



Goldfields  
Car Club Inc.

# Goldfields Gazette

Newsletter of the  
Goldfields Car Club Inc.

## November 2023



Goldfields  
Car Club Inc.

Established 1998

Registered No: A0037502W



### Postal Address

PO Box 2039  
Bakery Hill 3354

### Email address

goldfieldsgazette@gmail.com

### Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of every month (except January at the Lions' Den, rear of the Pinarc building at 222 Otway Street South, Ballarat.



*GCC has been a member of the Association of Motoring Clubs since 1999*

## Office Bearers for 2023 - 2024

<b>President</b>	Ray Mason	0419 777 025	ray.mason@hotmail.com
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<b>Committee</b>	Laurie Wackett	0429 447 132	laurieandiane@wackett.id.au
<b>Property Officer</b>	Wayne Harrop	0448 230 947	juneharrop@yahoo.com.au

## Club Permits

<b>Permit Officer 1</b>	Ray Mason	0419 777 025	ray.mason@hotmail.com
<b>Permit Officer 2</b>	Gerard Nagle	0419 348 697	grumpysnag@gmail.com
<b>Scrutineer</b>	Rod Jones	5342 4521	

## Program Team

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Chris O'Beirne	0417 129 373	cfobeirne1@bigpond.com
Trevor Parry	0408 580 523	trevorandfaye@bigpond.com

**Remember meeting time will continue to be 7.30pm.**

## Cover Car

1928 Rugby by Durant Motors of Canada.

The Rugby was purchased by Mr W Irwin of Ararat from the Ararat Rugby dealer. The car was used until the war years, when it was mounted on blocks due to the shortage of petrol.

Approximately 30 years ago the car was given to Lindsay Scurrie of Stawell for the cost of the registration fee Lindsay Scurrie was a grandson. The car was mainly driven around the Stawell area.

The original colour of the car featured a green body with black mudguards and at that stage was in good order. It was kept in a garage when not in use.

Lindsay Scurrie kept the car for 3 years before selling it to Lindsay Bundy of Smythesdale where it was used for driving around the paddocks.

The car was then purchased by Mr. S J Richardson of Dover St Wendouree, who kept it for 11 years in an unrestored condition.

It was purchased by Bob and Pam Stewart on 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1981 and restoration was commenced in January 1993. The car was purchased by the current owner, Colin Menz.

The Rugby was one of Billy Durant's many Automobiles built from 1904 when he joined the Buick company board. After building the GM Empire, Durant continued until 1910 when the banks ended his reign. Durant regained control of GM through Chevrolet but again lost control in 1920. He then formed Durant motors selling several names, Durant, Rugby, Princeton, Flint, Locomobile. The wall street crash again wiped Durant out Durant died a pauper in 1947. For the full story see Restored Cars No. 55 Page, written by Norm Darwin.

## Newsletter Contributions

Reports, articles, and other items to be forwarded to the Editor by no later than 5 pm on the first Thursday of each month for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Written contributions should be lodged in MS Word, and photos lodged in JPG format. (Late items will be included in the following issue.)

## Member Welfare News

Anyone wishing to inform the Club of a member's illness or welfare, please contact the secretary who will arrange for a card to be sent.

**VALE – Ron Wall**

**3 November 2023**

### EULOGY

On behalf of the President and Members of the GFCC we express our sad feelings of the loss of our very good friend and GFCC member Ron.

Sadly, it was only last December that Patsy passed away.

Patsy and Ron joined the GFCC in December 2013 and actively contributed to club meetings and events until health issues prevented this.

Chris and myself plus other GFCC members first met Patsy and Ron through participating in the annual RACV FLY THE FLAG TOUR and from that a wonderful friendship grew.

Ron had a lot of enjoyment out of the cars that he collected, and I recall his first car as a BMW 635. The most unique car was the Rolls Royce Silver Spirit, a magnificent car and it came with the original paperwork for delivery to the Chauffeur of the Governor of NSW. I did have the privilege of driving the Rolls and I would recall this as the most cautious driving in my lifetime.

For most of us it would never have occurred that the purchase of our first Classic Car would be the first step of making of lifelong friends.

GFCC will have the fondest memories of our very good friend Ron.

Eulogy offered at Ron Walls funeral service by Stuart Bell

## CLUB CALENDAR

### Event Organisers

Please send an attendance list to the Secretary and ask someone to email a report to the Editor for the Gazette. Word format preferred.

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## November

### Thursday 9

#### **Coffee Run – to Darwins open garden and new shed**

Meet at Strides at 1.30pm with a scenic drive along Gillies St to Cummins Rd led by Wayne.

At Norm's shed there is plenty to see, plus a tour of his library as there are many special books in his collection that both he and Heather have purchased over 50+ years.

Norm has given a paper at an Automobile Historians Australia conference on "What happens to my collection" (definitely not to go on ebay) you should think now!!

For the ladies Heather has a collection of quilts and of clothes that go with the era of their cars.

Afternoon tea to be supplied, happy for any of the ladies to bring a plate to share.

There will be shade but bring a chair and a cup or mug please.

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### **Wednesday 15 General Monthly Meeting at the Lions' Den – 7.30pm start.**

Please bring a plate of supper to share.

**Sunday 19**

**Club Run**

Meet at Strides Greyhound Track car park at 9.30am (It would be a good idea to bring a take-away coffee with you as there will probably not be a chance to visit a coffee shop throughout the morning.) It is only a short drive to where the collections are located in Ballarat. We will spend approximately two hours looking at and discussing the collections.

We will then move on a short distance to Midlands Golf Club for a 12.30pm booking at Don's Kitchen, which has a Chinese menu with prices mainly between \$20.00-\$25.00 for non-members. We have made a booking but need to confirm numbers prior to the day.

If you plan to attend, please contact Julie Wilson on 0400 126 870. The November Club meeting on 15 November will be the last chance to book in for lunch, but it would be helpful if you could let us know earlier.

Steve Kelly and Julie Wilson

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**Wednesday 22 Girls Coffee and Catch-Up**

The coffee morning is held on the Wednesday after the club meeting at 10.00am at the Olive Grove Sturt St Ballarat. This is the last coffee morning for the year and will commence again in February and will continue to be held at the Olive Grove.

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**December**

**Thursday 7**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Coffee Run – Gordons at Gordon

Organiser – Trevor Parry

Meet at the School Bus Exchange, Melbourne Road, Brown Hill, 2.00 pm

Queries...Trevor 0408 580 523

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**Sunday 10**

Christmas Lunch - Invermay Sports Club – 6 Muscatel St, Invermay.

Time - 12 pm. Bar open – NO BYO

Lunch – Trio of meats (roast lamb, turkey and ham), roast potato, pumpkin, carrots, cauliflower and cheese, peas, gravy and condiments on tables.

Individual plum puddings and fresh fruit salad with the choice of cream, custard or ice cream.

Tea and coffee station available for you to help yourself.

Cost - Full price \$33 per head. Club subsidy. \$18 per head

Members - \$15. Guests to pay full price.

Please confirm your attendance to Stuart no later than the November meeting with your payment. This will be your last opportunity to do so as after that we need to pass on the final numbers to the caterer.

Program: 10.30 am to 12.00 – Miniature train rides – Gold coin donation to Invermay Miniature Railway.

Lunch – 12.00 pm, followed by Kris Kringle – remember to bring your gifts.

Queries...Trevor 0408 580 523

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**Wednesday 20 General Monthly Meeting at the Lions' Den – 7.30pm start.**

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**ANY ONE FOR TENNIS AUSTRALIA DAY 2024, 26 January 2024**

This Australia day we have a brand-new venue for the celebration of our national day.

The President and committee welcome you to the Clarendon Community Hall at Clarendon for our annual day of fun. Signs will be erected on the day.

I look forward to seeing your cars parked and you all gathered in the beautiful grounds of the Clarendon Hall. A special day has been planned, and merriment is the intention.

For any queries call Frances

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## Run Organisers Information

Members, please consider organising a Club Run or Coffee Run for any month between Sept 2023 – Dec 2023.

Contact any Program Team member with your proposed run/s.

Club runs are usually held on the last Sunday of each month (except January and December), starting at approx. 9.30-10.00 am, and generally include morning tea (BYO), and lunch – either BYO or at a venue. Coffee runs can be BYO or at venues depending on itinerary and/or destination.

Please include entry costs that apply to any venues being visited.

Coffee runs are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of each month (February – December) with a 1-1.30 pm. departure time - this can vary depending on destination.

Runs usually depart from:

The School Bus Exchange / Strides Greyhound Club Carpark, Rubicon Street, Redan; or the School Bus Exchange, Melbourne Road, Brown Hill; or the former Master's carpark, 25-51 Learmonth Road Wendouree.

Itineraries/mud maps should be provided for participants on the day of the run (suggest 8+ copies).

Attendance lists are to be completed for insurance purposes. Pre-printed member lists are available from the Secretary at our General Meetings and should be returned to the Secretary after the event.

## Code Red Fire Rating Days

Any Club Event which falls on a day designated Code Red is automatically cancelled.

Organisers of events may cancel on a Total Fire Ban Day if they consider it appropriate.

## REPORTS

Coffee Run – Thursday October 12th.

A good number of members gathered at the Brown Hill bus exchange and after Bryan gave a rundown on the afternoon events the troupe' set off down Strickland parade to SEC Road and onto Dunstons Road then over past Koyal Castle. The route kept away from the freeway before turning into the old Western Highway and to Clive Phillips' property. It was a pleasant drive and well planned.

Clive welcomed the group and explained that he had included some domestic items after disposing of a shed at Lake Goldsmith. He had a friend stoking a couple of boilers which were providing steam for two sweetly running engines, one with a huge flywheel which disappeared into the concrete floor. These engines and displays around the walls were very neatly presented.

Also in the shed was a collection of model aircraft and model boats.

Outside in an adjacent shed were Clive's' Fargo truck, and Austin A30 and his prized Chrysler coupe, albeit big enough to fit the A30 in the boot.

After a presentation and thankyou's, we headed off again on a scenic route to Buninyong and the Espresso Depot coffee shop.

Thank you to Brian Gavin for arranging this enjoyable outing.

Bruce



## Show & Tell

At the last Club meeting several members brought along items of interest.

I decided on something different, show four books that were significant in the formation and development of my library. The first was the complete book of racing cars 1949, possibly my first automobile book obtained in about 1955. Next was a history of Jaguar by Lord Montague, obtained when I attended a book signing at Myer Melb in 1964. The third was my first book "*The History of Holden since 1917*" and lastly Sir Laurence Hartnett's personal and signed copy of the first Holden presentation to GM America.

Steve Kelly brought along a selection of old hand tools that included an early adjustable, except it wasn't adjustable, spanner this was designed to fit a range of nut sizes, both imperial and metric. His second usual piece of intricate tool was a hand operated wood turning device that adapted to a range of broomstick/handles and was capable of taking a skim off a shaft to make it accurately fit a given hole.

Brian Robertson showed a comprehensive RCA manual for the first video recorders. Brian took us through the history of developing the early recorders using very wide tape to cassette VHS and Beta systems and the DVD recorder player. This technology is something we take for granted today so it was very interesting to learn of the path to today blue ray systems that can store modern large digital files for transmission.

Dating to the 1920s the igniter mechanism opened points creating a low-tension spark in the cylinder thus ignition was affected. Rod told us just how tricky these low voltage spark systems were to adjust and maintain. If I remember it was from an international engine c1918-1924.

Last, but certainly not least were a couple of small but significant pieces of jewellery. Shown by John Dellaca made by his father. The brooches were affectionately known as "sweetheart" brooches and were given to the wives and girlfriends of airmen during WWII. John was a watchmaker and during the war he was repairing RAAF instruments as an instrument maker up north, he made the brooches while away and presented them to his wife Hazel.

One was made from a florin from which John cut the emu and kangaroo, these were then used as part of the broach design.



## Club Run to Stawell 29<sup>th</sup> October

Organised by Rod and Michelle Jones. At 9am 10 cars left Strides car park, on a beautiful Spring morning, following our leader, Rod Jones. We travelled out through Carngham to Beaufort, stopping for our morning tea break. Another car joined our convoy here, as we made our way to Buangor, where we turned off to Warrak. This was a very pleasant drive through timber country (forest). From Warrak we took the Crowlands Road to the Pyrenees Highway. Then Eversley Crowlands road to Crowlands continuing through Joel Joel. At the Stawell turnoff there is a beautiful memorial to those pioneers, and who once lived in the area, and who served or died in the war.

This was the start to a very informative day focusing on The Stawell Water Supply. We stopped on Stawell's Big Hill lookout where Rod pointed to the supply of Stawell's Water from The Grampians 25ks away. This scheme was designed by John D'alton. Built between 1873 and 1881 diverting water from Fyans Creek via a tunnel approx. 1 km through The Mt Williams Range then via a cast iron pipeline to storages on the Big Hill at Stawell. With some upgrades this system still serves Stawell today. This was also a time to remind members of the convoy to keep a lookout for the club car following to avoid missed turns. Some drivers didn't have navigators.

Following Rod, we drove past Town Historical Buildings, including The Fire Station 1883, built entirely with donations, after disastrous fires, and is run now by 100% volunteers, Lutheran Church 1874, Baptist Church 1870, Uniting Church maybe Presbyterian then -1869 with the beautiful tall spire of 148 feet tall, and we inspected The small brick Powder Magazine built 1870.

We ate our picnic lunch, with a couple of black swans looking at our lunches, at Cato Park. It was a very pleasant spot with plenty of tables in shady well-kept lawns. Thanks to an unusual surprise, we received our first Christmas cards from Ray Taylor, a local gentleman sharing the love. After regrouping we drove past the old Power Station, Anglican Church, 1872, Town Hall also designed by John D'alton 1872, Post Office 1874/5, stopping at Central Park, home of the Stawell Gift 1898. We inspected The Memorial Gates 1903 that commemorated those who served in the Boer War. The weather was a beautiful 21°C then.

After a stop at 'The Diamond House', we made our way West out past The Stawell Racecourse to Pomonal, heading towards Halls Gap, turning left into Tunnel Road, a dirt road. At the end of the Tunnel Rd what a surprise! The Tunnel. Here Rod gave us more information on the construction of the weir on the Fyans Creek, Aqueduct and flumeling to the West portal, tunnel and East portal and cast-iron pipeline to Stawell. Rod explained the methods used to dig through the rock. How the tunnel was constructed from both sides of the mountain.

A very remarkable feat in its day. Rod led a group home via Maroona, Mt William Rd. and Carngham. Some made their own way home. This trip was a very informative, well prepared, run and credit to Rod and Michelle for an interesting enjoyable day out.



June and Wayne Harrop

Wow - You are to be congratulated Rod for another great day - Even a local like me was able to learn from the enormous amount of time effort and research you must have put into the Run.

We all especially enjoyed the different and scenic route you took us on, and then gave us another interesting option for our return - On behalf of us all, "Well done and thank you" - Lyle J.

PS - Ray & Avis also deserve a special mention too. At one stage I thought it was Donald Campbell behind the wheel.

## Upcoming other events

### **SHANNONS AMERICAN MOTORING SHOW Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Event Central at Caribbean Park, Ferntree Gully

If you own or are passionate about American vehicles, please note the date for this event. More information concerning entry arrangements, prices etc will be available shortly. For further details contact the office on 0428 596 975.

#### **HOW MUCH IS THIS LITTLE PROJECT WORTH?**

This would be a great little project to store in the back shed for a later “do up” task!

This wreck sold for \$A2,913,934.00 by Sotheby's last week. It is or was the second of 13 cars built of the 1954 Ferrari 500 Mondial. Sometime post 1958 it went to America. Within the next 2 years it crashed and suffered fire damage.

It is now in the ownership of a wealthy, talented person who intends to restore it to what it should look like below. Frances O'B



## Uniform

Available at Impact Teamwear: 147 Learmonth St, Alfredton. Ph 5336 6769

[www.impactteamwear.com.au](http://www.impactteamwear.com.au)

GCC's uniform includes Ladies & Men's Polo, Black Beanies, Black Peak Caps  
Stadium Jackets, Ladies & Men's Sleeveless Vests

## A message from the Editor

Re - email communications. If you would like to know that your message has arrived in the Editor's mail box there is a way to add an automatic acknowledgement request to your message.

All mail programs have this facility, usually found under the settings menu item.

In Outlook - prepare a new message – select the three ... - under tracking select “Request a delivery Receipt”.

In Thunderbird select “Options” – Return receipt.

In Gmail compose your message, select the three ... - select Return receipt.

Heather

## Club Permit Renewal Process

There are two ways to get your permit renewal signed:

Take your permit renewal form to the next club meeting for signing by the Permit Officer.

As soon as you receive your renewal notice, post it (together with a DL business size envelope - stamped and self-addressed) to the Permit Officer for signing and returning to you so that there will still be plenty of time for you to put it in to VicRoads.

Mailing address - Ray Mason - 22 Schroeders Rd - Haddon Vic 3351.

Permits can be renewed using one of the methods below:

In person at VicRoads Customer Service Centres offices – Covid rules apply.

By mailing the renewal to VicRoads, GPO Box 1644, Melbourne 3001.

By paying the renewal Online via your “myVicRoads account” see' website. [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)



FOR SALE 2019 Mercedes GLC 250d 4Matic

Asking price \$55,000 with Roadworthy

The details are: Vin WDC2539092V174501 - Engine 65192135045122 - Rego ATL 323 to 21st March 2024 - Colour Cavansite Blue.

This is the very economical 9 Speed 4 CYL Diesel Turbo 2.1Lt which has been regularly serviced and has near new Tyres and is in excellent condition, and only travelled approx. 86,000 Klms mostly on long runs.

Currently it is in storage at Point Lonsdale - Inspections can be arranged by phoning Lyle on 0427 072 333.



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