



BACKFIRE

Volume 59 No 1 May 2025

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219.

Clubroom: Showgrounds, 79 Breakwater Rd East Geelong.

Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Tues each month.



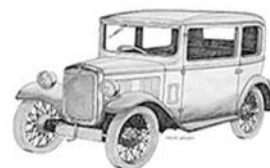
Ken Batson's 1974 Ford Landau

Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc Presents

GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET

Sat 10th May 2025 gates open 7am

Geelong Showgrounds (Melways Ref 452 E10)



More volunteers are still needed!

Call Murray on 0409 841 700 to give a few hours of your time and join the fun!

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)

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2025/2026

President	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
Vice President	Barb van Galen (Ray)	0408 664 537
Secretary	Fred Harris (Sharyn)	secretary@wdhvcgeelong.com 0417 306 177
Treasurer	Maurice Healy (Barbara)	mbhealy@gmail.com 0419 154 923
General Committee Members		
Graeme Anderson (Veronica)	0428 484 340	Simon Anderson (Tess) 0414 482 241
Jon Breedveld (Glenda)	0417 311 441	Anne De Bono (Angelo) 0439 743 591
Col Jordan (Lyn)	0425 822 026	Ken Parry (Jenny) 0437 254 351
Gus Shea (Pam)	0400 203 151	
David Mitchell (Immediate Past President)	0409 099 716	
Rally Co-Ordinator	Ken Parry (Jenny)	0437 254 351
Long Distance Rally Co-Ordinator	Lyn Jordan (Col)	0425 822 025
Program Director	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
Editor	Jon Breedveld (0417 311 441)	editor@wdhvcgeelong.com
Web Site	Damien "Gus" Giustini (Teena)	0418 587 415 webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com
Minute Secretary	Phill Abbott	Emergency VACANT
Tech Nights	Peter Telfer	0427 526 938
Clubroom & Equipment Caretakers	Ken Parry	0437 254 351
Membership Registrar	Barb van Galen (Ray)	rbvangalen@gmail.com 0408 664 537
Tinker Days	VACANT - your name here???	
Social Secretary	Marg Hose	0402 213 908
Vehicle Compliance Officers	Gus Shea (Pam) 0400 203 151	Dallas Jones 0432 172 171
Bay City Swap Director	David Mitchell (Libby)	0409 099 716
Bay City Swap Committee	John Bailey 0413 258 302	Rod Booley 0417 021 982
	Murray Foran 5248 2553	Max McKenzie 5248 2380
Club Merchandise Sales	David Mitchell 0409 099 716	
Backfire Folding & Posting	Peter Telfer	0427 526 938
Club Photo Maintenance	Dallas Jones	0432 172 171
Librarian	Phill Abbott (Doreen)	0439 965 210
Federation Delegate	David Perkins	
Ladies Committee Co-ordinator	Pam Shea (Gus)	0487 696 097
RGAPS Council Representative	vacant	
Life Members	Ken Batson	Fred Harris Judith Matthews
	Max McKenzie	Trevor Schneider Max Tucker
	Ray van Galen	
Club Member of the Year	Jon Breedveld	
Eric Baker Memorial Award	TBC	



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The President's Piece - notes from a big country

Greetings All,

Hope you've all enjoyed a happy Easter. What ideal conditions for drives into the countryside. Now it's almost time to turn over another page in our calendars.

There was good attendance at our AGM, which saw the reinstatement of the committee.

There is still an urgent need for a Tinker Day Coordinator, and for volunteers to set up chairs before our meeting each month.

We also still need anyone who can spare a few hours to be involved with the Swap Meet. Please contact Murray Foran on 0409 841 700.

Thanks David Mitchell for your continued efforts in pulling together this major event.

We wish you all well as the next month rolls around, and will catch up again when we return from our next travel adventure in June.

Happy motoring,

John.

Your 2025-26 Committee

The committee was re-elected unopposed at the AGM.

Members are (R-L)

David Mitchell (Immediate Past President); Gus Shea; Ken Parry; Fred Harris (Sec.); John Bailey (Pres.); Barb van Galen (V/Pres.); Maurice Healey (Treas.); and Anne De Bono.

Front: Col Jordan & Jon Breedveld.

Inset (not present at the AGM)

Graeme Anderson; Simon Anderson; and James Park.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of General Meeting No 645 of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc.
Held at the clubrooms on Tuesday 8 April 2025

Presiding

Meeting Number 645 opened by John Bailey at 7:30pm

Apologies: Lindsay & Marg Hose, Rod & Lorraine Roach, Graeme Anderson, Simon Anderson, James Park, Allen Tipper, Angelo De Bono, Graham Baldock, Doug Green, Tim Paech, Rhonda Alexander, Ken & Sandra Batson, Courtney Field, Gregory Boyle, Hellen Graham,

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

Sick List:

Nil

Bereavements:

Nil

Minutes

The minutes of the November general meeting as published in the Backfire be confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: Peter Telfer

Seconded: Ken Parry Carried

Correspondence (Fred)

Inward

Letters In

- Bendigo Bank – investment statements

Emails In

- RGAPS-Apologising for the delay in returning the Swap bond and presentation of cheques.
- Federation-guide to lodging annual tax to the ATO
- City of Greater Geelong- Food permit for our Swap Meet
- Vintage & Classic Car Club Ballarat- invitation to attend their Lake Bolac campout 14th -20th May

Outward

Letters Out

- Letter to Vic Roads informing them that John Chrzanowski is a current financial member
- Welcome letters to new members approved at the last Committee meeting for Jeremy Boyd, Ian Amor, Bruce Newell, Alfred Vella, Pauline Battie, Jack Christie,
- Karl Lorenz – sympathy card on the passing of his mother
- Sympathy cards – Vern Stott on the passing of Joan. Myra Mustica on the passing of Neville.

Emails Out

Nil

Moved: Peter Telfer

Seconded: Libby 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: David Mitchell Carried

Program Director (John)

No report

Library (Phill)

Nil

Dine Out (Sharyn)

April – Shell Club

Editor (Jon)

Talked about photos for next year's calendar.

Website (Damien)

Nil

Federation Report (David P)

Nil

Coffee Run (Col)

The Turtle Bend run was down on numbers.

Col asked for suggestion on why?

For May it will be Balmoral Lodge

June will be Lethbridge Railway Station \$10 a head for coffee, tea and cake.

Tinker Day (Vacant)

Nil

Committee Report (James)

- With the 6 new members our membership is now 285
- The 2026 club calendar will go ahead: get your photos in
- Swap Meet update a pre swap meeting to be held on the 8th of May at the club rooms
- Garage Girls the radio play will go ahead on August 16th. Make sure you get your names down \$30 a head. Limited tickets.

Merchandise (David M)

Lots of items for sale including the new key rings.

Vehicle Permits (Gus)

- Vehicles on red plates can be held if you're a member of two clubs - see Gus for appropriate forms.
- Two new cars on red plates: one Holden and one Renault

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- Gus interviewed Brian Woodman on his F100 and the interview turned into a very humorous report on his truck.

Tech Night (Peter)

This month will be on Bumper Bars

Rally Reports/Events (Ken)

- Mystery Fun run - meeting at Cox Road down near the Power Station leaving at 11am sharp
- Anzac Day BBQ at Barwon Heads: contact Ken
- May 18th is the National Motor Day run.
- June 22nd is BBQ in the Bush
- 22nd April Back to Stieglitz
- Blue Oval Cancer for Kids 27th April at Breakwater

Rally Feed Back

Mortlake was a success with 14 cars from our club in attendance. There were a lot of old cars on display.

The opening of the New MG Car museum was attended by David Mitchell for our club and there were 150 invited guests.

David reported on the All Ford Day, stating how big it was and how difficult it was to get around to see all the cars. Great turn out due to the 100 year celebration.

Kitchen (Pam)

- Pam had arranged for a model to show off the new kitchen aprons, which the BBQ boys are not allowed to use.
- Free scones on the Swap Day for volunteers, but they must have a ticket.

Anne, Pam and Julie have since put the new aprons to good use in the kitchen.



General Business

- John Baily and his wife Julie received their 25 year badges along with Robin and Pat Evans. They all said that they enjoyed the 25 years with the club
- Long Distant Rally. Lyn said it is still in the planning stage – watch this space.
- Jon Breedveld was awarded with the Club Member of the Year.

For Sales, Wanted and Confessions

- 1996 XH Ute for sale: contact Phill for more information
- Lincoln Continental 1981 Mk 6 for sale \$35,000 call Sharon 0432 084 274
- Rod Booley has a MK2 Jag and a Triumph stag for sale
- Ken has confessed to buying a Holden.

Meeting closed 8.30pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 14 May 2025 in the clubrooms.

- Phill Abbott



"Pam had arranged for a model to show off the new kitchen aprons, which the BBQ boys are not allowed to use."

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



President's Report to the 2025 AGM

A reflection on the year that's been.

I'll begin by thanking the committee members for their continued, tireless work that enables our club to operate so successfully. To Barb, who as vice president has stepped in to take over in my absences; to Maurice who keeps our finances so capably in order; and Fred for his secretarial work.

Sincere thanks for the task that never sleeps; to Gus, who completes all the red plate registrations. He has processed 31 new red plate registrations this past year as well as dealing with the ongoing registration renewals.

A special thanks to Max McKenzie for setting up and cleaning our clubrooms in preparation for our meetings. Max has done this for decades and it's time someone else stepped up to give him a break.

To Jack Thomas who maintains our golf carts in readiness for a swap meets. To David Perkins for attending meetings and reporting on Federation matters.

We all enjoy receiving our copy of Backfire each month, expertly edited by Jon Breedveld, and of course the helpers who fold the magazines ready for posting. Jon is wishing to retire at the end of the coming year and is hopeful that someone will be prepared to take on this task. Thanks so much Jon.

Lyn and Col Jordan have done a wonderful job researching and leading a very successful Long Distance Rally. Thanks so much for providing another happy motoring experience. Lyn and Col also plan the coffee runs – always delicious and chatty occasions.

Thanks to Ken and Jenny Parry for leading us on fun drives to a wide range of interesting spots: always pleasurable drives.

And to Sharyn for rounding up diners for the monthly Dine Outs. So many opportunities to get together socially.

This past year the Ladies Day was planned and led by Anne De Bono. Ladies enjoyed a tour of the Geelong Library, followed by a delicious lunch at the Davidson. Well done and thanks. We are looking forward to the next one!

How could the club function without Pam and her team who plan and deliver refreshments for so many occasions? Huge efforts like a Devonshire tea is at the Swap Meet and the Christmas dinner are memorable. Also those who take on all the work associated with the barbecues and festive Christmas picnic. Then there's Murray and team who do that hot and sweaty barbecuing and clean up. Amazing!

Thanks to Peter Telfer for planning and leading tech nights – well attended and appreciated by many.

Dallas has done a wonderful job again planning Tinker Days. He has retired from this position and would like to hear from anybody who could take this on. Thanks for all you've done Dallas.

We have had 12 new members sign up this year, bringing memberships to 285 and leaving 25 vacancies.

It's exciting to have fresh input of thinking and new ideas.

Finally, excitement is building again and plan is well under-way for this year's Swap Meet. David Mitchell is leading a team of volunteers all set to go. This is an enormous task for which we are very grateful to David and all involved. All the best for another successful swap in May.

David is also instrumental in bringing a live show to our stage called "Garage Girls", held in partnership with the MG Car Club. Lots of workers gone into planning so please put your names down if you wish to attend (seats are limited). Thanks David.

Finally it's an enormous thanks to all you members who make this club vibrant and successful: without your enthusiastic involvement in the wide range of activities offered it can cannot continue to flourish.

Very best wishes for the year ahead.

Thanks for your support.

John

Secretary's Report to the 2025 AGM

After our annual meeting we had a new president at the helm in Jon Bailey, with Barb van Galen as vice president and two new members on the committee – Anne De Bono and James Park.

We started off with our annual Anzac Day barbecue at Barwon Heads, which is always well attended.

Then again our very successful Swap, which was headed by David Mitchell and his helpers. A great event.

There have been many and various events over the last 12 months: too numerous to mention.

I would like to thank John Bailey, Barb van Galen and Maurice Healy for their commitment as office bearers, and also the committee for volunteering their time to run the club.

I personally think two positions that require a lot of hours of dedication and go unrecognised are our treasurer and editor – wonderful job guys.

There are many other volunteers in our club who all do great work in other areas – thanks also.

We have a club that has one of the lowest membership fees going. We have free vouchers at every rally, barbecues, Christmas break-ups, suppers, subsidised events and all of this and more – all due to our very successful swaps. Our swap is possibly one of the best and better-run ones around, and requires volunteers to run it for about a two hour shift, and we just managed to get enough. Please think about what this club offers for just a couple of hours.

Looking forward to 10 May.

Thank you

Fred Harris

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting No 58 of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc.
held at the clubrooms on Tuesday 8 April 2025**

PRESIDING: President John Bailey welcomed members to the AGM.

APOLOGIES

The apologies be accepted as per the preceding General Meeting.

Moved: Libby Booley
Seconded: Peter Telfer Carried

MINUTES

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting held on 9 April 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: David Mitchell
Seconded: Jon Breedveld Carried

REPORTS

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

TREASURER REPORT (Maurice)

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

Moved: Maurice Healy
Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

Maurice moved that the auditor be re-appointed.

Moved: Maurice Healy
Seconded: Peter Telfer Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

President John vacated the Chair and introduced life member Ray van Galen who took the Chair and thanked all the out going Committee members for their work over the year.

All executive and Committee positions were declared vacant. As the number of nominations did not exceed the positions available, no vote was necessary.

The successful nominations were:

President: John Bailey

Vice President: Barbara van Galen

Secretary / Public Officer, Consumer Affairs
Notification for Incorporated Association:
Fred Harris

Treasurer: Maurice Healy

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

PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

John took the Chair and thanked Ray for his assistance.

Jon Breedveld was named as the Club Member of the Year .

President John presented Robin and Pat Evans with their 25 year membership badges. Then Vice President Barb presented John Bailey and wife Julie Bennett with their 25 year membership badges as well.

Meeting closed at 9:15pm.

25 Year Badges Presented

President John presented Robin and Pat Evans (L) with their 25 year membership badges at the AGM.

After this, Vice President Barb surprised President John and wife Julie with their 25 year membership badges as well.



Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc Presents

GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET

Sat 10th May 2025 gates open 7am

Geelong Showgrounds (Melways Ref 452 E10)



Costs:

- *Gate entry, Adult/Teenage \$10 per person, Under 13 yr Free
- *Outdoor site, \$25 per 10x6m site + gate entry costs \$10 per person
(no booking required for outdoor sites)
- *Limited indoor sites, Bookings via email/phone only
\$40 per site + gate entry costs \$10 per person
- *Area inside the grounds for cars/motorcycles For Sale or Display
(\$25 per car/bike + gate entry costs \$10 per person)
- *Parking for Non sellers at Geelong racecourse, Breakwater Rd.
- *Please have correct money for site and gate entry.
- * Geelong Mobile ATM Facilities on site

Friday night: Camp sites available for stallholders only.

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

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

Mobility scooters permitted but must not exceed 4kph.

Updates: Via, Geelong Bay City Swap Facebook page

Contact: email: geelongswap@wdhvcgeelong.com

Ph: 0451 641 924

WDHVC PO Box 200 Newcomb Vic 3219

Events Calendar

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

- Thursday 1 May** **Coffee Run THIS STARTS AT 1.30pm.** To visit Balmoral Grove Aged Care in Smith St Grovedale. I am looking for some display cars from the 20's to 70's in particular. They will provide a coffee van and arvo tea for club members in attendance. For catering please text or phone me if you are attending. Look forward to your company. Cheers from the Coffee Co-ordinator
Contact: Col 0425 822 026
- Friday 2 May** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Thursday 8 May** **Swap Volunteers Briefing Dinner** 6pm Clubrooms. (only for those who are volunteering on Swap Meet Day - Sat 10 May) . We will provide pizza prior to the briefing. It won't be a late night and will give all those involved a chance to prepare for what happens over the next two days.
Contact: David 0409 099 716
- Friday 9 May** **Swap Meet set up day** Clubrooms from 9am.
Give what time you have to help set up for our big annual fundraiser. *Contact: David 0409 099 716*
- Saturday 10 May** **Swap Meet** Clubrooms from the early hours (depending on what job you have)! *Contact: David 0409 099 716*
- Tuesday 13 May** **General Meeting** at 7.30pm
- Wednesday 14 May** **Dine Out.** The Sphinx about 6pm.
Contact Libby 0427 606 444
- Sunday 18 May** **National Motoring Day** Picnic outing at Queens Park. Leave from clubrooms at 10 30am. Take the first turn left to a parking area as you cross the Queens Park Bridge from Shannon Ave or if you come from the other side it will be the last turn left before bridge. I would like numbers please.
Contact: Ken 0437 254 351
- Tuesday 20 May** **Committee Meeting** 7.30pm in clubrooms.
- Monday 26 May** **June Backfire Deadline 5pm.** *Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441*
- Tuesday 27 May** **Tech Night** Topic will be RADIOS. Bring along valve radios, transistor radios, eight tracks, cassettes, CDs, speakers, and any other paraphernalia related to the interruption of the peace and quiet of driving your beloved means of transport. All members and guests are welcome. Come along and join the fun. Be there about 7pm, to set up for a 7.30pm start. Wear your name badge for a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.
- Friday 30 May** **Backfire folding morning** 9am Clubrooms.
Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938
- Thursday 6 June** **Coffee Run Lethbridge Railway Station** 10am.
\$10 a head for coffee, tea and cake. *Contact: Col 0425 822 026*
- Upcoming Events**
- Thursday, 19 June** **Soup Line Day** 10.30am. Well folks, it is that time of year again when we have our Soup Line Day at the clubrooms. We would like members to bring in a plate of food to share amongst ourselves, and a thing of interest for the other members to see and talk about. The club will provide the soup and bread to eat. I will bring in my remote control sailboats to show members what that is all about. This day is always a good bit of fun for all. Bring your sense of humour and join us on the day.
Contact: Ray van Galen 0408 664 537
- Thursday 10 July** **Save the Date. WDHVC Ladies Day** 9.30am to 2.30pm. (Names and numbers will be required for this event.) Details to follow in the June Backfire.
Contact: Anne De Bono 0439 743 591
- Saturday 16 August** **Garage Girls** - from 7pm Garage Girls is a radio play to be held in our club rooms. We are sharing the event with the MG Car Club of Geelong with 60 seats available for our club. Of these we only have 14 seats left so get in quick! The cost is \$30 each (subsidised by the club). It will be a great night.
Contact: David Mitchell 0409 099 716.



Meet Alice Anderson. Mechanic. Trailblazer. Entrepreneur. A rollicking ride through 1920s Melbourne! Its 1920s Melbourne-the advent of the motorcar! Society reels from the aftermath of war and a second wave of Spanish flu wreaks havoc on the streets. Meanwhile, one small woman defies convention and makes her mark. 'Garage Girls' shines a light on Alice Anderson's short but eventful life. Why did she drive her Austin all the way to Alice Springs? Who were all those women, dressed in greasy dungarees... and don't they look a little bit like men? Sparked by historical events, with many colorful characters played by five actors, 'Garage Girls' is a rip-roaring ride celebrating a Victorian icon.

RALLIES & RUNS

March Tech Night

The March Tech Night topics of "Lights" was enjoyed by a good turn out, who engaged in some illuminating discussion and reflected on the exhibits brought along by others.



Extended Coffee Run

After the 6 March coffee run to Anglesea, some members went on to visit the Calvary Cordelia Grove aged care facility, and show off their cars to the residents. Here are a few of the well-appreciated vehicles. *(Photos: Adrian Van Der Lee)*



Disabled Parking

A gentle request to leave 3-4 parking spaces on the grass immediately beside the front door, for members who find it harder to get around. Thank you.



April Feature Vehicle - 1977 Ford F100

Brian Woodman's 1977 F100 truck presented a unique problem when we tried to put it in the garage as the April meeting feature car – it wouldn't fit! It almost did, but the wing mirrors on the doors made it just too wide.



So the garage door was left open and members stepped outside to view the restored beauty.

Brian said he had always wanted one but couldn't afford the asking price of a restored example.

In 2017 he started looking for a project car to do up. He found this example in Howlong NSW, on the Murray, 28 kms west of Albury.

The vehicle started life in the local council fleet and had several local owners before Brian, who is its fifth owner, bought it from Howlong Panels. He described it as an honest

truck with no rust but several paint shades. Since then Brian has done extensive restorations, including replacing the original 6-cylinder motor with a 351 and adding power steering.

A while back he took the restored vehicle back to Howlong and he previous owners gave him its original handbook and paperwork.

His wife once described the restoration as "a money pit". "No it's not", he replied, "It's a black hole!"



Club Member of the Year

Members voted Jon Breedveld the Club member of the Year at the AGM.



Photo: Ray van Galen.

Letters to the Editor



Tinker Days

I can't believe this. In our club of about 300 members we have no one to run Tinker Days.

Admittedly we are all so much older, but thanks to Colin & Lyn for the coffee runs, and Ken & Jenny for outings, we do get together and use our old vehicles. Many older members have been involved with organising such events and are not able to now.

We have had so many interesting Tinker Days, so come on youngsters, help us, and give the old girls a run!!!

Judith Matthews

Tinker Day Coordinator Needed

We will need a new Tinker Day Coordinator as Dallas has retired from the job.

See John Bailey if you are interested or Dallas to find out more about what's involved.

It's Your Newsletter, so Keep Contributing!

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

Mob. 0417 311 441 or editor@wdhvcgeelong.com

RALLIES & RUNS

MG Museum Opening

Ray & Barb van Galen and David & Libby Mitchell represented our club at the recent opening of the new M G Club Museum in Belmont. WDHVC member, Tim Christie also attended in his role as the president of the Morris car club of Victoria. Both Ray and Tim provided reports and photos of the event, which I have combined in this story.

- Ed

We were invited to the opening event of the MG Car Club Museum of the Marque as representatives of our respective clubs. After being directed by marshals into a car park across from the museum in Curtis Street Belmont, we were greeted with a hot coffee and morning tea, before proceedings got underway at 10.30am.

A Geelong M G Club spokesperson introduced guests and speakers and the owners of the museum. He gave a verbal presentation of the history of the museum and the collection's previous home in Moolap.

After the speeches, the Patron of the Geelong M G Car Club, Dennis Walter, cut a ribbon and declared the museum officially open.

The ceremony was attended by a huge crowd of MG owners and friends, who were told of the wonderful work, done by a lot of people to get the museum to this stage. The opening was done in style. We then went inside to have a look at what can be done with the right people and lots of motivation.

The Abikair family and MG Club representatives at the museum opening.



All the cars in the museum are owned by father and son, Ray and John Abikhair. About 40 magnificent vehicles are there at present, ranging from a 1914 Morris Oxford to the very earliest to the latest MGs. The restorations of these machines are of the very highest quality, and they have been kept in fantastic condition ever since.



Ray commented: "I had no idea that the MG Company made such large cars and many body shapes as well as the sporty jobs. It is well worth a look as you may not have seen some of these cars before."



Barb's favorite the 1938 MG WA Saloon.

"Barb's personal favourite MG was the beautiful 1939 MG WA Saloon, of which there are only four in the whole of Australia."

Tim said: "Well readers, what a display: certainly a great collection to be seen by all clubs throughout Victoria over coming years. A credit to Ray & John Abikhair and their friends."



A 1936 MG TA Arline. A rare survivor retaining the Airline art deco body, complete with a full owner's history.

RALLIES & RUNS

Mortlake Federation Picnic

WDHVC was well represented at the Federation Picnic on 30 March in Mortlake with 14 club vehicles out of a total of 96 present.

Photos: Lil Vella & Geoff Lenton



Photos of club members cars from Mortlake picnic. Plus a truck that caught my eye and a pair of Hupmobiles. (1911 and 1913).

- Lil Vella



Teesdale Coffee Run

Turtle Bend at Teesdale was a delightful setting for the 3 April Coffee Run.

Photos: Adrian Van Der Lee



Anzac Day Breakfast

The usual hearty cooked breakfast greeted those who travelled to Barwon Heads for the Anzac Day Club breakfast on a grey, overcast morning.

Photos: Sharyn Harris



VALE - GWEN TUCKER 18 July 1942 - 13 April 2025



We sadly mourn the passing of Gwen who has been a valued member of this Club since its foundation.

Gwen was the fourth of five children. Her brother John Smith is a member and Past President of our Club, and son Darryn is also a member.

Max and Gwen were soulmates and have been married for 62 years, living in a house they built in Herne Hill.

Gwen liked to spend time in the garden and she had a particular interest in growing roses – her favourite flower. She was a caring person with concern for others. She enjoyed holidaying, particularly with the family at Anglesea. Earlier this year Gwen, Max and the family enjoyed a cruise to Vanuatu.

The W.D.H.V.C. has been a vital part of their social life and both Gwen and Max have been very much involved with Club activities over the years, too numerous to summarise. Gwen and Max have always been ready to step up when the Club needed something done, and to their credit they

were both very conscientious, and could be totally relied on to carry out any task required. They have been part of the "heart and soul" of this Club, which has been so much the better for their support, assistance and involvement.

For example, an extract from the August 1984 "Backfire" reads –

*"The W.D.H.V.C. has received on 26th July 1984, notification that we are now an incorporated body. This is a milestone in the Club's history and the appreciation of all members goes to **Max and Gwen Tucker** who have shouldered the major portion of the work that was required in the preparation."*

This was typical of Gwen and Max's involvement with the W.D.H.V.C. over many years. They simply and reliably helped where needed, in so many facets of the Club's activities.

We will miss Gwen's pleasant and quiet demeanour. We will miss her attendance at Club events, but we will cherish the memories of the great times we have had with our Club "family". Gwen was truly a gracious lady.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Max, Karen (dec), Fiona, Catrina, Darryn, Rowan and families, and particularly to Gwen's cherished grandchildren.

- Trevor Schneider



48th HISTORIC WINTON
24th and 25th May 2025

www.historicwinton.org
Winton Motor Raceway, Benalla, Victoria

BENALLA RURAL CITY
The Austin Seven CLUB

Austin Seven Club Inc. A0003290N | Photo - Bruce Keys

GEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET 10 MAY 2025 - VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!!!

The Swap Meet is nearly here and Murray is still looking for a few more helpers to fill out the roster. The event is an important one for our Club, and for the community, but it relies on the generous support of our many volunteers, who give their time in the lead up to, and on the day.

Give it some thought - it's a fun, social occasion. It's not too late to register your interest with Murray Foran on 0409 841 700.

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

For sale 1981 Lincoln continental town car. Mark V1. Right hand drive. Original paperwork. Reg. 20248-H. \$35,000.
Call Sharon 0432 084 274.

4/25



For Sale 1946 Oldsmobile ACE . Reco water pump and radiator. 12 volt electrics. On club plates. \$20k. Call Karl 0413 074 733.

3/25



FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

For Sale 1996 HX Falcon Ute Auto S Pack. Reg. OEC 498. Dual fuel (gas disconnected). ABS, A/C, cruise control, driver air bag, and bull bar. Good condition, and low mileage. Asking \$5,500. Please contact Phill by text only 0439 965 210 for details.

5/25



For Sale 1961 Mark 2 Jaguar. 2.4 L, 4 Speed with O/D. Vin 109618DN. \$22,000 ONO.

Call Rod Booley 0417 021 982.

5/25



For Sale 1977 Triumph Stag. 3 L V8, 3 Speed Auto. Comes with Hard and Soft Tops. Eng No LF45044HEA. \$16,000 ONO.
Call Rod Booley 0417 021 982.

5/25



For Sale Tacho. 80mm Brand new. Cost \$480. \$300 ONO. Call Adrian 0408 332 458.

5/25



Adverts are free to Members only 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 WDHVC For Sales

Ads remain on the website for 3 months unless you request their removal. To remove an ad from the website, email 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.

If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC
PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST
APPROVED
PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



May 2025 at a glance (details Page 9)

1961 VW Beetle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 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.	28	29	30 April	1 Coffee Run Balmoral Aged Care 1.30pm	2 Backfire Folding Morning	3
4	5	6	7	8 6pm Swap Vols Briefing	9 From 9am Swap Set Up	10 BAY CITY SWAP !!!
11	12	13 General Meeting 7.30pm	14 Dine Out 6pm	15	16	17
18 National Motoring Day Picnic 10.30am Clubrooms	19	20 Committee Meeting 7.30pm	21	22	23	24
25	26 Backfire Deadline	27 7pm Tech Night "Radios"	28	29	30 Backfire Folding Morning	1 June
2	3	4	5	6 Coffee Run Lethbridge Railway Station	7	8