

# BACKFIRE

Volume 50 No 4 August 2016

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219  
[www.wdhvcgeelong.com.au](http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com.au)



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



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



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members,

As we shiver through a dreary winter, hopefully you are getting out and about to some of the Club's activities.

I visited Gus today to prepare for President's Day, but decided to postpone the day due to excessive rain and resulting boggy conditions.

**Those who receive their *Backfire* via email, please pass this news onto those who rely on postage.**

A 21-seater bus has been booked to take those interested to the Bendigo Swap meet on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

We need names and payment as soon as possible please.

Happy motoring,

*John*



# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 557 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.  
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016 at 7.30PM

## PRESIDING

President John opened the meeting and welcomed approx 93 members and guests to the 558<sup>th</sup> meeting on a very cold blustery night.

## SICK LIST:

John said Kevin Baker is in hospital.

## APOLOGIES

Laurie Mills, Eva Barwisse & Lindsay Rogers, Murray Coster, Linda & Ken Parker, Lorraine Collinson, Vince Fedele, Ken Parry, Ken Batson, Trevor Schneider, Betty Jenkins, Stephen Kim & Glenys Turner, Brian Farnsworth, Alex McLaws, Col Jordan, Noreen Mellington, Lorraine Collinson, Bob Thompson, Eric Lewis, Ron & Lyn Begley, Nancy & Duncan McIntosh.

Moved: Jim Coates

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried.

## MINUTES:

Moved by David Koch Seconded by Roger Sykes that the minutes of the previous General Meeting as published in the *Backfire* be confirmed as a correct record.  
Carried

## CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS

- Portarlington Mussel Festival - 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017 invitation to display cars
- Bendigo National Swap Meet – requiring volunteers to assist at their swap
- Membership application from Graeme Walker & Ernest Miller
- Thank you card from Bernie Costa – for those who volunteered their time for Barbs wake.
- Allsure Insurance – contents
- Bendigo Bank statement

## Emails

- Entry forms for the Bay to Birdwood - 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Costa Aged Care facility in Lara – requiring a display of cars on 21<sup>st</sup> October
- Gareth Griffiths enquiring about membership
- Bruce Kerr – members to be aware of 1924 TS Douglas motor cycle stolen on 29<sup>th</sup> June

- Australian Slimline Trestles – order form for 75 chairs

## CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS

- Brett Riches – return of membership fee

## Emails

- Costa Aged Care facility – agreeing to display cars

Moved by Barry Collinson

Seconded by Cheryl Elliot Carried

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Moved: Libby Booley

Seconded M McKenzie Carried

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

John – next month an auction night

## LIBRARY & DINE OUT

Gary thanked Faye McFarlane who has donated at least 150 books in pristine condition to the library & Ray Matthews for also donating books. He showcased some of these in his usual amusing manner.

He then took numbers for tomorrow night's dine out and informed members that next month it would be at the RSL.

## FEDERATION REPORT

No report.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented by Cheryl, who will put it in the newsletter.

## VEHICLE PERMITS/REGISTRAR:

Gus nothing new: just told of some amusing things that have happened, and introduced Nic Neeson who has the car in the shed, a Russian Gaz.

## EDITOR:

Jon explained that the early deadline is due to our slow postage, and looks forward to any contribution members have.

## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

### CRAFT NIGHT:

Cheryl – July bring your sewing kits as the group is going to be making a little (golly) brooch.

### TECH NIGHT:

Peter –July is on filtration

### RALLY DIRECTOR :

Sean said as per *Backfire*

Ford factory tour is full: David Mitchell organising this.

### LONG DISTANCE RALLY:

Sharyn – will be checking this out next week so details in later *Backfire*.

### RALLY REPORT

Tinker day: Ray – spoke on July day where to meet etc.

Peter thanked Annette for a good day at her place on the last tinker day

Sharyn said they had a nice day out and a lovely meal at Birregurra hotel

John spoke on his adventures in the Royal Flying doctors rally saying he raised \$21,000 and all up the amount was 1.3 million raised for the RFDS, saying they saw sum stunning scenery, did a lot of miles and had a lot of fun.

**Presidents run** – John has organised a day of participation at Gus's place on 31<sup>st</sup> July BBQ and cars will be supplied to leave clubrooms at 10am

### GENERAL BUSINESS

Raelene resigned as minute secretary after 6 -7 years.

Question asked on outcome of CAMS membership – was discussed at committee meeting and decided the cost to the club outweighed the benefit.

Meeting told the Calvert collection of cars was sold for \$930,00.

For Sales were discussed.

**Mars Bar Competition** – Ray has ran out of photos of members, and needs more if competition is to continue.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm, followed by John showing photos of the shearing shed he built, being used on the Woomera property of the owner. .

**Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> August in the clubrooms.**

## Scribe Wanted



After over six years of service, our dedicated Minute Secretary, Raelene Pretlove, has resigned

**SO ...**

we need a new volunteer to take the minutes at the monthly general meetings.

This is an opportunity for a fresh face to take on an important task and contribute to the running of our club.

Recording the minutes is a great way to gain a greater insight into how the club works!

Talk to Raelene for more details.



## CLUB MERCHANDISE

### Show You Belong

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

Those wishing to proudly show their membership of our club can select items including:

Coffee Mugs	\$15
Lapel Badges	\$10
Metal Car Badges	\$25
Black Geelong Plates	\$33

If you are interested please contact David Mitchell (Ph 0409 099 716) or Rod Roach (Ph 0438 783 902).

# The Baby Fiat - 500 cc is a big car in miniature

## *Fiat Topolino now with overhead valves giving up to 50 mpg.*

Since its introduction in Australia some years ago, a little Fiat 500 has won for itself a firm place in the hearts of the Australian motoring public. A car with a multitude of uses, fine finish and outstanding economy, little Fiat continues to maintain its excellent reputation as the world's outstanding small car.

With the introduction of the 500 C the car has undergone considerable change. It features attractive new bodylines, a better instrument layout, enclosed spare wheel and increased luggage space, and, at the same time, offers a choice between a smart steel fixed head imported coupe and a very attractive continental style drophead coupe, a smart and useful little station wagon and an economy economical delivery van will be offered for at a later date.

### **Bodywork**

The new bodywork on the little Fiat is attractive and well finished. Headlamps have been built into the front wings and the new type radiator grill follows the current trend of Italian coach craft. The rear end has been reshaped to provide housing for the spare wheel, and at the same time to give additional space for luggage. A novel feature of the car is the fact that the bumper bars are actually part of the bodywork, with rubber inserts to take the shock.

### **New styling**

Twin taillights are also a new feature. Accessibility of the engine, always a feature Fiat design, is even further improved on the new model.

The new type radiator grill lifts off and the bonnet hood simply lifts up, giving easy access to all engine fittings.

The interior of the car is beautifully appointed, nothing having been spared to provide the utmost comfort for both driver and passenger. A heating and defrosting system is standard equipment and this can be directed either onto the feet or onto the windscreen.



The new instrument layout is particularly attractive and a two spoke steering wheel is now fitted. Even the rear vision mirror incorporates a small light for map reading or milady's make up.

### **Also a convertible**

A feature of the convertible model is the ease with which the top is raised or lowered. It is so balanced that when disconnected at the front, the fabric top slides back like a blind, yet a flick of the wrist is all that is required to raise it back into position. The top can be raised or lowered even when the car is in motion. Extremely comfortable accommodation is provided for two people and an unusual quantity of luggage can be stored in the rear compartment.

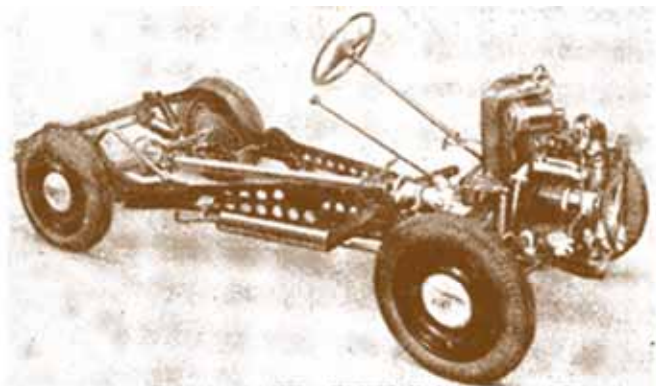
Mechanically the Fiat is well known to most Australians. It features a cross braced chassis and independent front suspension of the transverse type, which now incorporates double acting hydraulic shock absorbers.

The engine is mounted well ahead of the front axle and is a four-cylinder overhead valve unit of 570 cc. It develops 16.5 brake horsepower at 4000 rpm. It has a detachable cylinder head and its overhead valves are operated by pushrods.

Power is transmitted through a four-speed synchromesh gearbox with synchromesh in third and top gears. On the road the Fiat is both quiet and comfortable. It is easy to handle and for such a small car offers a particularly good performance. It has a top speed of almost 60 mph and cruises happily at 40 to 45 mph.

At normal cruising speed is the Fiat can be expected to average 50 mpg and yet at speeds in the vicinity of 30 to 35 mph up to 60 mpg is definitely possible.

Low-priced by today's standards the Fiat will appeal to a large number of Australians. To those who require refined yet economical motoring and to those who are fortunate enough to own a second car, the Fiat can be depended upon to give good performance, outstanding economy and many years of long and trouble-free service.



**The chassis of the Fiat illustrating the forward mounted motor, compact design and rigid chassis bracing.**

**The new baby Fiat 500 C, showing its smart new styling. It comes in three styles; and all steel imported coupe, a sliding roof convertible and imported station wagon. Priced from £520 plus tax.**



**The station wagon showing the extra accommodation provided by this utilitarian body, which is the ideal compromise between a full saloon and a panel van.**

**Its economy is prolific at 40 to 50 mpg.**

*Australian Monthly Motor Manual – October 1949*

## 500 C Specifications

**Engine:** four-cylinder overhead valve. Bore 52mm by stroke 67mm. Capacity 570 cc. Compression ratio 6 to 1. Developing 16.5 brake horsepower at 4000 rpm. Forced lubrication by gear pump.

**Transmission:** four-speed and reverse, with silent third and synchromesh engagement on third and fourth speeds. Single plate dry clutch, mounted on flexible hub.

**Suspension:** independently sprung wheels at the front with transverse spring and hydraulic shock absorbers. Rear springing with semi elliptic springs and hydraulic shock absorbers.

**Brakes:** hydraulic brakes actuated by pedal, acting on all four wheels: emergency brake on transmission actuated by hand.

**Steering:** worm and wheel, adjustable. Independent drag link for each wheel.

**Wheels:** 15 x 2.5 disc wheels with four X 15 low-pressure tyres.

**Dimensions:** wheelbase 79 inches.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## WDHVC EVENTS

See also -  
monthly calendar  
on back page.

31<sup>st</sup> JULY      SUNDAY      PRESIDENTS RUN

**POSTPONED DUE TO WET GROUND**

9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - TUESDAY      **GENERAL MEETING 7.30pm Clubrooms**

**Auction Night.** Bring along all those unwanted/ surplus items and cash to help make some money for your club.

10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - WEDNESDAY      **DINE OUT**

Time: 6pm

Where: Geelong RSL Barwon Heads Rd. Belmont

Check your wallets and pockets and purses for a few bob and enjoy the night

CONTACT: Frank Anderson Ph. 0412 884 733

14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - SUNDAY      **LUNCH RALLY**

Lunch rally to Hearn's Hotel Meredith. Details next meeting. Rod Booley 5281 5340.

18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - THURSDAY      **TINKER DAY**

Leaving the clubrooms at 10am, to go to Furner Ave in Bell Post Hill to see what happens at "You Turn" run by Diversitat Youth, for young people to learn skills that may help them to find jobs in the community. This promises to be an enlightening day out for us. We can then go to my place to have our lunch in my shed. Bring your own mug, chair, and lunch as usual: there will be hot water, tea coffee and cow juice as well.

*Ray van Galen. Ph 5278 9368.*

19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST- FRIDAY      **SEPTEMBER BACKFIRE DEADLINE**

Deadline for items for September *Backfire*. (Due to Australia Post changes, deliveries of *Backfire* are taking up to a week for some local members. The printing and folding of *Backfire* needs to be done earlier than in the past, so all members have the chance to read the minutes and notices in time for the next meeting.)

23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST - TUESDAY      **TECH/CRAFT NIGHT**

The August Tech Night will be about DIFFERENTIALS. We will talk about and look at anything to do with diffs in cars, trucks, tractors, washing machines, and anything else we can think of.

Please bring along axles, crown wheel and pinion sets, limited slip diffs, torsen diffs, worm drive diffs, hypoid diffs, broken bits, or whatever.

We can discuss the "black art" of diff building, which most mechanics don't want anything to do with.

Be at the clubrooms around 7pm, so we can set up, and be ready to start by 7.30pm.

Ladies, of course are very welcome to participate, or to be in the CRAFT NIGHT, or to just sit around for a cuppa and a chat.

We are finding out all sorts of knowledge from our participants. Come along and share your knowledge and experience, in a friendly, relaxed group. If you don't feel comfortable talking, bring along your stuff, and one of us will find something to say about it.

*Peter Telfer*

25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - THURSDAY      **FORD FACTORY VISIT**

We have managed to book another tour of the Ford Factory for those people that missed out last time. This will be the last opportunity to see the plant in operation before production ceases on 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS (ctd)

**See also -  
monthly calendar  
on back page.**

## FORD VISIT (ctd)

There are again only 30 places available on the tour train and the list is full, but you can be included in the emergencies, in case someone cancels.

Health and safety requirements mean we must wear **long pants, long sleeve shirts and fully enclosed footwear**. Meet at **9am sharp** at the bike shelter in the car park next to the North Shore Road boom gate entrance. Allow time to park and walk to the shelter as the carpark was quite full last time.

Contact Sean Murphy 5298 1476.

## 28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – SUNDAY

Casserole Luncheon. Barb van Galen 5278 9368

13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER - TUESDAY      **GENERAL MEETING 7.30pm Clubrooms**

14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER      **LONG DISTANCE RALLY.**

We will be leaving for the NSW tablelands on Wednesday 14th September. We will be away approx 14 days. This may change to a shorter time, but Fred and I will be going to check it out in July.

All enquiries please ring Sharyn Harris 5259 2053 or 0417 546 089.

## ***OTHER CLUB EVENTS***

28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST SUNDAY

**FEDERATION MARONG PICNIC DISPLAY DAY**

FRI 28<sup>th</sup> OCT TO TUES 1<sup>st</sup> NOV

**WARRAGUL RALLY**

The Warragul Rally will be held on the Melbourne Cup weekend in November. I have been in touch with the Warragul Gardens Holiday Park and they have a number of cabins at the park for us to rent for the weekend.

For further details please ring Sharyn Harris 5259 2053 or 0417 546 089.

SAT 12TH & SUN 13TH NOVEMBER      **BENDIGO NATIONAL SWAP MEET**

Holmes Rd Bendigo Site enquiries 0427 446 660. General enquiries 0434 730 822.

Details [www.bendigowap.com.au](http://www.bendigowap.com.au). Email [info@bendigowap.com.au](mailto:info@bendigowap.com.au)

## **FEDERATION MARONG PICNIC DISPLAY DAY** **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

Federation President Neil Athorn has advised that the Federation Marong Picnic Day is free for members of affiliated clubs. (Members of non-affiliated clubs to pay \$20 entry. Private event - no public entry.) All vehicles to be on site by 10.30am and remain on site until 2.30pm. No hot rods.

**Bring this notice to gain entry.**

**Bendigo/Castlemaine Run - 9.30am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August.** There will also be a run from the Bendigo Club rooms, Ingliss St Bendigo to Western Reserve Castlemaine, starting at 9.30am on Sat 27 Aug. Breakfast beforehand \$5 ea. Register by 20<sup>th</sup> August.

Registrations and enquiries to Neil Athorn on 0408 033 839.

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.

## Jaguar 1½ L

### 1938-47 models

First published in the *Motor Trader* September 24, 1947.

Manufacturers: Jaguar Cars Ltd Coventry.

Although this model dates back to 1936, it was not until 1938 that the overhead valve engine was introduced. It is not easy to distinguish the 1½ L from the larger models, as the same body was used throughout the range. Differences are shown in the sketches below. Postwar cars, and the few 1940 models, have their horns concealed below the front apron, whereas on earlier cars the horns were mounted on the apron.

Changes during the currency of the model have mostly been in detail, except for the adoption, after the first few 1940 models, of a high point rear axle.

**Distinguishing features:** Jaguar 1½ L has separate wing lamps, small headlamps, narrow radiator and short bonnet. 2½ L and 3½ L have wing lamps faired in, P100 headlamps, longer bonnet, broader radiator and damper weights on bumpers. Rear views show change in boot lid and spare wheel compartment. Postwar and 1940 models have twin horns below apron. Horns are visible on earlier cars.

## Jaguar 2½ L and 3½ L

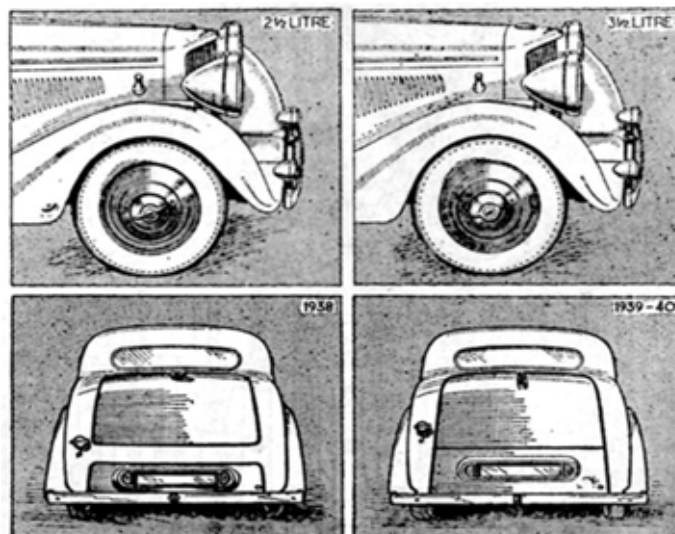
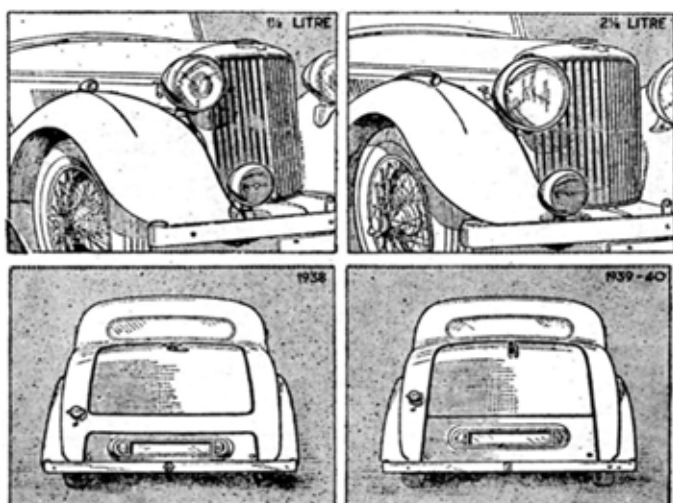
### 1938-48 models

First published in the *Motor Trader* June 30, 1948.

Introduced in 1936, the 2½ L Jaguar (then SS Jaguar) has continued substantially unchanged. In 1938 the all steel body and the 3½ L model or introduced. Identical bodies and chassis are used for both models, the only difference being in the engine size and the ratios. Outwardly there is a slight difference in the radiators. In the 1940 the front apron was changed to conceal the twin horns, and a slight alteration was made to the boot lid.

Between the two engines there are major differences. On the 3½ L the cylinder block is narrower and has two rows of head studs against three rows on the 2½ L. Some cars are being produced with left hand drive, entailing re-disposition of some of the components, notably the oil filter, which is mounted separately and connected to an adapter on the engine by flexible pipes.

**Distinguishing features:** differences between 2½ L and 3½ L are few. Larger car has broader radiator with more projecting "beak." Rear view in all three cars are identical was changed for 1940.



### CLUB PERMIT

To all owners of vehicles on the Club Permit System

To ensure that we fulfil our requirements under our contract with VicRoads, please contact a Club Vehicle Compliance Officer if you:

- sell your vehicle;
- change details of your vehicle;
- register your vehicle with another club; or
- cancel your permit.

These are both Club and VicRoads requirements. As we have to notify VicRoads of changes from time to time, your cooperation is appreciated.

Gus Shea

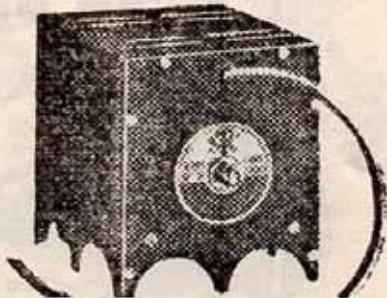
## VICTORIA



## DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR AMPS DOWN



Guard against the inconvenience of a flat battery with an S.T.C. Home Battery Charger. Simply fix the clamps on to the battery terminals, and plug into your electricity supply. A flat 6 volt battery is fully charged silently and economically in 48 hours. Available from your local S.T.C. radio retailer.



**HOME  
BATTERY  
CHARGERS**

Manufactured  
and Guaranteed by  
**Standard Telephones and  
Cables Pty. Ltd.,  
Sydney and Melbourne.**

## JUNE TINKER DAY REPORT

The June Tinker Day saw us visiting Annette Marshall at her home, to be entertained by her son Paul and his wife Bella who spoke about their love of gold prospecting, and to have a look at Annette's nicely laid out, grand children friendly garden.

Just as well that the electric heater was on in the shed, for we would possibly have frozen on the spot otherwise.

After listening to the adventures you can have when you go gold prospecting, I would have loved to do just that 20 years ago.

Artefacts of the olden day's can be unearthed whilst seeking those elusive golden nuggets.

Often a group of like minded friends will make a great weekend of it with the whole family out in the bush looking for that treasure.

A lovely day was had despite the cold conditions on the day.

Thanks to Annette for having us at your home.

*Ray van Galen*

## JULY TINKER DAY REPORT

On a very cold and wet Thursday morning about 35 people (including Murray Coster and Kevin Baker, who have been poorly lately) gathered at the club rooms for the annual soup day.

Some people brought along unusual items of interest for everyone to look at and discuss their uses.

Some of the items were a brass tomahawk used at Shell, an enamel P&O sign from the 1996 bid for the Olympics, an old shoe stretcher for bunions, a very intricate set of brass gears, a flame thrower nozzle, model trains and the usual pocket full of bits and pieces from Ray.

After a great feed of soup and bread rolls the sun came out and it was time to head for home.

Another successful Tinker Day, thanks to the ladies who cooked the lovely lunch.

*Rod Booley*

## Darby and Joan

Excerpts from the book "Darby and Joan  
- the long suffering Australian couple"

Chapter 75. Reference # 0410E.

(Not available in any good book store or library.)

"All right then" said Joan after Darby suggested they talk to a counsellor/sex therapist about their lack of fun in the bedroom department. So an appointment was made and kept with the very well know Professor I.M. Welldone, revered throughout the Australian outback for her work with older couples. It turns out that Professor Ingrid Well-done is a rare and tender person who is able to get straight to the meat of the problem and she loves B.B.Q.'s. She told of how the Italian couples may argue in a very loud voice about him having such a small blue Vespa, and the other men having large throbbing red Ducatis. But in the end, they get it out of their system and she gets her own favourite bottle of red wine out and he gets his own favourite slightly wrinkled Salami and a good night in Italy is assured.

In Paris France, a couple may yell at each other for ages about her mother-in-law and how he has a tiny Fiat instead of a Maserati sports car. Then as they glance out of the window of their small pension, high above the other units, they see the Eifel Tower lights come on at 11pm. They get all misty eyed at the wonder of that magical erection with all its millions of rivets holding it together. Soon, out comes the champagne, frogs legs and there are some more whispers of erections before going to bed happily.

Professor Welldone now points out that we suck at those solutions as we rarely speak in the bedroom after four decades of marriage. The answer for Darby and Joan may lay in "Body Language" not talk. She suggests that one offers their hand to the other and asks to put it where they would really, really want it. That night Darby can hardly wait to try this new method. As he lies next to her, he offers his hand and she responds ever so slowly to bring it across to her body. Darby's hand starts to tremble at the thought of what is to come; his head is spinning with images of salami and towers, he is now almost scared of what pleasure is to come. Ever so slowly and tantalizingly, Joan moves his hand further and further across her body until he is almost on top of her, then, all of a sudden, she plunges his hand right down beside herself and straight onto the Hover vacuum cleaner handle and says to him: "When you finish the carpets dear, you can wash the bathroom floor next."

## Bendigo Swap Meet

### Call For Volunteers

The Bendigo National Swap Meet management committee is again calling for volunteers to help staff the event. This year the Swap runs from Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November (set up day) to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Volunteers are needed for various gates on the above dates.

The committee will try to give volunteers the rostered day and time they request but this cannot be guaranteed. Volunteers may nominate for as many shifts as they wish in order to raise further funds for their club and the shifts will be allocated according to the swap meet requirements.

To qualify for the grant of \$10 per hour (two hours per shift), each volunteer should sign on and off at the Secretary's office and clearly write their name and the name of the club. Each volunteer will receive a volunteer's badge and payment of five dollars when signing off.

Those interested in volunteering are asked to complete a volunteer request form (available from WDHVC Secretary, Fred). This form to be returned by 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to enable the roster to be drawn up. Forms received after this date not guaranteed a shift. Times are allocated according to the date club sheets are returned so please have your forms in as early as possible to get the times you require.

Please note due to insurance restrictions volunteers must be capable of duties and between the ages of 12 and 80 years of age.

#### More information:

Mary Hipwell, Volunteer Coordinator  
Ph 0490 364 916.

## Quotes About Cars

An object at rest tends to stay at rest, especially if you're behind it when the light turns green.

*Robert Brault*

## Committee Report

*Committee meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016*

David Mitchell has organised another inspection at Fords on 25<sup>th</sup> August

Editor was asked about the early closing date for Backfire and advised the reason being Australia Post snail mail and time required for everyone to receive their copy.

On rallies as well as fuel vouchers, on selected rallies coffee or \$5 off meals will also be given

Decision to keep Club site at Bendigo Swap this year and then review the situation

Proposed bus to Bendigo Swap names of interested persons to be taken at July Meeting

Revival looking for volunteers

Suggestion has been made for magnetic car badge David Mitchell to look into this

Reminder to everyone now Red Plate vehicles are on Police data base City Link and East Link are now chasing up unpaid tolls by Red Plate cars that have used the toll roads and not paid

Committee decided on the purchase of 75 more chairs (moved at General Meeting to purchase more chairs Committee to decide on number)

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations 2017 - Committee has decided the celebration will be held over a 3 day weekend in March 2017.

Committee to be set up, exact program to be decided on. Any and all suggestion welcome and a budget to be set.

*Cheryl Elliot*



**Harley Davidson V twin café racer**

## Mars Bar Competition

*The August competition*

When we look at our mature aged members, it is sometimes difficult to imagine that they were ever innocent and beautiful young children.

Was it ordained at birth whether they become brick layers, plumbers, mechanics or farmers or even greyhound trainers?

Join in the fun and try your luck at guessing who the young boy on the left of the photo is and win yourself a humongous Mars Bar while you are at it.



### *More photos needed*

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen

Ph 52789 368,

or

email [rbvangalen@gmail.com](mailto:rbvangalen@gmail.com)

# The World's Worst Cars?

This month *Backfire* continues the series, taken from the book *The World's Worst Cars*. Please don't take offence if your car features in this segment in the coming months - the series is only a bit of fun to add to our magazine. And after all, the views expressed are only one man's opinion!

As taken from *The World's Worst Cars*  
by Craig Cheetham

## BADLY BUILT CARS

### RENAULT FUEGO: (1981 -85)

#### *Specifications.*

Top speed: 183KM/H (114MPH)  
0-96KM/H (0-60MP/H) 9.4SECS  
Engine Type: INLINE FOUR  
Displacement: 1995CC (122CI)  
Weight: 1042KG (2317lb)  
Mileage: 10.8L/100KM (26MPG)

It was Renault's first car in over 20 years to be given a name and not a number, but that didn't make the Fuego an especially desirable model. Indeed, its name was unfortunate. Fuego is Spanish for 'fire' and the Renault 18-based coupe had a rather worrying habit of bursting into flames without warning because its electrical circuitry was badly laid out and prone to shorting.

Then there were the car's engines: with a choice of antiquated 1.4-litre or 1.7-litre overhead valve four-pots under the hood, the Fuego was certainly no fire-breather.

Renault tried to counter this by adding 1.6-litre turbo, at which point they discovered it also had dreadful handling. Undeterred, the French maker tried to foist the Fuego on the Americans as an AMC, where it was an even more spectacular failure. Still, it was quite pretty.

The Fuego resurfaced some years after European production ceased when the tooling was shipped to South America. In 1987, it was the best selling car in Argentina, where it was locally produced until well into the 1990s.

Quite why the natives decided that a slightly quirky and ill-conceived two-door coupe based on Renault 18 running gear was what they wanted is one of life's unanswered questions.

Renault took an unusual approach with the Fuego brochure-the cover had acres of blank space, and only a tiny picture of the car. It's almost as if they were ashamed of it.

FUEGO: A car to set you on fire. Fire by name, and fire by nature – early Fuegos suffered from electrical faults, which got very nasty when sparks found their way into the fuel system. Other reliability issues included weak gear linkages and premature driveshaft wear on the turbo.

It might have been billed as a sports car, but the entry-level Fuego was certainly no ball of fire, offering just 64bhp from its 1.4-litre (85ci) engine. The 1.6-litre(98ci) Turbo model offered almost twice the power output, but suffered from turbo lag and immense wheelspin.

There was nothing sporting about the Fuego's chassis -just a standard Renault 18 with slightly firmer dampers – and it showed. The Fuego was prone to understeer, and the livelier models simply couldn't cope with the power.

When it came to rust resistance, the Fuego was no better than any other Renault of the era. That meant it was prone to corrosion, with the most vulnerable areas being the rear arches and front inner wings.

It may not look cool, but this didn't stop the Fuego getting parts in two Bond films: 1985's *A View To A Kill* and in 1995's *Golden Eye*.



# WDHVC MEMBER PROFILE



## Name?

Max

## Where were you born?

Rochester

## Family?

Partner Jeanette, 1 son, 1 daughter,  
7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren

## Number of years in the WDHVC?

26 years

## Other interests?

Probus, Geelong Football Club, Geelong Car  
Museum, Wednesday Warrior at the showgrounds

## What was your first vehicle?

1949 Morris Cowley

## What vehicle would you love to own?

'36 Ford Coupe

## What vehicles do you have now?

Falcon 69XW V8, 1952 Dodge Kingsway, 1951  
Norton Dominator, Early Honda postie bike V6.

## Profession?

Motor mechanic

## Skills?

Good house keeper, handyman

## What bugs you the most?

Car Club members who don't support the  
committee by participating in club events that are  
organised for their enjoyment. Our committee does  
so much organising and a lot of members don't  
attend a thing.

## What makes you happy?

My partner Jeanette, and my grandkids.

# SALES, WANTED & CLUES

## For Sale

**1978 Mercedes Benz Classic** 250 series 6 cyl  
on gas. Clean, straight car. Tinted windows, new  
brake pads. Reg Sept '16. S/N 2416031. E/N  
12392022020479. \$1,500. Norm 0434 831 664.

8/16

**Peugot Panel Van** 1956 203C. Second owner  
over 50 years. Good going condition. As is. On full  
rego GMC-238 original B&W plates. Lots of  
spares. Selling because no longer driving.  
\$15,000. Kevin Ph. 5248 3032.

6/16

## Clues

**1995 VS Commodore.** White. Dual fuel. Good  
condition inside & out. No rust. Straight. 274,000  
kms. Sold as is – no RWC. Walter Humphrey  
Ph 5250 1440 (evenings best).

6/16

**1948 Dodge engine and gearbox.** Engine  
fully reconditioned, bored out new pistons, rings  
crankshaft grind and bearings.  
Graeme Ph 5368 9268.

6/16

## Wanted

**Motorbike** for club runs. Must be lightweight  
approx 200/250cc. Any condition considered.  
Please contact Sid Arthey on 5281 7403. 6/16

## Wanted: vehicle for club member

- in reasonable condition, to go on red plates. Any  
car considered. Limited funds, first club car, for  
club runs. First contact Gus Shea 0400 203 151.

7/16

For sale/wanted ads are free to Members and  
appear for two (2) issues of *Backfire*. To remove  
the advertisement from the second issue, please  
email the Editor [editor@wdhvcgeelong.com.au](mailto:editor@wdhvcgeelong.com.au)

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

**All ads that have been removed due to age  
will remain on the website. Please advise if  
you have sold the item or want it removed.**

All ads for cars also appear on the club web site  
where greater detail and photos (where  
supplied) can be viewed. Go to  
<http://www.wdhvcgeelong.com.au/wdsale.html>

If undelivered return to:  
 WDHVC  
 PO Box 200  
 Newcomb VIC 3219

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**PP 1000/19091**

POSTAGE  
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 AUSTRALIA

BACKFIRE

August 2016



1934 Chevrolet

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 JULY	25	26 Tech/Craft night 7.30pm Filtration	27	28	29	30
31 JULY <del>President's Run</del> POSTPONED	1 AUGUST	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 General Meeting 7.30pm	10 Dine Out 6pm Geelong RSL (Belmont)	11	12	13
14 Lunch Rally Hearn's Hotel, Meredith	15	16 Committee Meeting 7.30pm	17	18 Tinker Day 10am Clubrooms	19 Deadline for items for Sept <i>Backfire</i>	20
21	22	23 Tech/Craft night 7.30pm Differentials	24	25 Ford Factory Visit	26	27
28 Casserole Luncheon	29	30	31	1 SEPT	2	3