

BACKFIRE

Volume 50 No 11 March 2017

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219
www.wdhvcgeelong.com.au



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

REMEMBERING 50 YEARS OF THE WDHVC - 1967 to 2017 Celebrations during March—detail inside



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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Only a 12 page *Backfire* this month—no material for the extra 4 pages was contributed, so I concentrated on preparing the special 24 page Anniversary edition, to be available at the Anniversary Dinner. - Ed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all,

This month there is lots of good news, and some not so good. First the good news ... our Anniversary Dinner is almost a sell-out, great! Also keep in mind, Sunday 26th March, and come to the clubrooms in your wonderful vehicles, to be arranged on the oval for the anniversary photograph. We have a drone arranged to take aerial photographs.

If you haven't yet collected your 50th Anniversary Badge, they can be collected on this day. A bar-b-que lunch will be provided on the day for all members to enjoy.

A big thanks to Ray Matthews for his entertaining memories of his 50 years in the club. At this month's meeting we will have club memorabilia from the past 50 years, and also one of the original club cars.

The remake of our first badge from 1967 will be available for purchase at the next meeting. A big thanks to David Mitchell for the effort put in to getting the badges and hats printed. To the person who collected a hat when paying their membership; they do not come free with the badge! Please rectify this: much appreciated.

A thank you to Cheryl Elliot for the organisation of the Sea Sick Rally, it's booked out! So to those 40 people going overseas, have a great day. My apologies for not attending: we will be entertaining newly-arrived USA Friends.

Enjoy this magnificent summer sunshine, and the opportunities it allows for outings in our great vehicles.

Best wishes,

John.



I don't know the backstory but this photo of JB showing off his knees (in 2005?) came to light while sourcing pics for the anniversary edition of Backfire. - Ed

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING No 565 OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB INC.
HELD AT THE CLUBROOMS ON TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2017 at 7.30PM

PRESIDING

President John Bailey opened the meeting and welcomed 152 members and visitors to meeting No 565.

APOLOGIES

Sandra Boast, Peter Boast, Mike Hanneysee, Ray Van Galen, Eva Barwise, Lindsay Rogers, Tiny Stonehouse, Frank McKenzie, Merv Baum, Col Jordan, Lorraine Collinson, Stephen & Kim Turner, Tim Booley, Andrew Lamont, Glenys Turner, Raelene Pretlove, Tim Booley, Ron Smeelie, Rob Anderson.

Moved Graham Cameron Seconded Jim Coates
Carried

SICK LIST

Ray Van Galen

MINUTES

John noted that the Dine Out and Anzac Day events dates listed in *Backfire* were incorrect.

Moved Graham Cameron Seconded Leonie Saliba that the minutes of the previous general meeting as published in the *Backfire*, and amended as noted above, be confirmed as a correct record.
Carried

CORRESPONDENCE INWARD (Fred)

Letters in:

- Inverleigh & Districts Good Friday Appeal invitation to attend.
- Ron Warren resignation of membership.
- Wimmera Mallee Historical Vehicle Society invitation to attend their annual swap on 8 April.
- Rod Charles informing that the history of cycling in Geelong from the end of WW2 ('Whirr of Many Wheels Vol3') has been published.
- Federation minutes and newsletter.
- Historic tractor and machinery swap will be held at the Bendigo Showgrounds on April 29 and 30.
- 42nd Bendigo National Swap will be held on 18 and 19 November.
- Bendigo Bank statement.
- Max Tucker advising his resignation as our Federation delegate.
- Invitation from the Ballarat Vintage & Classic Car Club Lake Bolac campout 17 to 24 May.

Emails in:

- Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens reopening of the Ladies Kiosk on April 23.
- Wycheproof Lions Club show & shine and Rock & Roll March 11.
- Koriot Lions Swap meet and show & shine March 26.
- Wagga Wagga Veteran & Vintage Motor Cycle Club 50th annual June Rally June 9 to 12.
- Ballarat Vintage & Classic Car Club 46th

Begonia Rally February 17 to 19.

- Dianne Kemmis wrote to advise that she no longer wants to be a member following Graeme's passing.
- Brian Edwards wrote to advise that he can provide a guest speaker.
- City of Greater Geelong confirming swap community promotional signs.

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARD

Letters out:

None.

Emails out:

- Booking City of Greater Geelong road signs.

Moved Damien Giustini Seconded Peter Telfer
Carried

TREASURER REPORT (Maurice)

Maurice presented the report on receipts and payments since the previous meeting and presented accounts to be passed for payment.
Moved Maurice Healey Seconded Ken Parker
Carried

PROGRAM DIRECTOR (John)

Update on 50th Anniversary plans.

LIBRARY (Gary)

Gary discussed several interesting books available to members.

DINE OUT (Gary)

- Next dine out will be at Moorpanyal park.
- Gary asked that members going to Avoca to contact him to arrange meals.

EDITOR (Jon)

All contributions to the *Backfire* by Feb 24 for March issue.

FEDERATION REPORT (Cheryl)

- February meeting well attended at Marcus Hill hall.
- VicRoads will introduce an "M" plate for modified vehicles.
- Members were reminded that log books must show full name, not just initials.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Seasick Rally the 40 members attending are asked to be at the ferry by 8.40am for the 9am departure. Lunch will be provided by the Lions Club. Seats still available on the bus for the Ballarat Swap.
Update on the 50th Anniversary planning.

TINKER DAY (Rod Roach)

February day will be in Portarlington. See the *Backfire* for details.

MARS BAR AWARD

No photo this month.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

VEHICLE PERMITS (Gus)

Permits issued for 3 new cars this month.

CRAFT NIGHT (Linda)

Felt flowers last month but a surprise for February.

RALLY REPORTS/EVENTS (Rod)

- The day of the Portarlington Mussel Festival was very windy but the festival was a success. Five members' cars on display.
- Approximately 30 members' cars were at the Festival of Sails Geelong Waterfront Car Display.
- There was a good crowd at the Torquay Motor Show.
- 16 members' cars on display at Rippleside for Australia Day.
- 25 Feb - Ballarat Swap meet with a bus hired for the day
- 5 March - Sea Sick rally
- 13 March – Waterfront car display.
- 13 May National Motoring Day

LONG DISTANCE RALLY (Sharyn)

No report

TECH NIGHT (Peter)

The next tech. night to be about suspensions.

SWAP MEET (Fred)

The council has approved the road signs.

KITCHEN (Rhonda)

No report this month.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- John thanked Max for his contribution as a Federation delegate.
- More Anniversary Caps have been ordered.
- 169 tickets have been sold for the Anniversary Dinner.
- Noel Simpson and Courtney Fields won car covers!
- Committee nomination forms are included in the February *Backfire*.
- On March 12 the MG Car Club will have a rally for all members.

FOR SALES, WANTED & CONFESSIONS

Ford Falcon from the early 1990's is available in Angelsea.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ray Matthews gave a very entertaining and informative on speech on the history of the club.

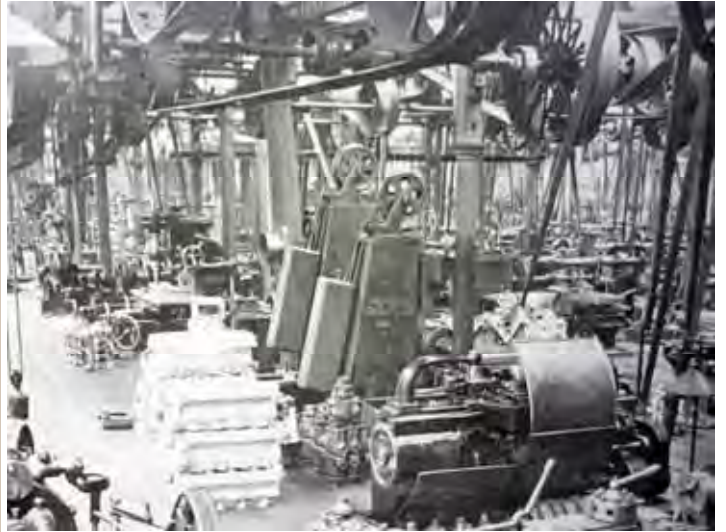
Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 14th March 2017 in the clubrooms.



Great Mars Bar Competition

The March competition



Due to a lack of pictures of our childhood days, I found something to do with vehicles that might make you think a bit.

What brand of vehicle was produced in this dangerous looking factory machine shop of the 1920 era? And can you imagine the noise that all those overhead belts must have made?

Ray van Galen

More photos needed

Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen

Ph 52789 368,

or

email rbvangalen@gmail.com



Some celebratory photos from yester year.





Notice of Annual General Meeting

PLEASE NOTE

The Annual General Meeting of the W.D.H.V.C. will be held on the 11th April 2017, following the normal meeting starting at 7.30pm.

Members are requested to bring a plate of supper.

Nominations for the committee and office bearers must be handed in by the end of the March meeting.

**Fred Harris
Secretary.**

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Very important notice.

W.D.H.V.C membership fees are due by the 31st March 2017.

Enclosed with your last printed and emailed Backfire was a membership form which **must be filled in and received by the W.D.H.V.C. with your membership fees by 31st March 2017.**

Monies will be collected between 6.30 - 7.30 before the meetings.

NO MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A COMPLETED FORM.

If you have Red Plates registered with our club, and we have not received your completed membership form and money by 31st March 2017, you will no longer be eligible to drive your Red Plate vehicle

If you no longer wish to be a member, please either email or post your resignation to the Secretary, Fred Harris.

Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc

GEEELONG BAY CITY SWAP MEET

Saturday 13th May 2017



**Geelong Showgrounds
(Melway Ref 452 E10)**



Plenty of room for displays. Bargains for motorists, restorers, collectors, craft enthusiasts, DIY mechanics etc.

7am start

Admission: Adults \$5 Children free

Outdoor sites (10m X 6 m) \$10 plus \$5 admission charge.
(No booking required for outdoor sites)

AREA FOR DISPLAY AND SALE OF SPECIAL INTEREST VEHICLES

Overnight camp sites available for stallholders only.

Food available on Friday evening from 4pm to 8pm.

Geelong mobile ATM facilities available on site.

ENQUIRIES:

Phone: **0417 546 089**

Mail: WDHVC PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219

**STRICTLY NO DOGS ALLOWED IN SHOWGROUNDS NO FIRES PERMITTED
NO UNAUTHORISED FOOD VENDORS
NO RIDING OF SKATEBOARDS, BICYCLES, MOTOR BIKES OR
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES IN SHOWGROUNDS**

**PARKING FOR NON SELLERS IN
RACECOURSE, BESIDE SHOWGROUNDS**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WDHVC EVENTS

See also -
monthly calendar
on back page.

28 FEBRUARY - TUESDAY

CRAFT/TECH NIGHT - Suspensions

7pm for 7.30pm start. Contact Peter Telfer 5248 8610

5 MARCH - SUNDAY

SEA SICK RALLY TO MORNINGTON PENINSULA.

Fully booked. Contact Cheryl Elliot 5248 0734.

10-13 MARCH

AVOCA RUN

If you would like to come, the Pyrenees Motel still has rooms available. Contact the motel directly to book - ph 0499 009 470. Gary McCredden 5275 2544.

13 MARCH - MONDAY

GEELONG WATERFRONT CAR DISPLAY

(Labour Day Weekend). Meet on the Customs House Lawn at 10.30am.

15 MARCH - WEDNESDAY

DINE OUT 6.15pm at the Valley Inn

Have a little dig under the mattress for the \$100 you put there 30 years ago.

18 MARCH-SATURDAY

50TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE

Geelong Football Club.

19 MARCH-SUNDAY

GEELONG HIGHLAND GATHERING

As usual, we can display about eight cars. Meet at 9am at the corner of Matthews & Cox Road, Corio, before proceeding to venue with our passes. Call Rhonda Foran 5248 2553 or 0409 841 700 if interested.

26 MARCH - SUNDAY

50TH ANNIVERSARY BBQ & CAR DISPLAY

Showgrounds. Assembly 10.45am (veteran & vintage) 11am (other vehicles) BBQ lunch from 12 noon.

28 MARCH - TUESDAY

CRAFT/TECH NIGHT - Steering

7pm for 7.30pm start. Contact Peter Telfer 5248 8610

9 APRIL - SUNDAY

GEELONG WATERFRONT CAR DISPLAY .

Meet on the Customs House Lawn at 10.30am. Entry via rear lane at Novatel.

23 APRIL - SUNDAY

LADIES DAY Van Loons Nursery lunch time

Guest speakers Diane Looker & Pam (Geelong Coast Day for Girls)

25 APRIL - ANZAC DAY

BBQ BREAKFAST

21 MAY - SUNDAY

NATIONAL MOTORING DAY

OTHER CLUB EVENTS

9 APRIL - SUNDAY

MEREDITH MAN CAVE MADNESS

Is it a garage sale/ A swap meet? A car show? Meredith Golf Club, Midland Highway. 100% of funds raised goes to charity. Swap sites \$25. Show cars \$10. Contact Karl 0408 788 897 or Geoff 5286 1483.

Why not attend a Tech/Craft Night?

Tech Night is held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with the Craft Night. January's session on *Maps* was well attended and an enormous success. The ladies at Craft Night, in the main clubrooms, commented that we had a great time. They heard the excited conversations and laughter. We sure a well-travelled lot!

For those who receive their *Backfire* electronically, you still have time to turn up on 28th February for *Suspensions*. This should bring out some interesting stuff.

Topic for 28th March is *Steering*. Bring along steering wheels, steering boxes, steering racks, tie rods,

pitman arms, and whatever else contributes to pointing our vehicles in the right direction.

Those amongst us who have a Lycra fetish and suicidal tendencies, could bring along handlebars and front forks. Those who wear leather (my grandfather used to call them "Temporary Australians") could also bring along handlebars and forks.

Remember, we are an historical vehicle club, so all vehicles are included. If you do not have something to bring, just bring yourself. We will all make you welcome. Turn up about 7pm, so we can get set up for a 7.30pm start. You are also welcome to have cuppa and a biscuit afterwards.

All the best

Peter Telfer

WDHVC 50TH ANNIVERSARY

March 2017 marks 50 years since the Club began.

To celebrate this important event we are arranging *two major events*.



Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 18 March 2017 - 6pm for 6.30pm
Captains Room, 3rd Floor, Premiership Stand
at the Geelong Football Club (Skilled Stadium)

Sit down three course meal. Master of Ceremonies - President John Bailey

Musical entertainment provided by Soul Sister Swing.

Cost: \$35/club member (\$65/non member)

Bring your tickets to be in the door prize draws.

It promises to be a great event, not to be missed. Make up a table of members and friends now!

Contact Libby or Sharon if you haven't booked yet. **CUT OFF FOR BOOKINGS IS 1 MARCH.**

Tables of 10: \$35/member and \$65/non member. Bookings will only be taken when money is paid.

Tell Libby or Sharon of any special dietary needs.

There is a lift to the Captains Room on the 3rd floor of the Premiership Stand.

Anniversary Dinner
is here.
Captains Room
3rd Floor
Premiership Stand



Club BBQ lunch

Sunday 26 March 2017

WDHVC Clubrooms/Showgrounds.

BBQ lunch (sausages, hamburgers, salads, bread and butter, tea and coffee) provided from 12 noon. Anything else you require is B.Y.O. PLEASE put your name and number of people on the list at the February or March meetings for catering purposes. NO name = NO lunch.

Includes a **mass gathering of as many of our vehicles as possible** on the oval for a commemorative photo that can join the gallery on the clubroom wall.

Assembly times. Veteran and Vintage vehicles at 10.45am as they are to be in the front row. Other vehicles from 11am.

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

ROVER SD1 (1976 – 87)

Specifications

Top speed: 203KM/H (126MPH)
0-96 KM/H (0-60MP/H) 8.4 SECS
Engine Type: V8
Displacement: 3528CC (215CI)
Weight: 1345KG (2989 lb)
Mileage: 12.3L/100KM (23MPG)

Depending on which camp you fall into, the Rover SD1 is either one of the greatest cars of all time or one of the most horrific.

In design terms, it was certainly something quite special. Styled by Briton David Bache, it took cues from the Ferrari Daytona to give it a purposeful and dramatic appearance, while a glorious V8 engine and assured handling, coupled to great levels of luxury, made it immensely desirable. But it was built and developed by British Leyland, and that meant the SD1 had a difficult birth.

The earliest cars were prone to body rot, and the non-V8 engines were slovenly and prone to failure. Then there were the electrics, which packed up on a regular basis, leaving many unfortunate owners clambering out of the car's sunroof when its central locking tried to imprison them. A brave effort, but ultimately doomed to failure.

Towards the end, Rover introduced 'Vitesse' models, which came with a fuel-injected version of the 3528cc V8 engine and offered incredible performance, as well as much improved build quality.

Today, they're coveted by fans of the marque, who are able to see through the original reputation. But just to remind buyers they could still be spectacularly bad, Rover also introduced a basic and deeply underpowered 2.0-litre four-cylinder model, which was misery itself to drive.

The SD1 was incredibly spacious, and its fastback rear end meant it had superb luggage capacity - yet more evidence of how good the original design was let down by shoddy build.

Rover launched a new range of six-cylinder engines in the SD1, but they weren't great. Performance was poor, fuel economy was unimpressive and reliability was questionable. The lively and dependable V8 was a far better choice if you could afford the fuel bills.

The first SD1s suffered from shocking build quality, and the paint on metallic models used to flake off, leading to horrific corrosion problems. Later cars proved much better, but the car's reputation never really recovered.

One clever aspect of the SD1 was its dashboard. To reduce build costs for both left- and right-hand-drive models, the car with two holes pre-drilled in the firewall for the steering column. The instrument pack could then be slid across the fascia to fit on either side, with all the minor controls mounted in a centre stack.

Britain's Car magazine warned the likes of BMW, Volvo, Mercedes and Citroen to beware when the SD1 appeared. THIS NEW WARRIOR WILL TURN THE TIDE FOR BRITAIN! But that was before anyone understood how troublesome the newcomer would be.

The Rover SD1 inspires extreme reaction. Some loathe the body rot and miserable drive it offers. Others swear by the later models, which provide a more stylish look and better handling.



January Technical Night (Maps)



The night started with a member with a Woman's Weekly map of Australia from 1983, with some of a member's major travels marked on it. Another members had an overseas map of a place where they lived and worked.

Others included a New York City map, a Venice City map (holiday and a UK road map marked in both miles and kilometres from the 1980's. The new maps of UK are only in miles - they did not metricate the roads as it would cost too much. However petrol is sold in litres and the rest of the country uses metric measures. Also on show was a distance wheel which calculated distances on curved roads etc.

Another member had a tourist map of the Northern Territory with World War 2 historic sites markers and a poster advertising the film "Australia". A member spoke of his experience of having his restored army truck in that film.

Other maps included army survey maps, a chart of the Wilsons Promontory coast, CFA maps with kilometre grids (from which a member showed us how the fire towers locate fires.

The oldest map was "Geelong" when it was a settlement on Corio Bay and Barwon River connected by a road.

More on aluminium heads from a previous Tech Night. I was telling a friend about aluminium heads on six cylinder engines and he said he had a six cylinder Toyota Crown which had to have the head gasket replaced twice. The second time the mechanic put two gaskets on it and fixed the problem.

Come along to the technical nights and be part of the members' experiences.

Lindsay Alford

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.

SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

2 sets Volvo wheel trims

Good order. 1 x 5 trims. 1 x 4 trims.

2.5 litre Riley head complete with manifold.

Early (FX?FJ?) Holden gearbox complete.

2 Peugeot tow bars 403 & 404.

Call Lyle 5243 2494.

3/17

Fabric covered chairs

Approx. 45 brown fabric covered, metal framed upright chairs with arms, in good condition. \$10 ea for small lots or \$9 ea if you take the lot. Suitable for sporting or community club rooms. Ph Fred on (03) 5259 2053. **1/17**



V8 gas system

May 2009. 140 litre tank (375mm X 1400mm). \$500 ONO.

Contact Merv 0418 331 544.

12/16

5 X wheels

5 spoke mags. 2000 Jeep stud pattern. Silverstone AT 117 Special tyres 50% tread. 245-70R-16 rims. \$80 ea.

Contact Merv 0418 331 544.

12/16

Wanted

Donor car or parts for 1948 Morris 10.

Gus 0400 203 151.

2/17

For sale/wanted ads are free to Members and appear for two issues of *Backfire*. To remove advertisements from the [newsletter](#) email editor@wdhvcgeelong.com.au (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.au/wdsale.html>

All ads remain on the website until you request their removal. To remove an ad from the [website](#), email webd3sign@wdhvcgeelong.com.au (Ph 5253 1755)

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

PRINT POST APPROVED
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POSTAGE
 PAID
 AUSTRALIA

BACKFIRE



Jeep Fiat Campagnola

March 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 26 | 27 | 28 Feb Craft/Tech Night "Suspensions" 7 for 7.30pm | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Seasick Rally to Mornington | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 AVOCA RUN | 11 AVOCA RUN |
| 12 AVOCA RUN | 13 Geelong Waterfront car Display AVOCA RUN | 14 General Meeting 7.30pm | 15 Dine Out 6.15pm The Valley Inn | 16 | 17 | 18 50th Anniversary Dinner dance |
| 19 Geelong Highland Gathering | 20 | 21 Committee Meeting 7.30pm | 22 | 23 | 24 April Backfire Deadline | 25 |
| 26 Anniversary BBQ & car display. 10.45am & 11am | 27 | 28 Craft/Tech Night "Steering" 7 for 7.30pm | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 April |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 April Geelong Waterfront car display |

Quotes About Cars

"Always focus on the front windshield and not the rearview mirror."
 - Colin Powell

