



BACKFIRE

Volume 59 No 7 November 2025

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219.

Clubroom: Showgrounds, 79 Breakwater Rd East Geelong.

Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Tues each month.



Terry Fraser's 1967 Hillman Gazelle
- on the way home after the Bay to Birdwood.
(See reports and photos Page 10)

Backfire is the monthly newsletter of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club (Reg No A00011857H)

Member of the Federation of Victorian Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Clubs.



www.wdhvcgeelong.com



[WesternDistrictHistoricVehicleClub](https://www.facebook.com/WesternDistrictHistoricVehicleClub)



[wdhvc_car_club_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/wdhvc_car_club_geelong)

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2025/2026

President	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
Vice President	Barb van Galen (Ray)	0408 664 537
Secretary	Fred Harris (Sharyn)	secretary@wdhvcgeelong.com 0417 306 177
Treasurer	Maurice Healy (Barbara)	mbhealy@gmail.com 0419 154 923
General Committee Members		
Graeme Anderson (Veronica)	0428 484 340	Simon Anderson (Tess) 0414 482 241
Jon Breedveld (Glenda)	0417 311 441	Anne De Bono (Angelo) 0439 743 591
Col Jordan (Lyn)	0425 822 026	Ken Parry (Jenny) 0437 254 351
Gus Shea (Pam)	0400 203 151	
David Mitchell (Immediate Past President)	0409 099 716	
Rally Co-Ordinator	Ken Parry (Jenny)	0437 254 351
Long Distance Rally Co-Ordinator	Lyn Jordan (Col)	0425 822 025
Program Director	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
Editor	Jon Breedveld (0417 311 441)	editor@wdhvcgeelong.com
Web Site	Damien "Gus" Giustini (Teena)	0418 587 415 webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com
Minute Secretary	Phill Abbott	Emergency VACANT
Tech Nights	Peter Telfer	0427 526 938
Clubroom & Equipment Caretaker	Ken Parry	0437 254 351
Membership Registrar	Barb van Galen (Ray)	rbvangalen@gmail.com 0408 664 537
Tinker Days	Merv Giddings 0417 878 724	& Gary Wallace 0408 524 673
Social Secretary	Marg Hose	0402 213 908
Vehicle Compliance Officers	Gus Shea (Pam) 0400 203 151	Dallas Jones 0432 172 171
Bay City Swap Director	David Mitchell (Libby)	0409 099 716
Bay City Swap Committee	John Bailey 0413 258 302	Rod Booley 0417 021 982
	Murray Foran 5248 2553	Max McKenzie 5248 2380
Club Merchandise Sales	David Mitchell 0409 099 716	
Backfire Folding & Posting	Peter Telfer	0427 526 938
Club Photo Maintenance	Dallas Jones	0432 172 171
Librarian	Phill Abbott (Doreen)	0439 965 210
Federation Delegate	David Perkins	
Ladies Committee Co-ordinator	Pam Shea (Gus)	0487 696 097
RGAPS Council Representative	vacant	
Life Members	Ken Batson	Fred Harris Judith Matthews
	Max McKenzie	Trevor Schneider Max Tucker
	Ray van Galen	
Club Member of the Year	Jon Breedveld	
Eric Baker Memorial Award	Max McKenzie	



CONTENTS

Honorary Office Bearers and Committee - 2025/2026	2
Contents & President's Piece	3
General Meeting Minutes	4
Meeting Minutes (ctd) & September Feature Car (1998 AC Cobra replica)	5
Rallies & Runs (Getting Around Gippsland - the LDR)	6
Rallies & Runs (Getting Around Gippsland - the LDR)	7
Thank You to the Kitchen Helpers	8
Events Calendar	9
Rallies & Runs (Bay to Birdwood)	10
Rallies & Runs (Bay to Birdwood & Red Dust Revival) & Sept Tech Night	11
Guest Speaker (PPP, Plenary & James)	12
Guest Speaker (PPP, Plenary & James ctd.) Coffee Run & Tinker Day	13
Remember When & Vale Mavis Lloyd	14
For Sales, Wanted & Clues	15
Events Calendar (summary)	16

The President's Piece - notes from a big country

Greetings All,

It's a busy time in our club rooms at the moment as extensive works are in progress to create a new kitchen extension. All will be revealed at the next meeting.

Sincere thanks to those who have made a mammoth effort in clearing decades of old materials, and preparing the original store room to enable the creation of a beautiful new kitchen work space.

Another very successful trip to Maryborough was enjoyed by many. Thanks to Ken and Jenny Parry for your splendid efforts.

Merv and Gary also conducted an interesting visit to the goal: thanks so much.

Please make sure you put your names down for our spectacular GOLD themed Christmas Dinner Dance. We have a new band who will be entertaining us with all those songs we know, and we have our wonderful caterers again this year, treating us to a delicious dinner! Saturday 29 November.

Surely Spring will settle soon, and we can all get out and about for some lovely drives.

Happy motoring,

John.

Photos: The old store room is barely recognisable after its transformation into a smart and functional kitchen extension. The extension features a new stove, an extra sink, a commercial dishwasher and a second serving hatch. The relocated fridges and the extra cupboards will also help to provide a more functional area, especially when catering for busy events like our annual swap meet.



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of General Meeting No 651 of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc.
Held at the clubrooms on Tuesday 21 October 2025

Presiding

Meeting Number 651 opened by John Bailey at 7:35pm

Apologies:

Jodie Aylmer, Bob Thompson, Lindsay & Marg Hose, Ross Ardiri, Peter Telfer, Rod & Lorraine Roach, Tiny Stonehouse, David Learmonth, Vicki McDonald, Alan Tipper, Trevor Schneider, Jennie Green, Barb van Galen, Courtney Field.

Moved: Simon Anderson

Seconded: Graham Anderson Carried

Sick List:

Barb van Galen

Bereavements:

None

Minutes

That the minutes of the September general meeting as published in the Backfire be confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: James Park

Seconded: David Mitchell Carried

Correspondence (Fred)

Inward

Letters In

- MG Car Club – thanking David & John & the WDHVC for organizing a great night at the Garage Girls event.
- Federation – tickets for the 2025 Bendigo Swap
- ATO – quarterly installment

Emails In

- Federation Mortlake Picnic- to be held on 29 March 2026
- Invitation to attend a Pre 30s Geoff Herkus Rally at Haddon 23 November

Outward

Letters Out

- Get Well Card – Barb van Galen on the occasion of a new knee
- Welcome letters sent to new members approved at the last committee meeting – Graham & Wendy King, Glyn & Robyn Doughty

Emails Out

Nil

Moved: Ray van Galen

Seconded: Libby Booley Carried

Treasurer's Report (Maurice)

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

Moved: M Healy

Seconded: Jon Breedveld

Carried

Program Director (John)

No report

Library (Phill)

- Several new manuals and car books have been donated

Dine Out (Sharyn)

October – Shell Club

Editor (Jon)

The Backfire will be out next week.

Deadline for calendar photos is 31 October. Members whose vehicles were included in the 2025 calendar cannot submit photos this year, so everyone has a chance to be considered.

Website (Damien)

Nil

Federation Report (David P)

- Federation meeting last Saturday at Dunolly, near Bendigo. Next meeting will be held at the WDHVC Club Rooms in Geelong on 14 February 2026.
- Red plate paperwork has been late arriving. Make sure you are aware of your vehicle permit expiring dates. It is your responsibility not VicRoads'.
- Bendigo Swap Meet on 15-16 November. We have two sites: feel free to use them.

Coffee Run (Col)

The last coffee run was to Arcare in Portarlington. It was well attended and a kind member took one of the residents for a drive in his car and got lost. But he was easily found, as he was in the same street as the village. HA HA.

Next coffee run is at the Ocean Mist Age Care, 370 Grossmans Road, Torquay.

Tinker Day (Merv)

The Tinker Day raffle was drawn at the meeting and the winners were Lindsay, Merv and Geoff.

Committee Report (David M)

Matters considered included:

- two new members were accepted
- the 2026 calendar and progress on the club history
- The next Federation meeting
- David thanked all the workers for donating their valuable time in the building of the new kitchen.

Merchandise (David M)

Nil

Vehicle Permits (Gus)

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- Gus said that this has been a very busy month, with eight new vehicles put on red plates. Also 25 people came to his place to have paper work signed.
- Tony Brincat had brought in his new Cobra that he brought from Mornington this month for display in our garage.

Tech Night (Peter)

- The September topic was changing from 6V to 12V and electrical accessories. In October they will further explore electrical systems and electrical accessories.

Rally Reports/Events (Ken)

- This Sunday will be a picnic at Balyang Sanctuary at 11am.
- Wednesday 5 November: car display at David Allan Lodge 10:30am

Rally Feed Back

- Nil

Long Distance Rally (Lyn Jordan)

- Lyn reported that the recent long distant rally was a lovely week away and all went well.

Swap Meet (David M)

Nil

Kitchen (Pam)

- Pam did a quick report on the new kitchen.
- The Christmas dinner dance will be a 2-course meal with a new band and the theme for the night is Gold. \$30 per person, paid by the November meeting. BYO drinks and glasses.

General Business

- Fred Harris got the hard luck award for the Long Distance Rally after the minor troubles that he had with his Mercedes blinkers playing up and oil finding its way from transmission to engine. The consensus was he should have taken a FORD.
- People complained about not receiving VicRoads notification that their registration is expiring.
- Rod Booley sold his Triumph Stag

For Sales, Wanted and Confessions

Nil

Guest Speaker

James Park spoke on his job. He works for PPP Plenary which is a public private partnership with State & Federal Government. It is Australian-owned and has contracts in several countries. They build public infrastructure and follow up with management.

His talk was extremely interesting and an eye opener.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

**Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on
11 November 2025 in the clubrooms.**

- Phill Abbott

October Feature Car

1998 AC Cobra replica



Tony Brincat found his 1998 AC Cobra replica in Mornington on Marketplace and bought the car to replace his Porsche. Tony featured the Cobra in the garage at the October meeting, having owned it for just three weeks.

Tony and wife Miriam caught the ferry to Sorrento to inspect the Cobra. They liked the car but Tony asked for a roadworthy to be provided and they returned home. A few days later, Tony returned to collect the car plus RWC. However his trip home was not smooth sailing. While still on the other side of the Bay, the car stopped. The car yard put Tony up overnight while a mechanic replaced a broken fuel pump.

Tony also had an issue when putting the Cobra on a club permit. When he went to VicRoads, he found the car was still on full registration. "So I rang the seller and asked him to cancel the registration, and he went to VicRoads and handed the plates in", Tony explained.

"Next day I returned to VicRoads and all went well with club permit."

So far these teething problems have been the only issues.

The Cobra's fibreglass body is mounted on Jaguar front and rear ends and contains a fuel injected 5 litre Holden V8 engine, mated to a 5-speed manual gearbox.



When Tony presented the car at the meeting, someone asked what MPG it achieved. His response: "If you need to ask, you shouldn't have one!"

- Ed

RALLIES & RUNS

Getting Around Gippsland

– the Long Distance Rally 2025

MONDAY

9am start at Rippleside. It was quite cool but wait, we had a change of plans: off to the BP at Avalon for some stragglers.

We had a dream run through Melbourne and the Burnley Tunnel, onto the Monash freeway, then morning tea at Officer and a chance to catch our breath.

On to Noojee for lunch and a look around The Tool Shed and a trestle bridge.

TUESDAY

We journeyed to Old Gippsland Town which they opened just for us (well done Lyn). It is very interesting: all the history Gippsland with everything well preserved. Of course there were a lot of photos of certain cars.



The management supplied tea and coffee and we supplied the eats.

In the afternoon we ventured to the Trafalgar Holden Museum (much to Fred's disgust). If you like cars, especially Holdens, it is a great place to visit.



WEDNESDAY

Today we travelled to Walhalla and a train ride to Thompson and back great.

Time for lunch then a gold mine tour. I was always led to believe that under ground was a constant 19 - 20 degrees but this was 9 and boy was it cold! But we learnt a lot.

THURSDAY

Powerworks today for a tour and a talk about the old days of the SEC and brown coal production. Really eye opening. What a waste in the years to come because someone in the top job didn't look far enough ahead to reuse the steam from the boilers.



After lunch we went for a drive to Tara Bulga National Park. Some of us walked down to the suspension bridge. We turned a corner and there were ferns that looked like a hundred umbrellas. Just beautiful.

RALLIES & RUNS

Getting Around Gippsland

– the Long Distance Rally 2025

FRIDAY

This morning Maffra was our destination to view the Gippsland Vehicle Collection. Well worth a visit - mostly blokes' world but we endured.



SATURDAY

Today we visited Timeless Memories, a collection of nearly everything you could collect. This was the result of both partners collecting and having no more room in the house. Just great.

After lunch (do you see how many times I mention food) we did a river cruise

from the Port of Sale on the Rubeena, a 1912 wooden boat with an equally vintage skipper who managed to get us mixed up with a whole lot of rowers. The down journey was very relaxing: going back was full of excitement.



SUNDAY

Yarram this morning for a look at some wonderful murals. Manny got bitten by something and his hand decided to swell right up. He toughed it out. Our second in command booked a table at the pub to watch the start of Bathurst. No excitement when we left to go to Agnes Falls. After driving through some beautiful country there was a lot of water going over the falls. The heavens opened at Bathurst and also at Korumburra.



We went to the pub and yelled and screamed at the car racing and Mustangs won.

MONDAY

A visit to Coal Creek town this morning and a free afternoon.

TUESDAY

This morning we started making our way home past the playground of the rich and famous through Flinders and Balnarring over some beautiful country.

We caught the 2pm ferry from Sorrento to Queenscliff and home.

We had a wonderful few days. Thank you Lyn and Col

- Sharyn

*The birthday girl:
Libby celebrated her birthday
during the rally*



LDR Participants (Standing L-R) Peter & Sandra Boast, , Ken & Noelene Loone. Col & Lynn Jordan
(Seated L-R) Manny & Lil Vella, Rod & Libby Booley, Sharyn & Fred Harris, Helen & Lindsay Graham



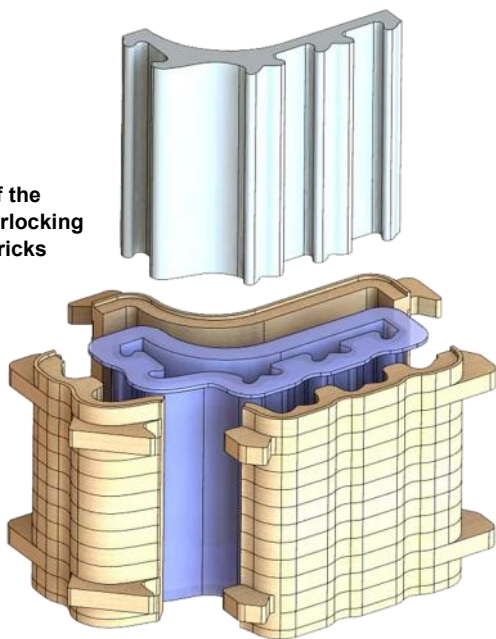
Extended Thanks to Kitchen Hands

Those who helped project leader, President John, to complete the kitchen extension were thanked at the October meeting.

Pictured are Col Jordan, Gus & Pam Shea, Anne & Angelo De Bono, Adrian Van Der Lee, John Bailey, Geoff Lenton, Manny Vella, Fred Harris and Tony Brincat. (Inset) Julie Bennett. Not pictured: Graham Davis.



A diagram of the modular interlocking "Knitlock" bricks



Knitlok at Winchelsea

While reporting on his visit to the Winchelsea RSL 100 year celebration at the local footy oval in September, Robin Evans expressed some curiosity about the special bricks used to build the historic Winchelsea Grandstand. He had heard them mentioned but didn't know anything about them.

This rang a bell and I found a little about Walter Burley Griffin (the designer of Canberra) and a pioneer of modern design. He experimented with new building techniques and materials, including his patented 'Knitlock' concrete block wall system and 'Knitlock' roofing tiles, which featured offset joints and strengthening ribs at modular intervals.

Local builder, Herbert Warner, used Knitlock bricks to build the Winchelsea Memorial Grandstand in 1923. Other local buildings that used the system included "Kooringa" homestead and the Barrabool Church Sunday Hall. - Ed

Events Calendar

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

Friday 31 October

Backfire folding morning 9am Clubrooms.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

Wednesday 5 November Club run to Allan David Lodge Call Ken 0437 254 351 to be included. Arrival time 10.30 / 11am. Usually a 2hr venture and I am sure we will get something to eat and drink.

Contact: Ken 0437 254 351.

Tuesday 11 November General Meeting 7.30pm

Wed. 12 November

Dine Out 6pm Communit Na Feinne Hotel, 209 Bellarine St, Geelong.

Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089

Tuesday 18 November Committee Meeting 7.30pm

Thursday 20 November Coffee Run PLEASE NOTE the CHANGE OF DATE FROM OUR NORMAL 1st THURSDAY. We are booked to go to Torquay for repeat visits to Ocean Mist Aged Care and Kithbrook Retirement Village. A double date if you choose it to be!!!! Morning and afternoon tea will be provided at both locations. You may choose to bring your special vehicle along to one or the other, or both, locations. Entry to both locations is off Grossmans Road Torquay, into Kithbrook Park Boulevard. (just one block from Ghazeepore Rd). Ocean Mist is on the left, near the corner, and Kithbrook Park is a few hundred metres further along. Send me a text or call if you're coming to get an indication of numbers for catering purposes thanks. Cheers from the Coffee Co-ordinator.

Contact: Col 0425 822 026.

There will be **NO coffee runs** in December or January.

Monday 24 November Dec. Backfire Deadline 5pm.

Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441

Tuesday 25 November Tech Night "The Unusual" Are there any unusual things about your car? If not, is it a standard run-of-the-mill one? Just tell us about something unique. Bring items, pictures, or share your story with us. Wear your name badge for a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG.

Note: no Tech Night in December. We will let you enjoy the build-up to Christmas.

Contacts: The Tech Night team: Peter 0427 526 938, Lindsay 0419 350 106 and Ray 5244 1897

Thursday 27 November Tinker Day. Tinker day will be held at the Harris's in Portarlington this year. 11am. Last Tinker Day of 2025! It is a replacement for our Shepherds' Christmas tinker day. There will be a sheet at the November meeting to put your names and a sweet or salad for lunch. The club BBQ will be there to supply meat, tea and coffee, but please bring chairs, cutlery etc.

Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089

Saturday 29 November Christmas Dinner Dance. Gold is the theme. Get your gold beads out or maybe your gold bow tie. Two course dinner, tea and coffee. BYO drinks and glass. Seated by 6.30 for 7pm. Exciting new band to entertain and dance the night away. \$30 pp. Taking names and payment at November meeting.

Ring Pam if unable to attend meeting. 0487 696 097.

Monday 8 December

Club "Thank You" Car Display Around the oval next to the Grovedale Secondary College. (Enter reserve at southern end of Burdoo Drive.) Arrive between 10.30 & 11am. Morning tea provided. As a way of thanking the school for the donated tools and equipment that quite a few club members acquired earlier this year, we would like up to 20 vehicles and owners available to show the students (Year 7-9).

Contact: Jeremy 0478 412 772 or Jon 0417 311 441

Sunday 14 December Christmas Break up. Lower Bluff Rd, St Leonards. 11.30am under the foreshore cypresses. There will be sheet at the November meeting for you to put names for attendance and catering. Mosquito spray is very likely a good inclusion and chairs, tables etc. All is included on the day - supplied the club. So come along and enjoy good food, good company and celebrate Christmas. Santa may well appear.

Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089.

New Editor Wanted

After 10 years and over 100 editions, I will be resigning as the *Backfire* editor at the AGM on 14 April 2026.

That is only four editions of the newsletter away, so think seriously about taking on the task please. Between now and then, I am happy to show a new editor my approach, or you may wish to do it your own way. However, after 14 April 2026 I will be focused on the Club History project.

Call me on 0417 311 441 or speak to me in person to find out more.

Jon

RALLIES & RUNS

Bay to Birdwood



Club members, Terry Fraser, Tim Christie and Ken Parry attended this year's Bay to Birdwood, and all gave very positive reports of the event. Terry has provided a great report of his trip in the Hillman Gazelle (see below). Ken & Jenny drove across in their HD Premier Holden, with the only hiccup being a loose clip on a radiator hose. Ken said he was impressed with how the Holden performed, despite being a Ford man at heart.



Tim provided some notes and many of the photos. Thanks to all three for their contributions.

- Ed.

This year's Bay to Birdwood was held on 19 October 2025. It featured over 1,500 entrants, making it one of the largest historical motoring celebrations of its type globally, including vehicles dating back to the early 1900s. Since 2020, the annual event has welcomed all historic vehicles 30 years and older.

The Bay to Birdwood starts in the Adelaide suburb of West Beach and concludes at the National Motor Museum in the Adelaide Hills town of Birdwood, about 70 km from the start.



The only Hillman in a show of over 1,500 cars

Having done the past two events on my Honda CB350 bike, I decided 2025 would be the year to take my 1967 Hillman Gazelle. The next decision was whether to trailer it over or drive. Both scenarios have their pros and cons, but the decision was made to drive, because an adventure is always a good thing - hopefully. The preparation started months beforehand, with all of the ignition system replaced. The water pump, fuel pump and generator all had rebuild kits fitted.

To be kind to vehicle and driver, the trip was broken with an overnight stop in Naracoorte. Next morning it was on to Adelaide via Keith and Tailem Bend. The morning of the event is an early start, arriving at the marshalling area at 6.30am. As with previous years, the marshalling was managed very professionally and efficiently. The route to Birdwood is lined with around 90,000 spectators holding their own champagne breakfasts and picnics.

Unfortunately, the route this year was plagued with traffic congestion from start to finish. The warm day made this challenging on cooling systems, clutches and drivers. The organisers need to investigate what happened this year, so it can be fixed for next time.

The finish at the National Motor Museum was professionally marshalled and included live music and plenty of food and drink options. The National Motor Museum at Birdwood is also worth a look if you haven't been.

The little Hillman Gazelle performed magnificently and never missed a beat. The long drag out of Adelaide heading for home was achieved in top gear doing 78kph with only a small change on the temp gauge.

If you haven't participated in a Bay to Birdwood, you should put it on your to do list.

- Terry Fraser

Photos: Terry Fraser & Tim Christie. (Tim may have been pandering to my love of all things Morris in selecting these photos.

- Ed.)

Concours d'Elegance Award, Pre-1950:
Winner 1932 Packard 905 Twin Six



RALLIES & RUNS

Bay to Birdwood

Kicking this year! The rally was graced with fantastic weather, along with 1,700 vehicles on display for a large public viewing.

It was opened by Transport Minister and other senior government officials.

I found that this is a well-known and appreciated rally throughout the suburbs of Adelaide.

RAA displayed their historical patrol vehicles for the public to view, along with a variety of periodic vehicles.

I would recommend that members consider attending Bay to Birdwood.

- Tim Christie



Tim stopped at Kaniva for some dinner and who should walk in but Ken Parry. Tim commented: "Ken joined myself and other participants for diner at Kaniva hotel . Good laughs and discussion on classic cars."



Red Dust Revival

Vintage cars race in Lake Perkolilli Red Dust Revival

Nearly 200 vintage cars and motorcycles made the journey to Lake Perkolilli, on the outskirts of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, in WA's Goldfields, to race on the hard clay pan surface.

What is the Red Dust Revival?

The Lake Perkolilli Red Dust Revival is run by the Variety Club of WA Kalgoorlie Branch. The event celebrates the golden years of outback motor racing from 1914 to 1939. In 2025 about 130 pre-war cars and 40 motorcycles nominated. All proceeds from camping and spectator entry fees went to Variety, the children's charity, to help with their good works in the WA community.

Where is Perko?

Lake Perkolilli is a natural claypan about 45 minutes from Kalgoorlie in the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia. The last part of the drive is on a dirt road and then a bush track. The track is OK for 2WD vehicles.

Lake Perkolilli has no permanent facilities. We ask that people leave the claypan to rest over winter so the track is in tip-top condition for the event. Everyone who organises the event does it for fun and we try to keep the event casual and in good spirit. We try our hardest to keep Perko this way. Perko is a volunteer run event.

(Source: [Red Dust Revival 2025](#) | [motoring-past](#))



To read the full ABC news article click below.

abc.net.au/news/2025-10-06/red-dust-revival

- Lindsay Alford

Tech Night 25 September- "6 volt to 12 volt"

Some 17 people showed up for the September Tech Night. Ray had some fantastic homemade 8v battery chargers. Victor had part of a surgical hip replacement. Lindsey had some interesting diodes and others had an assortment of things like a little box you could put between the 6v radio to make it 12v. A great night was had by all.

Text & photos:
Adrian Van Der Lee



“PPP, Plenary and James”

Our October guest speaker was club member James Park. With the mystifying title of “**PPP, Plenary and James**“, the talk gave us an insight into just how some massive public infrastructure projects are funded, built and managed.

James started out by explaining a Public Private Partnership (PPP).

He said a PPP was a long-term agreement between the government and the private sector to finance, design, build, operate and maintain a piece of public infrastructure (like a road, railway line or hospital).

PPPs can expedite large-scale public infrastructure projects, which may otherwise be delayed or unaffordable. They deliver such projects more efficiently and often faster, by sharing risks and combining private sector expertise with public sector resources. They can improve value for money and ensure projects are completed on time and budget.

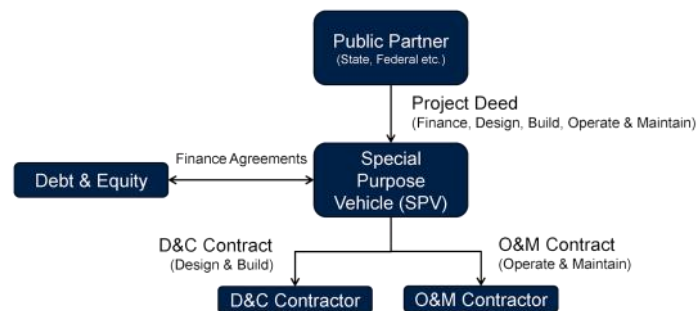
Government can have infrastructure built for no cost upfront. This upfront cost is paid by the private partner. This model transfers the risk from government to the private sector.

Once an asset is operational, government will pay the private partner performance- based payments to:

1. Pay for the operation of the asset; and
2. Pay off the debt used to finance the construction.

Agreements normally run for 20 to 30 years and then the asset is handed back to the public sector in a prescribed condition.

The Basic Structure



© Plenary

James explained that his background was in engineering and his first role was as an intern on the Western Roads Upgrade with Operations and Maintenance provider, *Ventia*. Over the next 4.5 years he worked in several roles, including pavement and structure engineering, traffic management and project performance. It was in the last of these roles that he got a true taste of what he described as “the PPP beast!”

In early 2023 he landed a job at *Plenary* as a project manager, working mainly in asset management. This involves working within the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of various operating projects. In 2025 he was appointed General Manager for the Plenary Environment (Barwon) SPV and has also worked on some international road bids, including regular trip to New Zealand.

Barwon Water Biosolids Management Project

When the EPA told Barwon Water to stop air-drying sewage at Melbourne Water’s Western Treatment Plant, it prompted the authority to find a sustainable alternative solution. As a result the Blackrock site now accepts all of Barwon Water’s “dewatered municipal sludge” (sewage) and treats it to the EPA’s highest standard.



The resulting dried pellets are used by farmers as fertiliser.

This operations began in September 2012 and is a 20 year agreement, operated and managed by *Plenary*.



James used the Peninsula Link Freeway as an example of a current Victorian PPP. Peninsula Link is a 27 km four-lane motorway connecting East Link and Mount Martha in southeast Melbourne. It was the first PPP in Australia using the availability-payment model under the Partnerships Victoria framework. The project achieved its financial close in February 2010, it opened in January 2013 and is subject to a 25 year PPP agreement. In February 2010 the project had a net value of A\$849 million.

James also spoke about the long term public art program which is a feature of the freeway. A collaboration with the local McClelland Gallery has resulted in striking public art pieces being installed along the roadway.

“PPP, Plenary and James” (ctd)

The Plenary team

Origination secures infrastructure development opportunities through industry-leading expertise in the tendering, financing and structuring of infrastructure projects. The team has been successful in winning and executing major projects in the transport, health, education, water and defence industries.

Design and Construction provides specialist project management services advice across all phases of the project. The team supports the origination part of the business by managing our design partners and construction partners to help them deliver the best possible design, program and price outcomes.

Asset Management (the area James works in) is responsible for the commissioning, transitioning and ongoing operational delivery of their projects. It is the primary point of contact for government partners and facility operators during the operations phase.

Most of *Plenary's* portfolio is in Australia. It also has assets in Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Middle East.

Plenary profile

KEY STATISTICS	
ESTABLISHED:	2004
TOTAL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT:	89
TOTAL PROJECT CAPITALISATION:	A\$90b
OFFICES:	14
EMPLOYEES:	350+

Plenary

PROFILE

- International infrastructure and property business, focused on long-term assets
- Project originator, developer and long-term equity investor, with in-house financial and structuring expertise
- Largest participant in the greenfield public infrastructure market with 350+ people, including a dedicated team of property professionals
- Deep sector expertise and strong contacts across the industry leads to unrivalled access to deal flow
- Strong focus on growth in the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe, partnering with ADQ in 2024 to pursue opportunities in the Middle East



Asia Pacific



Americas



Europe and the Middle East



RALLIES & RUNS

Coffee Run & Tinker Day

Thank you to Gary Kennedy for the photo of three very pretty cars at the 2 October Coffee Run to Arcare in Portarlington. Thank you also to Adrian Van Der Lee for the shots of the amazing carriages, taken at the return visit to Noel Sharky's carriage collection (Tinker Day, 16 October).



Phill's Phunnies ...

- from Phill the Librarian

The black charger I want-



Black charger I have-



Great Mars Bar Competition

More photos needed

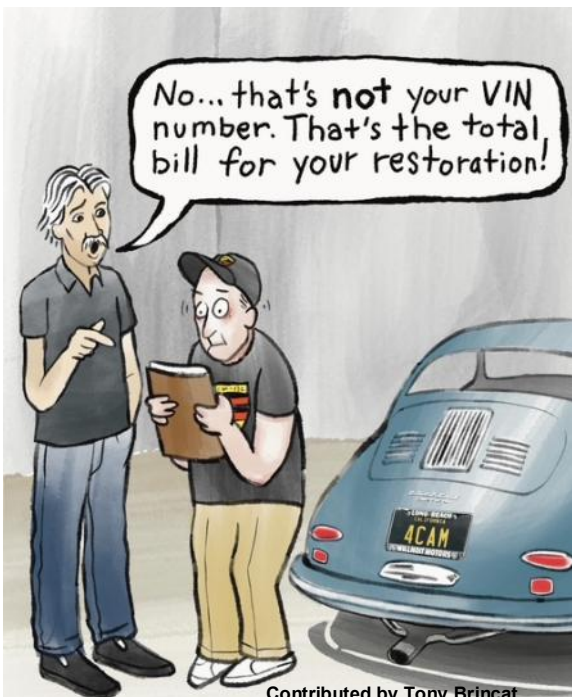
Please sneak in your photo submissions to:

Ray van Galen

Ph 52789 368,

or

email rbvangalen@gmail.com



Contributed by Tony Brincat

VALE - MAVIS LLOYD

16/06/1926 - 20/07/2025



Former Club member, Mavis Lloyd passed away recently. Colin and Mavis were valued and very active members of our Club before they moved to live in Harvey Bay. Colin died in 2009.

A funeral service for Mavis was held at Geelong West on 9 October and we extend our sympathy to their two sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

-Trevor Schneider

Club Calendar



A big Thank You to all those who sent in photos for the 2026 Club Calendar. We now have a great selection.

What Happens Now?

Like last year, I will randomly allocate a number to each of the eligible photos. James Park will then provide me with a computer-generated list of numbers and the 13 images that match these numbers will feature in the 2026 calendar.

I will complete the calendar artwork and arrange for them to be printed. The plan is to have the calendars available at the December meeting. One free calendar per member, with your name marked off as you collect it.

- Jon Breedveld (for the Committee)

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale



For Sale.

1991 Yamaha Virago 250

All original, 27,000 klm. Good running order. Club permit 731G-H. Vin JYA3LVTO.

Also a **1971 Italian Motron**

Minare 111 pedal start scooter.

Was a Covid project. Non-runner.

\$900 for both.

Call Phill 0439 965 210.

11/25



Wanted

Wanted. Right hand window regulator

for 1938 Dodge ute.

Call Andrew 0410 561 164.

10/25



Adverts are free to Members only and generally appear for **two issues** of *Backfire*. To remove advertisements from the [newsletter](#) earlier, email editor@wdhvcgeelong.com (Ph 0417 311 441).

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

All ads for cars also appear on the **club web site** where greater detail [and](#) photos (where supplied) can be viewed. To see ads, go to [WDHVC For Sales](#)

Ads remain on the website for 3 months unless you request their removal. To remove an ad from the [website](#), email webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com (Ph 0418 587 415).

The views/comments expressed in the publication of this newsletter are those of the individual contributor and are not necessarily endorsed by the current Committee of the Club. Whilst every care is taken to determine the safety of any technical information provided and the accuracy of the information supplied for inclusion in this newsletter, it is printed in good faith and neither the Committee nor the Club accept any responsibility for any loss or injury incurred by any application of such information.

FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

Clues

Clues. Lions Christmas Cakes If you intend purchasing Lions Christmas Cakes for Christmas, club member, Lion Brian Edward, can be of assistance. Cake prices remain at \$20 for a 1.5 kg cake and \$16 for a 1 kg cake. All proceeds support local charities. Brian will be at the next meeting or call 5222 6986. **10/25**

Clues. Replacement gutter rails for HQ-WB Holdens available. 1mm cold rolled steel 1220mm long. Call Adrian 0412 246 495. **10/25**

Clues. Tools & Model T material. An ex-member, a Model T man, has a range of mechanic's tools and Model T information that may be available for WDHVC members.

Also Subaru Brumby manuals & 3 Brumbies for parts. Call Harold 0408 553 466. **9/25**

Wanted

Wanted. 8" headlight lens for a 1935 Dodge. Call Graham 0409 241 558. **10/25**

Wanted. Owner's Manual for a 1971 Mark 2 Cortina. Call Phill 0439 965 210. **10/25**

Wanted. Carby for 1929 Dodge Senior DA. Old original or modern replacement. The car came fitted with a Stromberg UX 3. (Stromberg UX 2 fitted to the car when new?) Wanting to convert to downdraft or pumped system.

Wanted. King pins and bushes for 1951 AC 2 litre. Any notions or ideas welcome.

Call Robert Jenkins 0487 397 119. **9/25**

Are You in the Frame?



Members who would like their club vehicles added to those already on the clubhouse walls should provide an 8 inch X 10 inch color photo of their vehicle to Dallas Jones.
(0432 172 171)

Dallas will mount and display the photos.

If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC
PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST
APPROVED
PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



November 2025 at a glance (details Page 9)

1894 Hildebrand & Wolfmüller Motorcyle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 EXTREME WEATHER (including Total Fire Bans) A club event may be cancelled on extreme weather days. If an extreme weather day is predicted members should either: check the club website; check their emails; or contact the event organiser.	27	28	29	30	31 October <i>Backfire</i> Folding Morning	1
2	3	4	5 Club Run Allan David Lodge 10.30/11am	6	7	8
9	10	11 General Meeting 7.30pm	12 Dine Out Communn Na Feinne 6pm	13	14	15
16	17	18 Committee Meeting 7.30pm	19	20 10am Coffee Run Ocean Mist/ Kithbrook	21	22
23	24 Backfire Deadline	25 Tech Night 7pm "Unusual"	26	27 Tinker Day at the Harrises 11am	28 <i>Backfire</i> Folding Morning	29 Christmas Dinner Dance. Clubrooms 6.30 for 7pm
30	1 December	2	3	4	5	8 Car display at reserve beside Grovedale 2 nd ry College 10.30-11am