

HAMILTON & DISTRICT

V. V. C. ORIVERS CLUB

The Secretary, P.O. Box 174 HAMILTON, Vic. 3300

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Please check emails for upcoming events.

Facebook <u>@handdvvcdc</u>
Please email all club correspondence to handdvvcdc@gmail.com

Newsletter items and reports editorhanddvvcdc@gmail.com

Return Address P O Box 174

Hamilton Vic 3300



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025

Club Runs:

- Friday 6th-9th Settlers Run (Annual Rally)
 - Wednesday 11th— No Club Run
 - Sunday 29th— Gary's Shed



https://sparkhomeschool.weebly.comuploads/5/9/5/6/59569689/6240312_orig.jpg

The Byaduk Caves in Mount
Napier State Park, are extensive lava tubes formed by the
lava flow from nearby Mount
Napier. Molten lava flowed
underneath a cooled crust,
leaving behind these hollow
tubes.



Committee 2023/24

Position	Contact	Position	Contact
PRESIDENT:	0419 145 452	VICE PRESIDENT	
Pam Pollock	pampollock135@gmail.com	vacant	
	, and the second		
SECRETARY	0417 328 622	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	
PUBLIC OFFICER	handdvvcdc@gmail.com		
Dennis Dawson	handdvvcdc@gmail.com		
TREASURER	peterdowdle@aussiebroadband.com.au	ASSISTANT TREASURER	0407 910 796
Peter Dowdle	0428 574 296	Bev Ainger	
CLUB EVENT		NEWSLETTER EDITOR	0435 973 839
COORDINATORS		Bianca Higgins & Pam Pol-	editorhanddvvcdc@gmail.com
Rod Potter	0427 507 693	lock	
COMMITTEE MEMBERS		FEDERATION REPS	
Rod Potter	0427 507 693	Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390
Robert Brody	0458 252 226		
Denis Polack	55723284		
Rodger Garland	0407 720 809		
Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390		
Cameron Delahoy	0457 922 723		
Geoff Roberts	0418 893 333		
BUILDING COMMITTEE		PERMIT RENEWALS	
Denis Polack	55723284	Richard Neaves	0488 231 835
(Chairman)		Rod Potter	0427 507 693
Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390	Graeme Ralph	0418 344 390
Ern Polack	0428 352 538	Pam Pollock	0419 145 452
Russell Ward	0412 407 893		Phone for an appointment
Robert Brody	0458 252 226		
SUPPER COORDINATOR			
Betty Ralph	0428 030 075		
WELFARE OFFICERS	0407 720 809	CLUB LIBRARIAN	
Roger Garland	Please contact if you know of	Keith & Karen Arnold	0419 855 490
	an illness, death or any spe-		
NEW MEMBER CONTACT	President/Secretary/		
	Treasurer		

2025 CLUB CALENDAR Meetings, club runs and events

Clubrooms are situated at the Pastoral Museum in Hiller Lane Hamilton Meetings 3rd Thursday of the month@7:30pm Bring some supper to share. Club runs are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY and then the FOURTH SUNDAY of each month.

Friday 6th– 9th June	Our Annual Rally "The Settler's Run"	
Wednesday 11th June	No club run due to the rally.	
Friday 13th June	Coffee and chat at the club rooms at 12pm. Please note change of time, the club rooms won't be open until 12pm. Your welcome to bring your lunch along.	
Thursday 19th June	General Meeting at 7.30pm.	
Friday 20th June	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Friday 27th June	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Sunday 29th June	Gary's Shed. Meet at the club rooms at 10am for a 10.30 departure. We will travel to Mount Gambier to view Gary's Shed that will be open for free entry with any donations going to juvenile diabetes. We may have lunch first at the Mount Gambier RSL.	
Friday 4th July	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Sunday 6th July	Coffee and cars at Campe's	
Wednesday 9th July	Woolsthorpe Pub Lunch. Meet at the club rooms at 10.15am for a 10.45am departure.	
Friday 11th July	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Thursday 17th July	General Meeting at 7.30pm. Members to share some of their restorations, trials and tribulations and tips they have learned over the years.	
Friday 18th July	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Friday 25th July	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Sunday 27th July	Blacksmiths Shop at Coleraine. Meet for a BYO lunch at club rooms at 12pm for a 1pm departure to Coleraine and visit to Blacksmiths shop.	
Sunday 27th July	Annual Dinner and presentation night. More information to come.	
Friday 1st August	Club rooms open at 12pm, for a coffee and chat; BYO lunch.	
Sunday 3rd August	Coffee and cars at Campes	

President's Report

Pam Pollock

Greetings fellow members and friends. Wasn't it just yesterday we put out our last newsletter? It feels like that. The year is going by far too quickly and now the annual rally is upon us.

Thank you to all members who have put in time and effort to make this happen again this year. I do believe we are presenting a great weekend for the participants. Looking at the weather forecast though we are in for a damp weekend. Good luck for the farmers, so we will suck it up.

May was a very busy month leading up to our rally event with many of our members getting out and supporting those who put together these days.

"Around the Garage" in Portland saw several of our members attending and they said a great day was had with terrific displays presented. Thanks Portland Powerhouse Car Club.

Another thanks to the many members who brought their cars along for display at the Pastoral Museum Open Days. There were over 30 vehicles on Saturday-a magnificent effort. Thanks also to the members of the BSA club who brought their motor cycles along to display. And thanks to the members who manned the club rooms and the gates on both days. Well done all.

More busy times coming up within the club with the rally, presentation night and the AGM all looking close.

With the weather cooling, stay warm, get your flu shots and keep on motoring.

Pam.

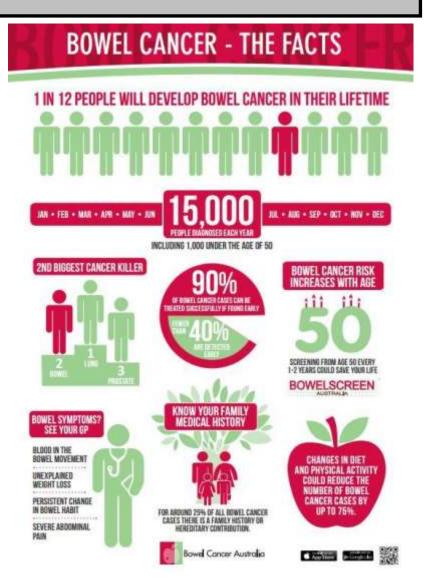
Health, Wellbeing & Welfare

To all members, families and friends we hope you are doing well during this time.

Please remember to reach out to anyone of us if you are struggling or need an ear to listen.

This Month is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.

Bowel cancer is Australia's second deadliest cancer, however, early detection significantly improves treatment outcomes.



Safe Travels to everyone. May your rubber stay on the road.

General Minutes 15.5.2025

Meeting Opened	A little late at 7.33pm	
Members Attending	As per the attendance register	
Apologies	Graeme and Betty Ralph, Russell Murphy, Nor m Krause, Rob Fraser, Colin Warfe, Andrew Huf, Pe-	
	ter and Lorraine Wilson	
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Confirmed on the motion of Richard Neaves and seconded Daryl Flaherty	
Business Arising	Nil	
Treasurers Report	General Account \$14735.55. Rally Account \$22203.14. Investment Account \$41916.44	
	Accounts paid for the month:	
Outstanding Ac-	Xmas Party Hall Hire \$200	
Counts	Repairs Clun Rooms \$47.00	
	Insurance Austin \$346.00	
	PO Box \$181.00	
	Electricity \$145.23	
	Photocopier/Newsletter \$150.00	
	Postage \$267.33	
	Postage and Stationery \$42.00	
	Treasurers Report received and accounts passed for payment on motion of Peter Dowdle and Michael Woodward.	
New Membership Applications	Chris Tully	
Correspondence	Various newsletters and flyer for upcoming Symphony Orchestra at Lutheran Church	
Club Captains Report	Report on visit of Deniliquin Car Club	
	Weekend of 18/19 May at Pastoral Museum, Portland around the Garages.	
	BSA club invited for museum display on 18/5.	
	Run to Mt Napier on 25/45 leaving clubrooms at 1pm. BYO afternoon tea and chairs.	
	King's Birthday weekend – Rally	
	Sunday 29 June – visit to Gary's shed at Mt Gambier with lunch at Mt Gambier RSL club. Free entry	
	but donations to Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.	
Building Committee	Nil	
Federation Report	Nil	
Newsletter Report	Nil	
	1	

Rally Report	Entries slower than previous years but all in place.	
Welfare Officer	Jan Palmer to have shoulder operation later this month	
General Business	Discussion on requirement for newsletter editor and Lyall Grey volunteered to accept the role after he retired in six weeks. A vote of thanks was tendered for Bianca and her work in the past. The matter of a stipend for position of President was raised and it was suggested that it be considered at the next AGM. The matter was raised in the context of costs incurred by the President in arrangements and travel during the course of the year and particularly in relation to the rally arrangements.	
Meeting Closed	8.03pm	
Next Meeting	Third Thursday in June	
Guest Speaker	Michael and Caroline Woodward on the volcanic history of the Western District and preparatory to the run to Mt Napier on the 25 th May.	

Attention

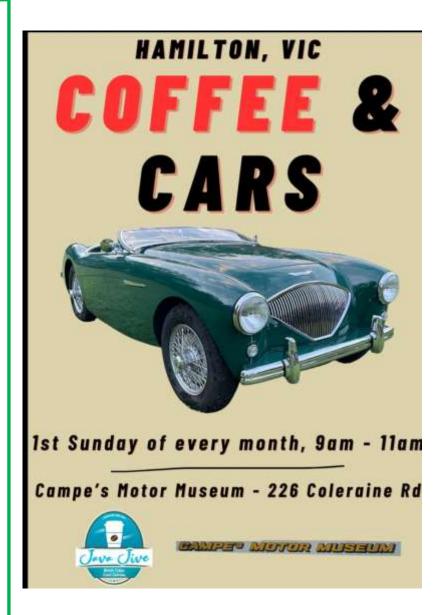
We are in need of a new Newsletter Editor.

I am so sorry but due to my very busy life and study commitments I am finding it just a bit too much at the moment to fit everything in. I have enjoyed doing the newsletter immensely and hope to make my way back to the club eventually, but for now I need to 'lessen the load' as such.

Pam is willing to remain assistant editor, so she will help guide you. The job is pretty simple, there is a template all ready for you to use. I will also be around to help you around the system.

The job will take a few hours of time per month, it's not a big job but it is an important one. This is our communication tool.

If you are willing to have a go, please contact myself via the editor email or Pam at pampollock135@gmail.com or 0419 145 452.



Federation Report 17.5.25

REPORT ON QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE FEDERATION HELD AT WOORINEN SOUTH

A regular quarterly meeting of the Federation was held at the clubrooms of the Mallee Steam and Oil Machinery Club at Woorinen South on Saturday the 17th May and I attended on behalf of the club.

Our club had two matters for consideration by the Federation but only one of those matters was addressed that being the provision of the Federation Trophy for the Kings Birthday Rally. An application for a grant of \$1000.00 for the repair/replacement of the air conditioner was not considered as it was not a part of the agenda although it had been forwarded within time. The secretary advised me of the process of receipt of these matters and it was clear it had not been brought to the attention of the President prior to the meeting.

It was re-iterated all grant and trophy applications would only be considered and accepted on the proviso that the club was seen as a supporter of volunteer placements at the Bendigo Swap. It was clear that that our club, and others must contribute in 2025 to reap the benefits of such grants.

The host club received a grant of \$1000.00 towards a new computer for the use of the club secretary.

From 2026 the Bendigo Swap will be organised and run by Federation in conjunction with Motor Friends who spoke at the meeting and intended to modernise the and streamline the administration of the event. They are working with Bendigo in this year as a trial run preparatory to taking it over completely in 2026 and beyond.

Swap entry fees will remain the same at \$15.00 for Saturday and \$5.00 for Sunday although there was considerable discussion on the issue and a clear preference for the entry fee to be lowered. There was further discussion on electronic payment and it was determined that the electronic payment fee be charged to the card holder at the time of payment as in the case with many other electronic transactions.

Concern was expressed at the effects of redevelopment of the swap site and it was noted that some 50-60 stall holders were on a waiting list.

There was to be a regular joint Federation, AOMC and Vic Roads meeting later in May to discuss any issues particularly in relation to the permit scheme.

Tax Returns for incorporated associations such as ours have been extended to June 2025. It was noted of 140,000 associations only 27,000 have complied to date. The process by which the tax office will follow up the balance is not yet clear.

It was noted that the Deniliquin Car Club are holding a rally at Deniliquin which has no entry fee being imposed.

The next meeting will be on 2/8/25 at the Border Flywheels Club and the Secretary advised our grant application will be considered at this meeting. A copy of our application was left with her to ensure that the Federation was in receipt.

Dennis Dawson

Deniliquin Club Visit. Sunday 4th May



We hosted 22members of the Deniliquin club and shared a BBQ lunch with a variety of home made salads. This was followed by some cheesecake and again home made fare in the form of biscuits and slices which all went down well.

The visitors were impressed both with the meal and our club room stating theirs was nothing like it.

Following the meal we all travelled at a leisurely pace out to Macarthur and enjoyed the hospitality at Suffoir Winery. Many tried the salted caramel cocktail on offer and the consensus was-delicious.

Pam then led the party out to Mt Eccles which further impressed our visitors. The general comment was "we have nothing like this at home".

Returning to Hamilton, many decided to stop and look out over Harman's Valley.

Across the Gap to lunch at Halls Gap Hotel. Wednesday 14th May.



We travelled up through Victoria Point and then over the Mirinatwa Gap and on into Halls Gap where we all enjoyed a delicious lunch and cool drink on the verandah of the pub overlooking the magnificent Grampian Ranges.

Knowing how far down the fire travelled does not prepare you for seeing for yourself. Even knowing Cavendish had been on alert, It was shocking to see how the fire had extended all the way down to the bridge at Victoria Point. Some of my relatives used to own properties both sides of the road just over the bridge and the fire had come almost to the house on the hill.



Also amazing is how quickly nature heals itself and the regrowth is quite evident along the way.



A big thank you to all those who helped out in the crisis and to those right there at the fire front who each year put their lives on the line.

However, we had a very pleasant drive on a very warm and pleasant day.

Pastoral Museum Open Days. Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May.

A big thank you to all members who brought vehicles for display, who manned the club room, who brought food, who helped in the kitchen and who manned the gates. Well done! A great effort.

We had over 30 club vehicles on display on Saturday which was an excellent effort and not so many on Sunday but still a good number for the public to look over. Some members of the BSA motorcycle club came along and had their bikes displayed at Pam's request and for this a big thank you goes out to those people.

A great crowd came out to look at over 100 Caterpillars of various shapes and sizes and to look at the static displays as well as have a ride on the mini trains. All in all a very successful weekend. Plus the weather was kind.



MT NAPIER SUMIT CLIMB—Rod Potter



On Sunday 25th 9 vehicles and their passengers assembled for the journey to Mt Napier.

Michael Woodward led the way and we travelled out via Port Fairy Road, turning at Murroa Lane and then into Mt Napier State Park. The track into Menzels Pit was rough and stony with the odd sharp rise with larger rocks requiring extra negotiating so no metal parts made contact. Not exactly the type of road for classic cars such as a Rolls Royce or large Mercedes Benz sedan but probably more like what the vintage cars would have had to contend with in their day.

Once we arrived at the old site those that had the energy proceeded on the 2

kilometer trek to the summit. This is a reasonably steep climb but not that difficult. We were a bit like browns cows on the way up with some powering on ahead and others admiring the views along the way.

Once we were at the top we admired the commanding view and tried to identify landmarks on the horizon. From here you can see the coast and pick out Portland, Lawrence Rocks, all of the surrounding hills and mountains as well as wind farms. English explorer Major Mitchell climbed and named Mt Napier on his travels in 1836.

Michael informed us of all of the geological features and about a nearby lava tube so we climbed down into the crater over the rough and steep terrain to the cave. A few of us squeezed through the entrance to the cave and were surprised at how big it was. Phones served as torches as it was quite dark inside. We climbed back out of the hole where John Barke was waiting patiently for us. John did very well negotiating the steep slopes and loose rocks. Well done.







Once we were back down to the car park we had a bit of a chat with the others waiting for us then it was time to head back out along the bumpy track. We were the last car and after a while I glanced in the rear view mirror to find a cyclist trying to overtake. He got around us all and disappeared into the distance.

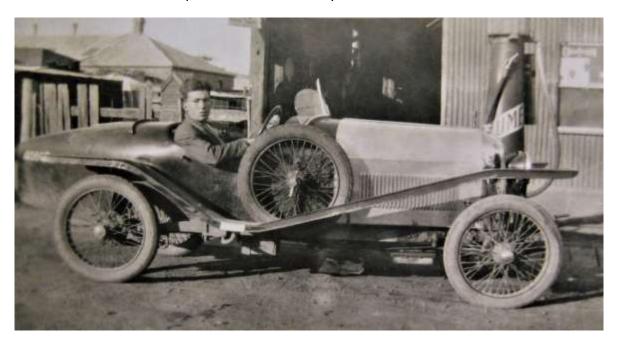
Thanks Michael and Caroline for organizing the afternoon. It was most enjoyable.

This & That Continued as a tribute to Lloyd Hocking; Inaugural Member No. 2 Jason Palmer

It's halfway through the year, yet again and the Kings Birthday is approaching. Unfortunately I can't make it down this year but I am sure all will have a fantastic time at the Rally. I have of late been able to make a few returns to Hamilton mainly to begin to pack-up dad's collection which has been a big ongoing job. Last visit in April, I was able to catch up with Bob Martin for coffee and saw Russ Ward which was great. Luckily I was able to catch up with Bob just as he was deciding to dispose of some surplus books, where I was able to add a couple to my collection.

As now a confirmed Francophile (not by design), some things just seem to find you, one of the books was the very nice 2 volume edition of Amilcar by Gilles Fournier. Referred to unfairly as the 'Poor Man's Bugatti', after the marques introduction in 1921, it didn't take long until there was a strong following in Australia and Hamilton was no exception.

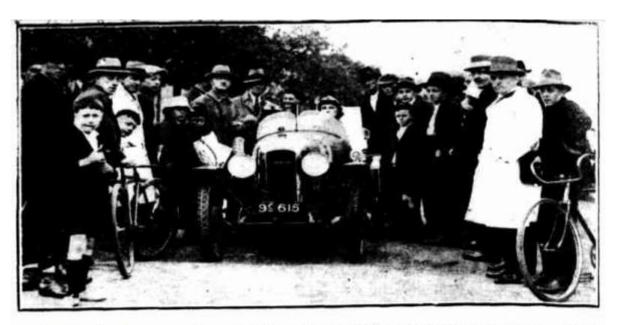
Represented by Conn's Motors Pty Ltd, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, the name Amilcar started to appear in Victorian Motor car competition results as early as 1922.



C/1924 Amilcar CGS or CGSS outside a Hamilton Garage – note the early Plume pump.

1926 was a particularly busy year for trials and hill climbs, Amilcar's featuring in all. One trial in particular was the 'Herald' Light Car Dependability Test conducted by the Victorian Light Car Club in late October-November 1926 consisting of 3 days. Day 1 (Sunday) was a route from Melbourne to Stawell, via Bendigo, with 53 cars starting. It was considered one of the first official motor vehicle trials held in Victoria where no 'official' observer was required to be on-board.

Day 2 (Monday) consisted of Stawell-Horsham-Toolondo-Coleraine-Hamilton and Warrnambool. The Argus, Tuesday 2 November 1926 reports from Stawell. Early this morning rain fell, but the competitors left full of enthusiasm. It was arranged that the first should leave at 6.30 a.m and Mr C.R Evans, the secretary of the Stawell branch of the Automobile Club got the cars away punctually at two minute intervals. The last car left at 8.45. 45 of the 50



An Amilcar competitor in The Herald 600-mile Light Car Trial, which was completed last week.

Contestants passed through Horsham between 9 and 10 o'clock. The Swift (Tucker), Austin (Davey) and Jowett (Garrett) were the first three to check through. (Author Note: funnily enough with the Swift which was the eventual winner – or first to Melbourne – Lloyd H often told us the Swift was anything but.). After Horsham the route was to Toolondo then Coleraine. After leaving Horsham it is stated that a very strong head wind was encountered and rain had turned the unmade clay road en-route to mud. Several cars struggled to make Coleraine with the Citroen entry seizing just outside Coleraine requiring it to be towed the last few miles. Jacksons Bugatti lost 18 points and was thus officially disqualified but came on. At Coleraine, a hill climb was organised up Coleraine Hill held on speed, weight &



capacity running over a distance

of more than a mile up the grade of 1-17. At the foot of the hill, Barnett's Bugatti blew out the ignition, condenser and resistance and the car was eliminated. After a speedy climb, Vaughans Alvis developed big end trouble. Amongst a

(Pg 2 – another view of Amilcar CGS or SS in Hamilton outside Coachbuilders/garage)

few cars that made good climbs was Germer's Amilcar at 1min. 32 seconds). Hutton caused a thrill by skidding broadside at a fenced lower turn where there was a precipitous drop from the road into a valley. The official car towed Barnett (Bugatti) and Vaughan (Alvis) in tandem style into Hamilton where the Herald car had taken Barnett to arrange for local repairs to his car.

Hamilton – the first car to reach Hamilton Control was at 2.27 p.m where a short break was



Mr Jack Hughes of Hamilton in a second Amilcan

taken. The competitors then pro-

gressed to Warrnambool where 37 cars passed through the checking station at Robinson's PTY LTD garage. In the club members event, Germer's Amilcar was 4th to check in at 5.22 p.m, and J.S.R Barker's Amilcar 10th at 5.34. Upon the return to Melbourne, one class win was taken by a 4 seat model G Amilcar tourer.



Mr Jack Hughes of Hamilton in his Amilcar

– My only disappointment with the

books was in the overseas sales descriptions where Australia was only afforded couple of lines. Considering the popularity and strong following of Amilcar in Australia it seemed the authors gave this scant consideration.

Unfortunately Doug's folders give no annotation to where the attached photo's originated from but I assume the Hamilton History Centre collection and Coleraine Historical Society.

Happy Motoring and have a great rally.

BRISBANE MOTOR MUSEUM

The Brisbane Motor Museum was established in 2023 years ago at 959 Nudgee Rd Banyo. It incorporates a meeting room, a library, a café, an undercover car park and, of course, a well appointed showroom.

This museum differs from most motor museums in that the displays are changed every three months and, based on a theme, represent a different vehicle marque or classification for each display. The vehicles displayed are all privately owned and the displays are established and manned by a dedicated band of volunteers. When we visited in 2024, the feature marque was Jaguar, with some Daimlers included.









In May 2025 the display featured "Sports Cars" and whist, to my mind, this would attract such marques as MG, Austin Healy, Triumph, Alfa Romeo etc. we found a much broader interpretation applied, with Mustang (obligatory?) Porsche, BMW, Holden Monaro, Ferrari and Maseratti and several others nicely displayed. There were very comprehensive information boards for each vehicle, giving rheir histoty and specifications as well as several historic video displays of relevant trials and races plus more recent road tests and commentaries by "Top Gear" personalities and other experts. The Earliest vehicle displayed was a 1914 Bugatti Type 13 Brescia in traditional blue, powered by a 1368cc four cyl. engine with overhead cam.





An intersting feature is the twin magneto system with two magnetos mounted in the centre of the dashboard, driven by a short shaft flexibly coupled to the overhead camshaft.

Next to this rather charming little unit was a faithful replica of the very first MG (Morris Garages) sports car (Old No 1) based on Morris Cowley running gear and powered by a Hotchkiss four cylinder engine of 1368 cc. The car is fin-

ished in grey paint as was the original "Old No 1". Old Number One, however, now wears a coat of cherry red and resides in a museum in Gaydon in the United Kingdom.





Alongside is a 1947 MG TC special in similar blue to the Bugatti. With cycle guards and rather heavy looking wire wheels I felt it lacked the chartacter of a true TC.







Many more vehicles of interest were on display including an imposing 1925 Minerva roadster, powered by a Knight sleeve valve engine, a very lively looking Fiat 124 Spider, Lea Francis convertible and many more attractive vehicles, so if you are in Brisbane and want to while away a few hours, check this museum out!

Graeme Ralph





FOR SALE

1924 Dodge Brothers Tourer. Very complete. Requires full restoration. Still in the family

of the original purchaser.

Located in Hamilton Vic.

Car No A 720343. Engine No A 281-142.

\$2,000.00 Neg.

Contact: Graeme Ralph 0418 344 390

More Photos available on request

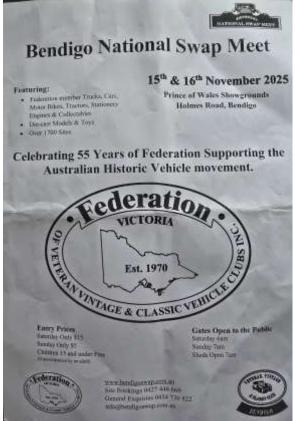


For Sale



1971 Volkswagen Superbug
Club permit number 0099HO
Engine Number: AK225566
All new tyres, new carby kit,
sun roof, road worthies September 2023.

Original



For sale:

1934? Dodge truck. Please contact Mr Ern Polack 0428352538 or bannerelectrical@gmail.com in the first instance if interested. The truck is 100% complete and just needs a restoration

Engine # for the Dodge Truck is T25 2073

















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Contact:

Rachel 0436 116 995 or

Alex 0427 944 881

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