

BACKFIRE

Volume 56 No 5 September 2022

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd 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



[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,

As winter comes to an end, we are still maintaining our normal schedule of events, which is very encouraging despite Covid lingering. There are plenty of people getting out and about to events and enjoying activities.

This month we have a special event coming up on Friday 16 September at 9:30am. The MG Car Club of Geelong have kindly offered to show us their restoration project at their workshop. They will provide a talk on the MGB they are part way through restoring and they have been kind enough not only to open up their relatively new building and workshop but also include a cup of tea/coffee/biscuit afterwards. For those members who haven't had a chance to see their new facilities, this is a great opportunity not only to see their project, but also to build stronger ties with our near neighbour.

The recent change in Federal Government has provided a lot more discussion about changes to the environment and reduction of emissions. It is interesting to read that the ACT Government is looking to introduce a ban on Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) both petrol and diesel in 2035. This is in line with some other countries but is particularly significant given the relatively low electric vehicle sales in Australia. That is only 13 years away and we have a long way to go.

The rest of the world is a long way ahead, with global electric vehicles having outsold diesels for the first time in Q1 2022. 12.2% versus 11.8% and rising rapidly.

What this all means for historic vehicles, we will have to wait and see. As electric vehicles become more common there are going to be more opportunities with electric conversion of older vehicles and I'm sure this will grow as electric vehicles become more popular and components for conversion are more readily available. Also as new ICE engine vehicles are no longer sold, there will still be many older vehicles on the road, so fuel will have to be available into the future. What incentives are brought in to encourage changeover will be interesting to see. Challenging times ahead.

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 October so we have had to change the date to the 18th October. Mark your diary now so you don't get caught.

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

Cheers

David Mitchell



"The largest direct current control board in the world, in the Ford power house." Postcards showing the Ford plant in 1917.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 614 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 9th AUGUST 2022**

PRESIDING

President David Mitchell opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitors to meeting No 614.

APOLOGIES

Leigh Dwyer, David Perkins, Alex Mc Laws, Jennie Green Lindsay Rogers and Eva Barwise, Trevor Schneider, Pat Evans, Allan Tipper, Len Millar, Lucy Butell, Barry Johanson, Barbara Thompson, Harold Newton, Karl Lorenz, Ray Matthews, Kevin Baker, Gus Shea, Julie Wilby, Paul Strickland, Jon Breedveld, John Bailey, Bernie Turner, Fred and Sharyn Harris.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Peter Telfer Carried

SICK LIST

Jon Breedveld

MINUTES

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

Moved: Max McKenzie

Seconded: Ken Parry Carried

CORRESPONDENCE (Fred)

INWARD

Letters In

- Bendigo bank - two account statements
- Thank you card - Lindsay Noble for the club's thoughts on his recent illness
- Thank you card - Teena and Damien Giustini for the clubs thoughts on the recent loss of their son.

Emails In

- Colac Collectable Car Club - invitation to our club, if we are in the Colac area to join them in them in any activities

OUTWARD

Letters Out

- Sympathy card - Teena and Damien Giustini on the passing of their son.

Emails Out

None

Moved: Barb van Galen

Seconded: Rod Booley 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: Jim Coates Carried

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

Nil

LIBRARY (Gary)

Gary recommended several books.

He also advised that some books have been out on loan for years and that you need to fill in the return date in the book on returning

DINE OUT (Barb)

Wednesday 10th Aug 6pm at the Great Western Hotel

EDITOR (Jon)

August edition done by Damien Giustini whilst Jon was away. Thank you very much Little Gus.

Jon injured from falling off a ladder but will resume doing the Backfire.

WEBSITE (Damien)

Nil

FEDERATION REPORT (David P)

Nil

COMMITTEE REPORT (David M)

Topics covered included:

- End of year function will be on December 3rd and we will be entertained by the Soul Sister Swing group.
- Association with the MG Car Club and the use of their hoist for doing car checks
- An interview with our older members, our legends with all their vast knowledge to be printed in the Backfire and on the Website.
- Coffee/hot chocolate pod machine was purchased for special occasions.
- Auction night to be held later in the year
- Reinvested one term deposit for only four months, hoping interest rates will rise.

MERCHANDISE (David)

The basket on display is to show what is for sale, cups, pens, badges and log book reminders.

TINKER DAY (Ray)

18th August meet at the Peninsular Hotel car park by 10.30am for a trip to the Mannerim airfield down Swan Bay Rd. BYO everything, chair food and drink.

MARS BAR AWARD (Ray)

We need more childhood photos please.

VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

Nil

RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (David M)

- ◇ July Poker run organized by Maurice was a great day despite the weather. Winner was Barb van Galen; runner up was Jan Clissold
- ◇ Coffee run was very well attended at Millars Cafe Lara.
- ◇ Tinker day at Steve Moore's place was another great day with Steve's wonderful collections of almost everything.
- ◇ Brian Edwards recommended going to Cooli Rock event at Coolangatta on the second week in June and also the Gold Coast Museum with a wonderful collection of cars
- ◇ Ken Parry went to Winton and did a few laps and said it was a good day till the weather changed

RALLY EVENTS (Ken Parry)

- Sunday 21st August a picnic run to Lal Lal Falls leave the clubrooms at 9.30 am and 10 am at the roadside opposite the Batesford Road House Numbers needed for this run. BYO food drinks and chairs
- Friday 16th September at the MG Car Club for a talk on their restoration of an MG and morning coffee.
- Sunday 18th September Mystery run will end at a hotel for lunch. Leave clubrooms at 10.30 am
- Sunday 23rd October Hot Dog Run at Balyang Sanctuary at 11 am
- November run might be with the Colac Club, still to be confirmed

LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

Nil

TECH NIGHT (Peter)

Tuesday 23rd August subject - Badges

Tuesday 27th September - Items of interest

SWAP MEET (Fred)

Nil.

KITCHEN (Pam)

Nothing to report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cleaning steel with molasses takes the carbon out of the steel
- Kevin Wilby would like to thank Gus Shea and Graham Peacock for the Itala type MG spare parts book

FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

- Car Rotisserie for sale see John Hickford
- Facebook has one of our club emblems for sale offers over \$100: we sell them for \$25 each.
- John's Nash needs some motor repairs and he needs some advice if available

Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 13th September 2022 in the clubrooms.

- Libby Booley

**CLUB MERCHANDISE***Show You Belong*

The WDHVC has items on display in the cabinet at the rear of the Clubrooms for members to purchase.

Members can select from:

Coffee Mugs	\$15
Lapel Badges	\$10
WDHVC Metal Car Badges	\$25
Black Geelong Plates	\$33
Replica Inaugural Metal Club Badge	\$20
50 th Anniversary Metal Badges	\$20
WDHVC pens	\$4 each or 3 for \$10
WDHVC Log Book Reminder Stickers	\$2
Magnetic WDHVC Badges	\$4 each or 3 for \$10
Windscreen Banners	\$10

Contact:

David Mitchell (Ph 0409 099 716)



VicRoads Part-Privatised

A consortium has agreed to pay \$7.9 billion to enter a joint venture with the Victorian government to partly operate VicRoads for the next 40 years. Here's how it may impact you.

Novice drivers will soon be able to complete their online Probationary and Learner tests for free, with safe drivers also getting a 25 per cent discount off the cost of their license renewal as part of a \$7.9 billion deal with the State government.

As outlined in the deal announced on June 30, a consortium will operate the Registration and Licensing (R&L) and Custom Plates (CP) arms of VicRoads for the next 40 years. However, the State government will retain control of drivers' data and privacy, pricing regulation of fees and services, and all regulation and policy changes.

VicRoads' R&L division is responsible for licensing more than five million drivers across Victoria, along with maintaining the registration of more than six million cars, motorbikes, commercial vehicles and trailers.

Safe drivers will be rewarded with a 25 per cent discount on the license renewal fee.

The fine print

The consortium - comprised of superannuation funds *Aware Super* and *Australian Retirement Trust*, along with global asset manager *Macquarie Asset Management* - will bolster VicRoads' IT infrastructure and operations as part of a joint venture.

The deal will see the consortium manage the R&L and CP arms of VicRoads for the next 40 years, which will then revert back to the control of the state government unless a further agreement is made.

While the consortium has agreed to pay \$7.9 billion up front, it is not clear at this point exactly how they will recoup their investment, but it is understood they will charge the Victorian government a percentage of transactions made.

No existing jobs will be lost as part of the new deal, with the Victorian Ombudsman and Victorian Information Commissioner to provide oversight of the joint venture.

The proceeds of the \$7.9 billion deal will see the State government ease some of the financial pressure and mounting debt caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be invested into the new Victorian Future Fund to help manage climbing debt and invest in future projects.

Learner and Probationary drivers will save \$51.40 and \$133.40 respectively.

Safe Driver Discount program

As part of the agreement for the new joint venture, new incentives and discounts will be rolled out to existing and aspiring motorists to both make access to getting a license easier, and staying safe once getting it.

Safe driving incentive

The Safe Driver Discount program will reward good behaviour behind the wheel to those who avoid breaking road laws.

License holders of all car, motorcycle, and heavy vehicles who are able to maintain a clean driving record and not lose any demerit points (or break road safety offences) for three years prior to the time of their licence renewal will receive a 25 per cent discount on their next renewal.

This latest incentive will be introduced in late October of 2022 and will be in place until 2026.

Learner permits

In order to acquire a Learners Drivers permit, applicants need to complete the Learner Permit Test, which can be completed online or in person.

To date, aspiring drivers or rides would need to pay a Learner Permit Test Online fee of \$25.40 and a Learner Permit Issues fee of \$26 upon successful completion. Both fees will be waived, saving Victorians a total of \$51.40.

Aspiring Learner drivers who attend their Learner Permit Test in person will still be required to pay a \$19.60 Appointment fee, \$25.40 Learner Permit Test In-person test fee, or a Motorcycle Learner Test fee which is completed through individual training providers.

Car Learner Permit Renewal fees as well as Licence Replacement fees will also remain.

Probationary licence

To graduate from a Learner to Probationary driver, people must complete three requirements - an eyesight test, the Hazard Perception Test, and the Drive Test.

As part of the new Safe Driver Discount program, the \$19.40 Hazard Perception Test fee and the \$113.90 Probationary Licence Issue fee will both be made free of charge.

Though drivers will be able to save \$133.30, they will still need to fork out \$105.70 to pay for an Appointment fee, In-person test fee, Drive Test fee, and a Drive Test appointment fee.



Gary's Giggles

Tall Tales from our Legendary Librarian

A father to be was waiting anxiously outside the labour ward where his wife was hard at it. A nurse popped her head around the door. "You have a little boy. But it might be an idea to go and have a cup of coffee because we think that there might be another."

Turning pale, he left. An hour later he returned to be told that he was the father of twins. "But we think there's another one on the way. Come back in a little while."

This time he went to the pub next door, phoning in to hear that there was a third baby, with a fourth imminent.

After a few stiff whiskeys he called the hospital again. He was so drunk that he dialled a wrong number – and got the recorded cricket score. Emitting an agonised cry, he collapsed on the floor. As the barman picked him up, he heard the voice from the phone, "The score is 96 all out. And the last one was a duck."

Hire teenagers while they still know everything.

"The biology teacher was making sure her young ladies had done their homework.

"Angela," she asked, "please name for me the organ of the body which, under the right conditions, expands to six times its normal size." "I'm sorry Miss," said Angela, "but that's hardly a fit and proper question to ask a nice girl."

"Denise?" said the teacher, "Can you answer the question?"

"Yes Miss," said Denise, "The pupil of the eye, in dim light."

"Perfectly correct," said the teacher. "And now Angela, I have just three things to say to you. Number one, you haven't done your homework. Number two, you've a dirty mind. And number three, one of these days you're going to be very, very disappointed."

On his very first parachute jump, Harry found himself heading towards terra firma tugging furiously at an unresponsive ripcord. To his astonishment he saw someone rocketing up towards him. Always ready to make polite conversation, he yelled, "You know anything about opening parachutes?"

"Sorry mate," came the reply. "You know anything about lighting gas barbecues?"

A new teacher had taken over the class and she was very pretty.

"How old you reckon she is?" said young Bruce.

"Don't know. But if we can get her knickers off, we will know."

"How come?"

"Well, on the back of mine it says 8 to 10 years."

It was a country cricket match. Bill was the club's fast bowler but he knew he was going to have a bad day when he discovered that his father-in-law was to umpire the match.

Bill's first ball caught the batsmen LBW. "Howzat!"

"Not out," said the ump.

The second ball snipped the bat to be caught by the wicket-keeper. "Howzat!"

"Not out."

Getting really angry, Bill bowled the fastest ball of his career. It not only hit the middle stump but splintered it, sending the bales into orbit.

"Nearly got him that time," said Bill.

Why did the wombat cross the road?

To see his flat mate.

VicRoads Part-Privatised (ctd)

Additionally, Probationary car drivers who under 25 years of age can receive a free three-year full driver licence, if they are able to maintain a good driving record throughout their entire probationary period.

Safe drivers who have not incurred demerit points or committed road safety offences in the three years prior to their licence expiring, will be rewarded with the reintroduction of a 25 per cent discount on their licence renewal.

Source: RACV website. Author: Tom Hounslow. Posted July 04, 2022.

[How the VicRoads joint venture will impact Victorian drivers | RACV](#)

OTHER COMING EVENTS

AUSTINS OVER AUSTRALIA 2022 - 7-11 September 2022

All Austin owners are welcome to participate in the four days of tours in the Albury-Wodonga area. Organised by John Blythe and the Vintage Austin Register. Entries are being accepted now by John at jrb.12@bigpond.com

Austin Seven CLUB
54th ANNUAL DAILY
Morningside Park
Sunday 9th October 2022

SWAP MEET

Enquiries Phillip Hall 0413 185 576

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.

ALL HISTORIC RACING
 The SIGHTS of the SOUNDS of HISTORY

Sept 9-10-11, 2022

PHEASANT WOOD CIRCUIT
 (02) 4841 1422
www.pheasantwood.com.au
 MARULAN, NSW

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

GEELONG REVIVAL
 MOTORING FESTIVAL

The Gippsland Vehicle Collection presents

MOSTLY MOTORCYCLES & MAFFRA CARS

160+ Bikes

Open JULY 17 to end OCT
 MAFFRA - SALE RD MAFFRA

OPEN FRIDAY - MONDAY and all SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
 10am - 4pm GROUPS by appointment

SHEPPARTON SWAP MEET
 Sunday Sept 11, 2022

SHEPPARTON SHOWGROUNDS,
 HIGH ST, SHEPPARTON
 (MIDLAND HWY A300)

6m x 6m OUTDOOR SITES \$20

ENTRY \$5 (Children under 14 free)

Gates open at 6.30am for stall holders.
 General public 7.30am.
 No alcohol. No camping. No dogs allowed.
 Lunch and refreshments available.

MAIL: Send stamped self-addressed envelope and booking fee to: Shepparton Swap Meet, P.O. Box 1206, Shepparton, 3632.
 CHEQUE: Please make cheques payable to G.V.M.F.D.C. Inc.
 DIRECT DEPOSIT: to BSB 633-000, Acc 1366-25876
 Reference to be "Swap" and your name.

www.gvmvdc.com.au/GVMswp.html

For further information contact:
 Lloyd or Kristine Healey on 0438-294 351

Member of the Association of Motoring Clubs Inc and The Federation of Vintage, Futura & Classic Vehicle Clubs, Vic.

Australian National **EUROA** SHOW & SHINE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 2ND, 2022
 MUCH MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER CAR AND BIKE SHOW!

8am to 3.30pm

Supported by Strathbogie Shire Council

Over 70 trophies • Unique and exceptional cars from all eras • Films • Trucks • Tractors • Motorcycles

Live Music | Food Stalls | Craft Market | Children's Entertainment

Trophy Presentation at 1.30pm

Show Vehicles \$10 including entry
 Show Bikes \$5 including entry
 General Public \$5
 Kids Free

Shannons American Motoring Show

Sunday 23rd October 2022
 Event Central at Caribbean Park

Entry from Farnham Gully Road 100 metres North of Eastlan
 Gates open for display vehicles from 9.00am spectators 10.00 am

See 1950s television sets, sixties muscle, classic convertibles, independents, rare models and much much more!

Children's entertainment, Trophies, Vendors, Club displays

Event Enquiries 0473 632 277. For site plan and more information <http://www.amvc.com.au/victorian-american-motoring-show>

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 + 100+ 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 0410342679 or debby.mcgregor@bigpond.com

ROCK THE CLOCK

CAR/MOTORBIKE SHOW AND SHINE
 Saturday, 22nd October
 WITH PRIZES.

20-23 OCTOBER 2022 in CAMPERDOWN

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 1 September

AFTERNOON Coffee Run. we will head to MOORABOOL VALLEY CHOCOLATE - located on the Geelong side of the Eldorado Caravan Park, Midland Highway Batesford. (Stay in the left lane going over the Geelong Ring Road.) You can go straight there about 3pm or meet and leave from the Clubrooms at 2 30pm. REMEMBER IT'S ON IN THE ARVO!!!!

Contact: Col 0425 822 026

Tuesday 13 September

General Meeting 7.30pm Clubrooms.

Wednesday 14 September

Dine Out at 6pm (Venue TBC) Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089

Thursday 15 September

Tinker Day . Starting from the clubrooms at 10.30am. We are going to visit Gus and Pam Shea's place to see what has been happening over there. Some people may wish to go to Gus's place directly to save a trip to town. They expect us out there at about 11am. BYO everything as usual and be prepared for a good laugh with your club members.

Contact: Ray van Galen 0411 954 865

Friday 16th September

MG Car Club visit The Geelong MG Car Club has kindly invited us to visit their new facilities and show us their project car under restoration. Tea and coffee provided. Their workshop is located in the area opposite the entrance to the Showgrounds next to the Stay Upright motorcycle driving school, 96-150 Breakwater Road Breakwater. Starts at 9:30am.

Contact David Mitchell 0409 099 716.

Sunday 18th September

Mystery Run with lunch at a hotel. Leave clubrooms at 10.30am sharp. Meet northern members on Bacchus Marsh Rd, opposite Thornton's. Run about 35kms.

Contact Ken 0437 254 351.

Tuesday 20 September

Committee Meeting 7.30pm Clubrooms

Monday 26 September

October Backfire Deadline 5pm

Contact: Jon Breedveld 0417 311 441 editor@wdhvcgeelong.com

Tuesday 27 September

Tech Night ""Items of Interest". That might bring out some non-technical people. All welcome. Be there around 7 pm, to set up for a 7.30 pm start.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

Friday 30 September

Backfire folding morning 9am Clubrooms.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

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

Other Events

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

Aug 28 2022	Hamilton Swap Meet	Hamilton Showgrounds, S W Rodders
Sept 11 2022	Shepparton Swap Meet	Shepparton Showgrounds
Sep 18 2022	Buloke Swap Meet	Buloke Show & Shine & Swap Meet, Birchip Leisure Centre, Morrison St
Sep 18 2022	Bairnsdale Swap Meet,	Lucknow Vic CHERLY 0417 535 843
Oct 1 2022	Myrtleford Swap Meet	Myrtleford Show & Shine & Swap Meet, Saturday Oct 1, Myrtleford Showground
Oct 8/9 2022	Glenlyon Swap Meet	Glenlyon Rec Reserve
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 30 2022	Tallangatta Swap Meet	Tallangatta
Oct 30 2022	Talbot Swap Meet	Talbot
Nov 6 2022	HTPAA Antique Hand Tool Market	St Anthony's 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 13 2022	Maldon Swap Meet	Maldon Racecourse Reserve (Vic)
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 10 2022	Geelong Swap Meet	Barwon Valley Activities Centre, Graham Rose event 0428 394 249.

Signs of the Times



I found a new speed limit sign on a four-lane highway. This one is on the Prince's Highway at Moriac. Others are on the Hume and elsewhere. Sign reads 'Side Road Activated'.

- Lindsay Alford



Letters to the Editor



Public Liability at Swap Meets?

I did Cobram Swap Meet last weekend.

The showgrounds was a swamp. I, like many others, had to be towed out.

Many site holders stayed away because of their new \$43 public liability insurance requirement.

I shopped around and bought a 12 month, \$10 million public liability policy for \$117 from AAMI on line.

Apparently, all swap meets will require each site holder to have their own public liability insurance from now on.

- Peter Telfer



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; jamespark2000@gmail.com or after 7pm ph 0466 580 922.

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

- Simon Anderson



RALLIES & RUNS

Tinker Day - 18 August



Top three photos from the Club website - Ed



Last Thursday for Tinker Day we went to the Bellarine Model Aircraft Club at Mannerim.

The President of the club gave us a very interesting talk and allowed us to ask many questions. It seems model aircraft are as addictive as historic cars and many members have more than one or two.

The day was very windy but we had a

good turn up of interested members and by staying out of the wind it was very pleasant, but not good for flying their beautiful aircraft. One man however had a polystyrene model and flew it around for us after we had our lunch. I personally was amazed at how fast they go, and apparently it was a slow one.

Their club members were very welcoming and we all had a very enjoyable time.



Cheers Libby



Manny Vella came on a special ride



The History of the Clincher Tyre

By Bob Corio, Pre 16 Automobiles

When car-show spectators walk up and talk to me about my '15 Ford, one of the most frequent questions they ask, (after "How fast can it go?") is "How do you get parts for a car like that?!" And I'm almost embarrassed to admit that by the simple expedient of picking up a telephone, I can have, by end of week, a brand new fender, an entire upholstery kit, a fresh, counter-weighted crankshaft or a new, rubber floor-mat (Now, watch this Marlin Perkins-style switcheroo). Not only can we get new rubber floor-mats, other rubber products are available as well - including spanking-new, Firestone, Universal, Excelsior or Montgomery Ward clincher tyres.

Coker Tyre, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, owns the moulds and holds the exclusive rights to Firestone, Excelsior, Universal and other types of clincher tyres (Universal Vintage Tyre Co, of Hershey, Pennsylvania, is a subsidiary of Coker Tyre). Where the original tyre moulds couldn't be obtained or were no longer usable to produce these tyres, Coker had new moulds created from the original blueprints. Coker's clinchers were once manufactured in Vietnam, but production was switched over to a factory of the Archson International Company, Ltd., in Taiwan, around 2009.

I spoke with 15-year Coker vice president, Jess Hoodenpyle, who said, "One of the ways our modern rubber compound differs from the original recipe is that it contains chemistry that resists ozone and UV radiation. Though the rubber is a bit tougher and longer wearing than what was used back in the day, it's still somewhat softer than the material that goes into modern steel-belted radials and this is mostly to facilitate hand mounting and dismounting. The same rubber compound is used for all black Firestone, Excelsior and Universal clinchers, and that is also true of the recipe for all the white versions. All our replica clincher tyres are built around a 4-ply, nylon cord rather than the original cotton, which, back in the day, was a lot less durable and had a tendency to rot."

The color of natural rubber, after old fashioned sulfur-vulcanization, was gray. Adding pyrogenic silica (a thickening agent) and zinc oxide (a reinforcing agent and vulcanization accelerant) lightened the color of the rubber and, depending on how much was used in the formula, could turn tyres completely white. While few century-old tyres survive to tell the tale first-hand - and these might have discolored through age - old photos do confirm that the original rubber formulas varied enough that some tyres were almost pure white while others were definitely gray (because the uniform, medium-gray shade of the tyres can be compared to the white clothing worn by people in the same photo).

Wikipedia tells us that in 1864, Joseph Binney founded the Peekskill Chemical Works in Upstate New York and there, produced the compound, "carbon black." In 1885, his son, Edwin would join up with C. Harold Smith to found Binney & Smith, which distributed carbon black internationally, mostly as a pigment

(and yes, this would be the Binney & Smith of Crayola Crayons). In 1904, S.C. Mote, chief chemist of the India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works, in Silverton, England, discovered that carbon black would increase the durability of rubber. In 1910, B F Goodrich started adding carbon black to its tyre compounds and it gradually replaced zinc oxide as the primary reinforcing agent in tyre rubber.

As reported in "India Rubber World," Firestone received Ford's initial order of 2,000 sets of tyres in 1906 and for this rendition, Firestone was paid \$110,000 (which breaks down to \$55 per set of tyres, or \$13.75 per tyre—not a small price, considering the average worker only earned about \$15 per week). This was during a time when Firestone was going through the tyre industry's version of the Selden Patent debacle. According to "The Firestone Story, a history of the Firestone Tyre & Rubber Company," by Alfred Lief, the people who held the rights to the clincher tyre design had founded the G & J Clincher Tyre Association, which, like Selden, doled out manufacturing licences to a handful of manufacturers and arbitrarily refused others. Among the unlucky outsiders was Harvey Firestone, who responded to the rebuff by creating and developing a rim-locking tyre called the "Mechanically Fastened Pneumatic" (probably a better tyre than the clincher design), which was presented to Henry Ford. Though he was favourably impressed, the buying public wanted clinchers and that, ultimately, was the way Ford decided to go. Firestone had to retool accordingly. Fearing that a defeat in court would dematerialize their existing licensing income, the G & J Clincher Tire Association never did file a lawsuit. Around 1916, Harvey Firestone became one of Henry Ford's camping buddies and the group, which included such luminaries as Thomas Edison and John Burroughs, was known as "The Vagabonds." Firestone would later become related to Ford through the marriage of their grandchildren. Henry bought lots and lots of tyres from Harvey.

Though Firestone was not satisfied with his original, smooth, treadless tyre, feeling it skidded too easily, one should remember this was back in the days when most road surfaces in America were of dirt (meaning mud). Historically and in the modern context, smooth tyres are worst of all in the rain, even on modern asphalt, and will hydroplane at a lower speed than any other tyre of equal size (and inflation pressure), but as any hot-rod enthusiast knows, soft slicks are pretty darned good on dry pavement. From a front-end alignment standpoint, less toe-in is required for smoothies and that means less tyre scrub, which is as important now as it was then because their white rubber compound is softer than that of black tyres and much more prone to wear (and because of their specialized rubber compound and lower production numbers, white clinchers are among the most expensive, today).

The History of the Clincher Tyre (ctd)

As Firestone's sales strategies went, the iconic, "NON-SKID" tyre was right up there with "Gum-Dipped" cords and according to "The Firestone Story, a History of the Firestone Rubber Company," 40 percent of the 105,000 tyres sold in 1909 were NON-SKIDS, as were 60-percent of the 168,000 tyres sold the following year. Its unique tread did indeed take a firmer grip on soft dirt roads and, compared to smooth tyres, made for improved traction on wet pavement. An advertisement in the October 8, 1908 issue of "Motor Age" claimed, "Thus the name prevents the slip. The letters of the words form more angles and points of contact than any other non-skid tread. The spaces in and between the letters cause just the right amount of suction to grip the slippery road and prevent the side slipping."

Coker Tyre honestly discloses that their Firestone NON-SKID tyre will wear out faster than just about any other tread design. While that's certainly true of even the black incarnation of this tyre—two sets of which wore out for me in rapid succession - absolutely nothing will wear out faster than white NON-SKIDS; not a good thing for a tyre that commands a premium price—but when it comes to looking cool, they stand head and shoulders above all the rest (Well, sort of. Although the specification numbers indicate that NON-SKID and regular-tread Firestones are of the same diameter, when I measured them side by side, the regular-tread tyre stood almost two inches taller). Being a man of blue collar and brown shoes, I switched over from the Firestone NON-SKID to their much meatier standard tread tyre and now enjoy somewhat better handling and far better wear. My NON-SKIDS were an expensive, albeit gorgeous habit (and gorgeous always comes at a cost).

The onset of WWII triggered widespread shortages and rationing, and the supply of natural rubber, which came from places now occupied by the enemy, was virtually cut off. In the face of that, President Roosevelt's newly founded Rubber Reserve Company projected a need for 400,000 tons of rubber per year (as reported by the American Chemical Society). In response, tyre manufacturers severely curtailed production of civilian automobile tyres in favour of military types.

American war plants would produce a combined 1.5 million jeeps and 2-ton trucks, and over 300,000 aircraft, virtually all of which would go through several sets of tyres - and those used by heavy bombers like the Boeing B-29 Superfortress were colossal sucker-uppers of rubber. In an unprecedented move (encouraged by FDR), the five major tyre companies shared proprietary chemistry and technology with each other as they accelerated the development of synthetic rubber and rubber extenders. This resulted in some harder rubber compounds which sacrificed a little road-adhesion for longer wear, and one of the most durable of these formulas must have found its way into Montgomery Ward's "Riverside" tyre, because its original, made-in-USA variant is reputed to be the longest-lasting clincher tyre ever produced.

When I purchased my brass Ford, it had a set of original Riversides and the worn-out treads looked like they had maybe one more season of driving left in them. A year later, the treads looked like they had maybe one more season of driving left in them. A year after that, the treads still looked like they had maybe one more season of driving left in them. I only retired them out of decency (but as long as kept away from kryptonite, they'd probably still be okay to use). Some might argue that if you could find an unused set of original, made-in-USA Riversides, you'd be pretty much done buying tyres. Other brands might be considered a bit more "period-correct" for brass cars because the heyday of Montgomery Ward's Riverside tyre was more a part of Glenn Miller's Swing-Era than Scott Joplin's Ragtime. Today, the Montgomery Ward Riverside tyre is manufactured in Vietnam for Lucas Classic Tyres of Long Beach, California. Its reputation for astounding durability no longer applies as it's now made from an ordinary Earthly rubber compound, but it'll wear at least as well as most any other clincher-type currently in production. In my experience, the only halfway bad thing to be said about them is they whine a little bit louder than other brands. That's because on each side of the tread are deep, square-cut, rain-channelling voids measuring a good 3/8ths of an inch across and they do thrum against the pavement—but hey, a little extra noise is hardly a consideration for the driver of so cacophonous a rattletrap as an open touring car. Not surprisingly, Riversides are good tyres to have when you get caught in the rain—at least as far as clincher tyres go. They're built around the usual 4-ply, nylon cord and come in either black or white.

Horseless carriage guru, Harold Sharon, wrote in his book, "Understanding Your Brass Car" (highly recommended—the best and most authoritative technical book I've ever read on the subject), that some tyres on the market today are to be avoided because they have an incorrect clincher design which will cause wear along the rim due to flexing and allow the inner-tube to creep in and get pinched. Unfortunately, Mr. Sharon doesn't name names, so I'm going to speculate a little on the clinchers of two brands of tyres produced today—and you can take it for what it's worth:

Firestones were original equipment on millions of Model T Fords and they worked just fine back then, even without flaps (and we know that Mr. Ford never installed flaps). Assuming the original Firestone moulds are being used by today's Taiwanese manufacturer, the clinchers will be of the same size and shape as original and should work as well as they did back in the days when Henry and Harvey were pals. As for personal experience, I've been running Taiwanese Firestones without flaps for years and haven't had an inner-tube pinching problem. Same deal with Montgomery Ward's Riversides, which are made from new moulds pulled from new-old-stock, fresh-from-the-wrapper tyres, so their clinchers shouldn't cause any inner-tube pinching problems, either.

(ctd overleaf)

The History of the Clincher Tyre (ctd)

Before closing out, it's probably a good idea for me to mention that as of recent years, there have been widespread complaints about new white tyres turning brown after only a short time. At present, the reports of such discoloration do more than suggest the possibility of a chemical incompatibility between certain types of inner-tubes and white tyres. In fact, the catalogue of Lang's Model T Parts carries a warranty notice in the tyre section which admonishes buyers of white tyres to be sure to equip them with the new type inner-tubes that Lang's sells because, "... cheaper versions have been known to cause discoloration to the tyres." They go on to state that when making a warranty claim, Lang's needs to submit proof to the manufacturer that the new-type tubes were purchased by the customer and used with the white tyres. That says a lot.

- contributed by Simon Anderson

Editor's Footnote: I hadn't come across the term "clincher tire", so I looked it up. The Web says: "clincher is rims/wheels with a tube, then a tire is mounted over the tube and the bead of the tire is hooked under a lip on the rim."

"Clincher (beaded edge) rims/tyres - the rims are usually one piece. They can be permanently mounted to the wood felloe or in some cases de-mounted from the wheel itself. The clincher rim itself has a curved bead edge that forms a cavity or clinch; the clincher tyre bead is designed to fit into this cavity. Clincher tyres are held on by air pressure requiring a minimum of 50 psi and can only be mounted on clincher rims." - Ed

Great Mars Bar Competition



We can only guess at who this young man may be, but we do all know him quite well. This photo shows him in his udder job, quite some years ago.

Be part of the great quest for the HUGE Mars bar that is the very sought after prize for guessing correctly who this fellow is.

- Ray van Galen

More photos needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen
Ph 52789 368,
or
email rbvangalen@gmail.com



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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)

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

1946 Oldsmobile "Ace". Club reg 0403-H3.
\$19,000. Call Karl 0413 074 733.
(Badges **not** included.)

7/22



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.

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).

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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



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Also front wheel hub for current project. Interested in any other Fiat parts surplus to your needs.



Call Paul 0417 390 027 or email thetrad@outlook.com

7/22



Quotes About Life

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

~ Winston Churchill

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1950 Fiat Pininfarina Coupe

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 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.	29	30	31 August	1 Sept ARVO Coffee Run 2.30pm Clubrooms	2	3
4 Warragul Swap	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 7.30pm July Meeting	14 Dine Out	15 Tinker Day 10.30am Clubrooms	16	17
18 Mystery Run. 10.30am Clubrooms	19	20 Committee Meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26 Oct. <i>Backfire</i> Deadline	27 Tech Night "Items of Interest" Clubrooms 7pm	28	29	30 <i>Backfire</i> folding morning 9am Clubrooms	1 October
2	3	4	5	6 Morning Coffee Run? Details TBC	7	8