a zebra at the zoo. "Here she is mate. But remember, only once."

The next morning, Melbourne Cup Day, Tommy arrived at the stables to find the horse with his head drooping, exhausted, and a zebra much the same. "You bastard, you promised only once!" Tommy exclaimed.

"Only once!" snorted the stallion. "I've spent all night trying to get its bloody pyjamas off!"

TECH NIGHT (Peter)

Bring an interesting item this month.

SWAP MEET (Fred)

No update.

KITCHEN (Pam)

No report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- General interest in a bus to the Bendigo Swap, and a driver volunteered.

FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

None this month

Meeting closed at 8:55pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 18th October 2022 in the clubrooms.

• Leigh Dwyer

NOTE:**CHANGE OF OCTOBER MEETING DATE**

Two simpletons go for a push bike ride. After a few miles one gets off and lets his tyres down. "What did you do that for?" "My legs are too short to reach the pedals!"

Whereupon second gets a spanner and turned his own bike seat around. "If you're going to muck around, I'm going home."

A bloke drove off the first tee at Royal Melbourne and sliced right over the fence onto the road. Without bothering to look where his ball landed, he played another. After the round, the club pro approached him and said, "You know that drive you sliced off the first tee? It hit a bloke on a motorbike, who swerved in front of the truck, which ran through the fence onto a railway line and collided with the Southern Aurora. They're still going through the wreckage but the death toll so far is 37, with more than 100 in hospital."

"Flippin' heck!" said the golfer. "What should I do?"

"Turn your right hand over a bit," said the pro, "and don't grip so hard with your left."

Letters to the Editor



Rusty old Buick in a paddock

When the relatives down Willow Grove way in Gippsland recently suggested that I should visit the Trafalgar Holden Museum I thought to myself: "What could be interesting about a few clapped out rusty old dairy farmers Holdens?"

Thirty minutes later my wife Yvonne stopped out front of a converted old cheese factory, now modified as the Trafalgar Holden Museum.

As I reluctantly opened the front passenger door I was given an unwanted nudge onto to the footpath and Yvonne said, "Now there you are my darling, enjoy yourself and I will pick you up in in two hours' time." She then burned rubber as she drove toward the shopping centre with my wallet and plastic card.

Well, my friends, I was in for a big surprise as I paid a modest \$10 seniors entrance fee and entered the foyer of the museum and first viewed just a few of the 89 immaculately polished Holdens on display. As I was just one of two museum visitors at the time, my personal guide was Jake De Blaun, a retired former mechanic, who was an encyclopaedia of GM Holden knowledge and a great ambassador for the museum.

Jake advised me that what I was about to see were mint condition Holdens of the former Fisherman's Bend Holden museum that had been transported from Melbourne to Trafalgar many years ago. First was a beautiful FX sedan and next was an FE – and as the tour rolled on – so did the evolving models of Holden motor cars through the decades. There was plenty more to come – as business was quiet I was guided by Jake to a back room and treated to the full spiel of the Holden family business from the mid -1860's, though to the late 19th century. First, as saddlers who later outfitted the mounted troops shipped off to the South African Boer War and then as manufacturers of horse drawn carriages, who then responded to the challenge of manufacturing new age motorised vehicles.

When I casually mentioned to Jake that I was the proud owner of a 1939 Buick Straight 8 – assembled by GMH – his face lit up and he smiled with excitement. "Follow me," he said as he guided me over a 'No access for Visitors' rope gate – into a back room, where I saw a gleaming, maroon-coloured, fully restored 1938 Buick Straight 8. "This is my restoration" he said with pride.

Wow – I thought – "You did a great job" and then I said, "You know what Jake, about 50 years ago I was hunting rabbits out Willow Grove when I photographed the remnants of a rusty old 38 Buick in a paddock which might still provide you with some spare parts."

He then said, **"You are looking at it now".**

(I have since responded to Jakes request to send him the photographs of the rusty remnant Buick of 50 years past).

- Brian Edward



Club Legends

Frank McKenzie

*Our club includes people with a wealth of knowledge that we wish to preserve.
This is the first in a series about these "Club Legends"*

This is Frank's story, as told to me one sunny day sitting on his front porch in the sun.

Frank was born in Melbourne in 1933. He married Moira in 1954 and they had five children, with one passing away. In Frank's words when asked how many grandchildren - "Lots"

His interest in cars started at 14 years old, when he became interested in board track racing with a bike he paid for while working part time in a plastic factory.

As a young boy Frank and his mate would ride their push bikes from Preston to Glenburvie crossing in Essendon to see *The Spirit of Progress* train speed down the hill at 80mph. He said they rode all that way and it was gone in about one minute. This he said was the highlight of his youth and where his interest in trains began.



His other love is steam engines.

He started to collect model trains, which he showed me, and let me tell you they are beautifully made and very heavy.

His first motor bike was a Velocette at age 18.



Now not many people, when asked: "What was your first car?" can respond: "A Bugatti Brescia." Not bad for a young fella!

Frank worked all over the state for the railways as a civil engineer.

He learnt his restoration skills at the Noble Tech and took about 10 years to restore each car.

Over the years Frank has owned a Bugatti Brescia; a Model A Ford; a Jaguar Mark 7; a VW Beetle; a Mercedes 280 CE; and four Alfa Romeos (these were for the kids.)

He still owns three Rileys: a 1927 Riley 9; a Kestrel Sprite; and a Riley MPH.

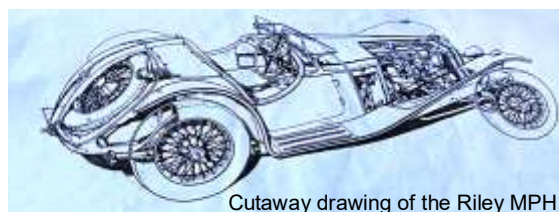
He told me that when he was learning at the tech he bought a sheet of aluminium 10ft long by 2ft wide and transported it on the top of the VW to Noble Park and back because you couldn't leave it there. He never saw a policeman the whole journey.

He started restoring because his daily drives were boring (in his words). He built the Riley 9 from scratch as he only had three door handles to start with.



He told me that he has his dream car and that is the Riley MPH. It also his favourite. It is very rare as only 14 were made. One was owned by the President of GMH. Frank corresponded with people in the UK when he was building it and when some of them came out here they couldn't tell the difference from the original car. It has been displayed in the National Automotive Museum of Tasmania.

Frank was a founding member of the Riley Car Club and an early member in the WDHVC. (ctd P 10)



Cutaway drawing of the Riley MPH

MOTORCLASSICA

7—9 October 2022

At the Exhibition buildings.
Categories will be advertised soon.
There is a different management in place, and they are interested in a wider range of vehicles, especially pre-war vehicles.



ROCK THE CLOCK
20-23 OCTOBER 2022

Proudly sponsored by:-
Cobden Coaches
100 BENCO
DRIVEN BY PASSION FOR 100 YEARS

Festival runs from 20th – 23rd October with CAR/MOTORBIKE SHOW AND SHINE on Saturday, 22nd October WITH PRIZES. Cars parked from 9am. Manifold Street, Camperdown, Vic.



TONGALA CAR & BIKE SHOW
22nd October 2022
11am to 5pm

Various Prizes for Car and Bike show participants
Cars \$10 Bikes \$5
Live Music

Licensed Bar "NO BYO" Food Stalls Raffles and Prizes and More
All Money Raised to Go to Local Organisations
Follow us on Facebook: Tongala Cruisers Club Inc and for more details contact Deb on 0410342879 or debby.mogregor@bigpond.com

ISHARD THE PRIDEON
Bendigo Bank
CAMPASPO

VCCC

Lake Bolac Camp Out Wed 19 to Tues 25 October

Come and enjoy the ambience of camping for six nights (or stay less if you can't stay for the duration).

Meet other car club enthusiasts.

Daylight saving will have started

- making cooking easier.

Details are the same as they were for the May event.

If you haven't been before, why not come and check it out? For further details contact Nerene Backhouse on 0427 348 060

(or WDHVC member Brian Edward, who attended the May Campout)

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



Trafalgar Holden Railway Rally

SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER, from 07.30am

The "Railway Rally" to Trafalgar's popular Holden Museum is on – yes – don't miss out.

Register at check in table at the Clubrooms from 6.45 pm Tuesday 18 October, 2022.

Trains

Departs Geelong 7.30am.

Arrives Southern Cross 8.38am.

Departs Southern Cross 8.54am (Traralgon Line).

Arrives Trafalgar 10.40am

Departs Trafalgar 1.50pm Arrives Southern Cross 3.45pm (45 minute toilet/ tea/coffee break).

Departs Southern Cross 4.30pm.

Arrives Geelong 5.33pm.

Please travel on last two carriages – toilets available on Trafalgar-bound trains.

Location - The Trafalgar Holden Museum is highly visible at 74 Waterloo Rd, Trafalgar

Entrance Fee – \$15 per adult (\$10 for club members).

Lunch Museum staff can pre-order lunch @ \$15 per person. (Sandwiches – 2 rounds – a piece of cake/slice and tea and coffee, or Pies & /or Pasties – 2 of each or 1 of each with piece of cake/slice and tea or coffee.). Served in museum foyer on large plates, not individual serves. Museum management advises that couples must pay \$15 each – Definitely -no plate sharing.

NOTE - ORDER AND PAY FOR MEAL PREFERENCE AT CHECK IN TABLE at the club meeting of 18 October.

If you are only paying the \$10 entrance fee, there is food available in nearby shops.

Missed the 7.30 am train Ex-Geelong? Next train departs Geelong 8.10 am.

Next Southern Cross Trafalgar departure 9.18am. Arrives 12.17pm at Trafalgar & return train leaves 1.30 minutes later.

Contact: Brian Edward 5222 6986 or email bseapm@bigpond.net.au

Events Calendar

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

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



- Thursday 6 October** **Coffee Run.** Portarlington Golf Club at 130 Hood Rd Portarlington. The venue opens at 10am and we will meet there. Indoor or outdoor seating is available.
Contact: Col 0425 822 026
- Friday 7 October** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Dossers
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Tuesday 18 October** **General Meeting** 7.30pm Clubrooms.
- Wednesday 19 October** **Dine Out** at 6pm Peninsula Hotel
Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089
- No Tinker Day this month.** *Contact: Ray van Galen 0411 954 865*
- Sunday 23 October** **Hot Dog Run** Meet at Balyang Sanctuary between 11.45am and 12 noon. Bring your picnic basket, thermos and chairs. Numbers by 19 Oct.
Phone or text Raelene on 0417 559 622.
- Monday 24 October** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm Clubrooms
- Monday 24 October** **November Backfire Deadline** 5pm
Contact: Jon Breedveld 0417 311 441 editor@wdhvcgeelong.com
- Tuesday 25 October** **Tech Night** "Cylinder Heads" One pot or as many as you like. Cracked, honed, warped or straight. Iron, steel or alloy. Side valve or OHV. Large or small. Be there around 7 pm, to set up for a 7.30 pm start.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Friday 28 October** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Sunday 30 October** **Trafalgar Holden Railway Rally** Register at the Clubrooms from 6.45 pm Tuesday 18 October (meeting night). See details Page 8.
- 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.
- Saturday 12 November** **Bendigo Swap Meet.** Club will run a bus. \$25 per head. Names at 18 October meeting.

NOTE: Smell the Roses Rides will be postponed until the weather improves.

Other Events

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

Oct 9 2022	Charlton Swap Meet	Charlton Park, Vic
Oct 7-9 2022	Motorclassica	Exhibition Buildings, Carlton. 3-day festival of motoring, with a range of events and attractions. Save the dates and look out for when tickets go on sale.
Oct 9 2022	Charlton Swap Meet	Charlton Park, Vic
Oct 16 2022	Morwell Swap Meet	Hosted by Gippsland Historical Automobile Club, held at Toners Lane Morwell
Oct 22/23 2022	Fryers Rd Antique Fair	Fryers Rd Campbells Creek
Oct 23 2022	Colac Swap Meet	Colac Showgrounds, Graham Rose event 0428 394 249 gandproseevents.com
Oct 23 2022	Bacchus Marsh Swap Meet	Marsh Rodders S & S and Swap Meet, Maddingly Park Reserve
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 Info: email: toolsales@htpaa.org.au, .
Nov 6 2022	Edenhope Swap Meet	Edenhope Racecourse
Nov 12/13 2022	Bendigo Swap Meet	Prince of Wales Showgrounds, Bendigo
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 10 2022	Geelong Swap Meet	Barwon Valley Activities Centre, Graham Rose event 0428 394 249.

Club Legends (ctd)

He has driven his Riley 9 all over Australia and camped everywhere.

He tells me a Riley 9 held the record from Perth to Sydney in 1923 and they re-enacted the journey about 20 years ago. By the time they got to Melbourne, Moira got out and she said: "I have had enough!"

I had a thoroughly wonderful day with Frank and learnt about a Club Legend.

- Sharyn Harris

.....
During Covid, Frank contributed the following piece about his early vehicles. In it he tells us a little more about the Bugatti. -Ed

Velocettes & Bugattis

In 1952 or thereabouts my mates and I were riding Velocette motorbikes, one of which had a bevel gear driven overhead cam engine (KSS). We heard of an old car for sale which sounded interesting and which we could afford, so we bought it between us.

It was a Type 13 Bugatti (Brescia) mainly because it had a bevel gear driven, overhead cam engine. Being an early car it had no front brakes and the general condition was poor. The engine ran all right, but the clutch, which consisted of an alternate series of steel plates, had welded itself solid. After freeing this up with kerosene and litharge it worked okay, so the next thing was the gearbox.

On taking off the top cover we found all the gear teeth of the gears were missing, thanks to the non-functioning clutch. We wrote a letter to the manufacturer in France and received a polite reply that they could supply a set of gears for about £80. Unfortunately we were only getting paid about 30 shillings a week as electrical apprentices, so were unable to avail ourselves of Molsheim's offer. We did however manage to travel around the block in Newport a couple of times in top (direct) gear.

The enclosed photo was taken on arrival home. That's me on the left and my mate Eric W Clarke on the right. The Bugatti was sold on after this. I bought a Riley Nine and Eric bought a straight eight Bugatti later on. I wonder if the car or parts still exist?

- Frank McKenzie
(Sept 2020)



"That's me on the left and my mate Eric W Clarke on the right."



Frank's Type 13 Bugatti (Brescia) "in 1952 or thereabouts"

Geelong Revival Display

Sunday 27 November

James Park and Simon Anderson are organising a display for the club at the Geelong Revival. They are looking for cars to be put on display on Sunday 27 November.

James is looking for one car from each decade: pre 1920, 1920s, 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, and 1990s. This will show case the diversity of the cars in the WDHVC.

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

For those with a veteran vehicle, there is going to be a combined display with the Veteran Car Club, in the Brass Era Display.

Please contact Simon about the veteran display.

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

Simon Anderson: email; ando_84@hotmail.com Ph 0414 482 241.

- Simon Anderson

On Display Last Month

There were two vehicles on display for the September monthly meeting - an ingenious electric Celica and a very rare Itala Tipo 51



Fred Vella showed members just what is possible when he displayed his 1980, bright blue, all electric Toyota Celica.

The car looked stock standard - until you lifted the boot lid and bonnet. About 150 kg of lithium ion phosphate batteries greeted you in the engine bay, with another 70kgs worth packed into the boot.



The batteries are 3.2 volts, connected in series to produce 163 amp hours (or 30 kilowatts of power). They run a silent 3-phase A/C 90 kilowatt motor, hooked up to the original mounts and gearbox and give a range of about 230kms.

The car can reach 140kph and features regenerative braking

Obviously both a VACC certificate and RWC were needed to put the \$30,000 car back on the road.

Fred said he built the car because he wanted something different. "It goes very good," he said. "I am very happy with it. It's the way of the future."



Kevin Wilby showed members his rare Itala Tipo 51, a more powerful specialised version of the Tipo 50, the latter's engine producing 44 bhp, compared to the 51's 52 bhp. Only 968 Tipo 50s made, of which seven survive, and 322 of the 51s, of which there are also seven remaining, including Kevin's.

The following details of the car come from a story Kevin submitted soon after he first ran the Itala, and appeared in the December 2021 Backfire.

"My mother saw the remains of this in early 1964 at the rear of a property in Bannockburn, told me and I went to see it. The gentleman Mr Heard, agreed for to me to have a look at it:

The radiator was lying on its back in front of the remains on the ground in the grass with the name *Itala* facing upward and the bonnet similarly in the grass and had been trampled upon.

The firewall and steering were assembled to the chassis and very little of the body - it had been given the ute treatment many, many years prior.

I asked if it was for sale - his reply: 'Scrap value £5'. I bought it. It cost a further £2 to hire a tandem trailer from Hillford Motors, High Street Belmont. It was in need of a complete ground up restoration.

The day I collected this Itala the gentleman found all the missing items in his garage, except for one Magneti Marelli headlamp.

He also said to me: 'Son you will never get this car to go. It has not run since 1940 and it was faster than Model A Ford's.' "

But Kevin proved him wrong, although it took a long time to restore.

Photos and video of an Itala Tipo 50.

[1921 Itala Tipo 50 - Fiat501C - Shannons Club](#)

Both cars are a credit to their owners' vision and persistence. - Ed



RALLIES & RUNS

Bellarine Vintage Machinery Show

Portarlington Sunday 25 September

Although this was not a club event, many WDHVC members attended with their red plate vehicles. Two other car clubs were in attendance also. There was a collection of old cars and trucks, stationary engines and steam engines driving woodworking machinery.



Logs were sawn into timber planks and then finished on a thicknesser. The off-cuts were then sawn into short lengths and used as fuel to the steam engines. Also, a steam engine powered a hay baler, showing how it was done before modern hay balers.



A vintage rope-making machine demonstrated how ropes were made. They also had a sheep shearing demonstration, using a portable two-stand shearing plant. This was the type of shearing plant that came to our farms during my younger days. The shearer was about my age and came out of retirement for the demonstration.



- Lindsay Alford (photos & text)

MG Car Club Visit

Friday 16 September

A large turnout responded to the invitation from the MG Car Club to see its new facility. MG club members explained how the new workshop/display and meeting rooms came about. The project aims to bring members together, and share/learn skills, using the style of the 'men's shed'. They are restoring an MG car as a club project. The MG body is on a rotating frame, it is being restored with new floor panels and frames. The engine is on a test frame ready for installation when the body is finished. They have a special tool for drilling out the spot welds. The club will sell the car when finished.

The workshop has four-post car hoists which can be moved about for members' use. They have a small kitchen area next to the workshop for coffee breaks. The club also owns a modern MG car which members take to events.



- Lindsay Alford (photo & text)

RALLIES & RUNS

Treasure Trove at Tinker Day

Ray's invitation to attend the Tinker Day held on Thursday 15 September said: "We will go to Gus and Pam's place for a look - see at what they have been doing out there." Well, there is always something going on or worth seeing at Pam & Gus's place - and the 30 plus members who attended can confirm the variety of interesting vehicles and activities on hand.

Members were cosy in Ivan's motor vehicle gallery and adjoining workshop, scattered among the array of cars on display. Some sat on the comfy chairs provided, while others brought their own or stood in clusters, catching up and admiring their surroundings. BYO coffee, tea and sandwiches were topped off by a tray of delightful slices provided by hostess Pam.



Ivan's latest project, a 1949 Riley, created particular interest. While a substantial amount of a sound car is still to hand, there remains lots to do. Ivan will no doubt spend many hours rebuilding coachwork, the drive train and the interior. The original perforated metal roof will look good as new after the replacement vinyl cover is fitted.

As well as his collection of Morris and other vehicles, Gus had something extra on hand, and members were invited to help themselves to any of the items loaded on a big tandem trailer.

Garden tools, cars parts, lights, whipper snippers and a compressor were among the offerings. The treasure trove attracted considerable interest, and more than one "treasure" was saved from a journey to the tip.

Thank you to Pam, Gus and Ivan for an interesting day. - Ed



STOP PRESS: Tassie Trip

We arrived home from the Tassie Trip (Long Distance Rally) yesterday morning, so there is no time for a report this month. However, rest assured that it was a great experience! Look for a full report in the November *Backfire*. - Ed



VALE - BARRY COLLINSON

22/12/1936 - 05/09/2022



We sadly observe the passing of Barry, a well-regarded and loved friend and member of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club.

Barry was born in St Arnaud and then grew up in Ballarat where he qualified as an A Grade motor mechanic, earning the accolade of "Apprentice Of The Year".

In 1956 Barry trained for

National Service. He embarked on a career in the Victorian Police Force in 1958, initially as a motorcycle patrolman, culminating in 1976 with an appointment as Sergeant at Portarlington, where he served until his retirement.

His first vehicles were a 1928 Indian Motorcycle and a 1948 Anglia.

Barry was a Foundation member of the Ballarat Rovers Motorcycle Club. He raced a Triumph M/C and restored a Harley Davidson. Over the years Barry has owned 66 vehicles, with perhaps his favourite being a 1950 Sunbeam Talbot.

Barry joined the W.D.H.V.C. in 1973 and with Lorraine, participated actively in club events. They joined the 30 strong, club "long distance rally" to Europe in 2000. For many years, Barry arranged our clubroom photo display of members' vehicles. Barry used his skills to restore and rally a number of historic vehicles, including a veteran Day Elder truck. Then followed a 1947 Studebaker, 1925 Nash, 1970 E type Jaguar (formerly owned by Ernie Sigley), 1968 E type Jaguar, 1936 Morris Eight, 1961 Mk2 Jaguar, two army jeeps and a 1974 350 SL Mercedes coupe. He also rebuilt an XK 120 Jaguar from scratch.

Both Lorraine and Barry have been very active in volunteering to assist the community in various ways and Barry was an active member of the Bellarine Community Support Network, and volunteered with the group promoting the Museum of Motoring Heritage and Industry.

Barry and Lorraine were married for 62 years, with two daughters, Meredith and Lisa, three grandchildren, two step grandchildren and one great grandchild. We extend our deepest sympathy to Lorraine and the whole family at this time, and we will cherish the great memories we have of Barry, a great club member and a true gentleman.



VALE - JOHN (JACK) HUBBARD 5/8/1929 - 7/9/2022

We are saddened to learn of the passing of John (known to us as Jack) Hubbard, a long-time member of our Club since 1985.

Jack had a career as a train driver, with experience in steam locomotives, diesel and electric trains. His four sons;- Alan, Wayne, David and Glenn - had joined the W.D.H.V.C in 1975 and when Jack moved to Portarlington, he rallied in his 1926 Hupmobile sedan, 1928 Hupmobile sedan and a Ford Customline, and all of these vehicles are being kept by the family.

He was an avid "swappie" and frequently travelled extensively to swap meets. He enjoyed steam and stationary engine rallies.

Jack's wife Betty was always at his side until she passed away on 14 May 2004.

We extend our condolences to Jack's family.

One of Jack's beloved Hupmobiles (the '28?)



- compiled by Judith Matthews & Trevor Schneider

Did You Know?

One of the very last series production wood-framed coach built bodies was Riley's RM series - a survivor till 1955

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

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**

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.

Great Mars Bar Competition

More photos needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen
Ph 52789 368,
or

email rbvangalen@gmail.com



For sale/wanted ads are free to Members and generally appear for **two issues** of *Backfire*. To remove advertisements from the newsletter earlier, email editor@wdhvcgeelong.com (Ph 0417 311 441).

Reminder: All vehicles in the "For Sales" must have VIN number & Price or Registration Number & Price, otherwise they will be listed under "Clues". Ads for the 'Clues' section must not refer to any payment that may take place by mentioning an amount or 'best offer', etc.

All ads for cars also appear on the **club web site** where greater detail and photos (where supplied) can be viewed. To see ads, go to

<http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com/wdsale.html>

All ads remain on the website until you request their removal. To remove an ad from the website, email webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com (Ph 0418 587 415).

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

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

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**



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

If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC
PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST
APPROVED
PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



1961 Vauxhall Cresta

October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 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.	26	27	28	29	30 September	1
2	3 Oct. <i>Backfire</i> Deadline	4	5	6 Morning Coffee Run Portarlington	7 <i>Backfire</i> folding morning 9am Dosser's home	8
CLUBROOMS CLOSED FOR GEELONG SHOW						
9 Charlton Swap	10	11	12	13	14	15
CLUBROOMS CLOSED FOR GEELONG SHOW						
16 Morwell Swap	17	18 7.30pm October Meeting	19 Dine Out 6pm Peninsula Hotel	20	21	22 22/23 Fryers Rd Antique Fair, Campbells Creek
23 Hot Dog Run 11.45 Balyang Sanctuary	24 Committee Meeting Nov. <i>Backfire</i> Deadline	25 Tech Night "Cylinder Heads" Clubrooms 7pm	26	27	28 <i>Backfire</i> folding morning 9am Clubrooms	29
30 Trafalgar Holden Rally Austin 7 Visit-Talbot Swap T'Ingatta Swap	31	1 November <i>Pegasus Cup Day</i> Swap, Yering	2	3	4	Nov 12 Bendigo Swap