

VINTAGE & CLASSIC

CAR CLUB BALLARAT INC.



P.O. BOX 1010, BAKERY HILL, VICTORIA, 3354

www.vccc.org.au

A0026598U

June 2025



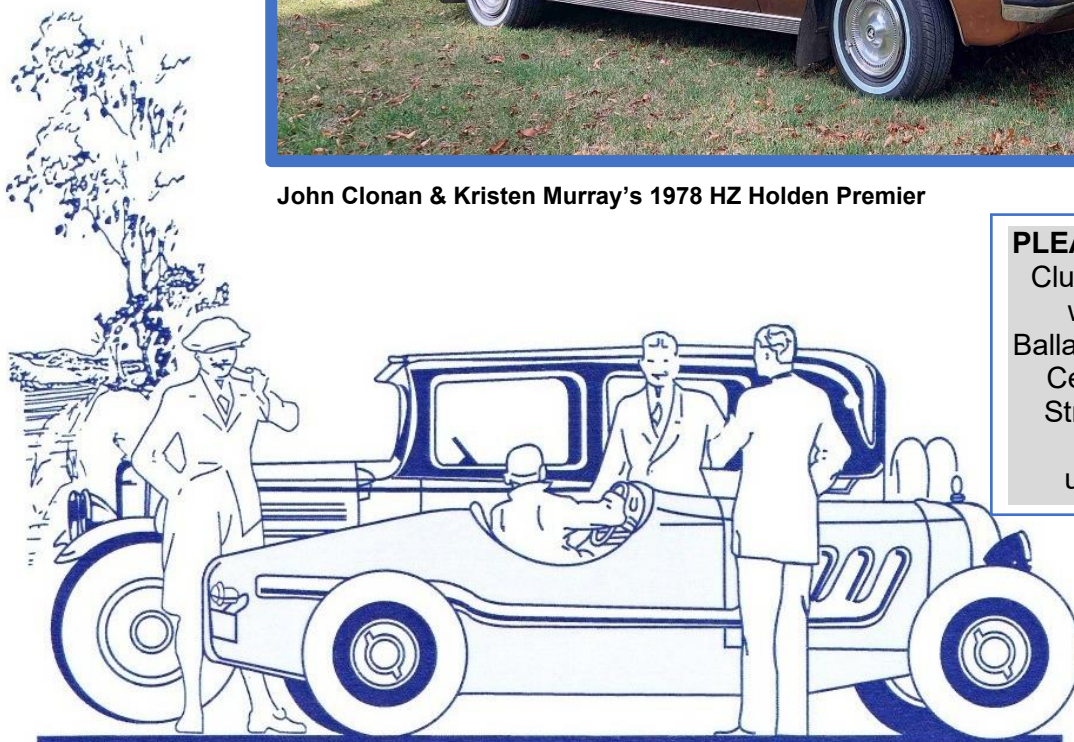
Member Club



Working for Motoring Enthusiasts



John Clonan & Kristen Murray's 1978 HZ Holden Premier



PLEASE NOTE:

Club General Meetings
will be held at the
Ballarat North Community
Centre – 702 Walker
Street, Ballarat North
at 7:30pm
until further notice

Meetings held on the 3rd Friday of each month at Clubrooms, Humffray St. Sth. (Cnr Gladstone St.), Ballarat

Note - Meeting Start Time will be at 7.30 PM

NOTE: The next **General Meeting** will be held **FRIDAY, 20th JUNE 2025**

At Ballarat North Community Centre, 702 Walker Street, Ballarat North

Life Members

Alan Firns, Kevin Holloway, Ted Callow (Dec), Norm Grose (Dec), Ron Gay, Ron Goad, Grant Harvey (Dec),
Paul Seager (Dec), Bill Whitford (Dec), Daryl Crawley, Tony Taranto, Gordon Roberts and Bob Bennetts (Dec),
Ian Watson

Newsletter

Articles for the **July 2025** newsletter are required no later than **5 pm Tuesday 1st July 2025**

All contributions should be in MS Word with photos in JPG format and emailed to **npbackhouse.a30@gmail.com**

All contributions acknowledged.

Code Red Fire Rating Days

Any Club event which falls on a day designated as **Code Red** is automatically cancelled, and Members and Guests are advised to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan

Club Office Bearers 2024 – 2025

President	Andy Burns (Lee)	0428 935 988	arbl2000@outlook.com
Vice president	Brett Holloway (Kirstin)	0418 503 541	brett.a.holloway@gmail.com
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VCCC Website – Members area password: vccc2021

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

We are now approaching the business end of the year – the Annual General Meeting – the nomination form is enclosed/attached with this newsletter for you to consider either nominating someone or asking someone to nominate you. There are exciting times ahead for our Club with the new Clubrooms getting closer to reality, which will be a great time to be involved in the running of the Club. Have a think about it

Congratulations to Ian Watson on his elevation to the Life Membership Club – a very fitting award.

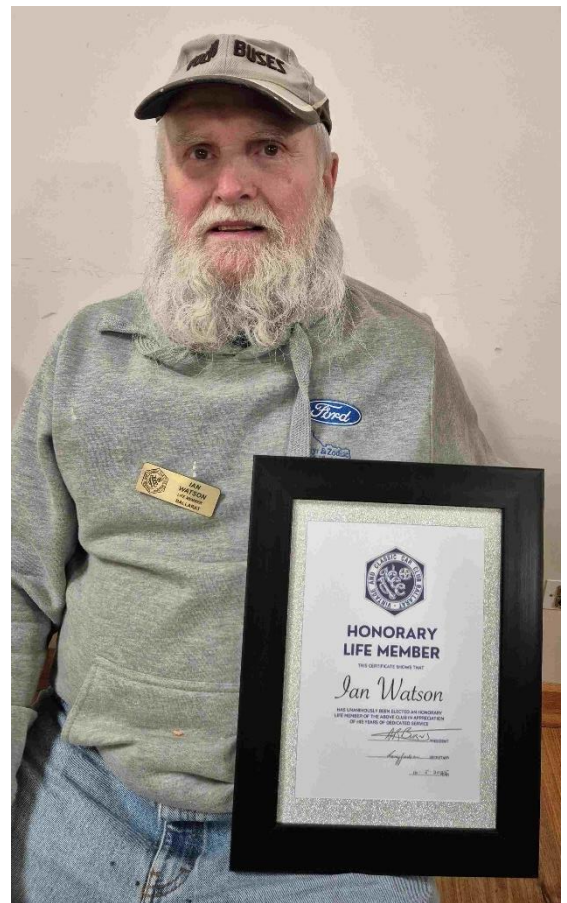
Nerene Backhouse, Editor

GREAT NEWS!

President Andy Burns presented Ian Watson with Club Life Membership

At last month's General Meeting, Ian – or Watto – as he is more widely known – was speechless when presented with this prestigious award. He was nominated by Daryl Crawley who had researched all the work that Watto had done in his 34 years as a member – and it is quite extensive.

Our heartiest CONGRATULATIONS on a well-deserved award.



HEALTH MATTERS AND CELEBRATIONS

Celebrations

We send our very best happy birthday greetings to our newest Nonagenarian – **Merv Sherlock** – this month. Congratulations – hope you celebrate well.

Welfare

Our thoughts and best wishes have been conveyed to **Robyn Musgrove** who has not been well. **Jan Drennan** has had stay in hospital but is now recovering at home.

We hope everyone else is doing okay – and to those who are struggling with what life has dealt them, we hope you are given the strength to work your way through the challenges. Keep smiling – no matter what . . .

Bereavement

Our condolences have been conveyed to **Susan and Carl Peucker** on the passing of Susan's brother, Bernard last month. Our thoughts are with you at this sad time.

VALE – Keith Mackinlay

It's my pleasure to talk about Keith and his involvement with the Vintage and Classic Car Club of Ballarat. Keith was not only a member, but a good member for over 20 years. Keith liked to attend most of our varied events, and he especially liked our Begonia Rallies. He, on behalf of his business, Bisitecniks, started sponsoring this event in 2007 and has sponsored every year since. Keith was our Rally Director in 2012 and 2013.

Keith also generously opened his business to us during our Restoration Roundups so we could look at his pet projects and cars. He always had something different for us to look at. We usually ended up the day with afternoon tea in his shed. He loved having us there.

Keith attended the Naked Radiator Runs and Pre 30's rallies with his model T Ford. He liked the engineering that went into the design and manufacture of this vehicle but was torn on how slow it was to drive. Keith liked to be in the fast lane so was happier attending the general monthly runs and Sports Car runs where he could put his right foot down a bit harder.

Our club decided to look for new clubrooms and Keith sat on our Building Committee. Keith was a man to get things done, but dealing with the local council bureaucracy and lack of progress didn't sit well with him.

Keith helped out with our car shows and was always there with a couple of classy cars to display.

One year we helped out the Humber car club with their national rally in Ballarat. They requested us to judge their concourse cars which we did. While some members might have been a bit laid back with this task, Keith was in his element as he brought along his skills gained from his experiences with the Early Ford V8 club judging.



Keith enjoyed travelling in 4 door sedans as he most often had Lyn and Natalie with him. He especially liked to bring along his brother Malcolm and good friends Ray and Eileen Broatch.

We will miss him greatly and miss his involvement with our club. Thankyou Keith for being a good club member, generous sponsor and a great friend.

Mark Border

AROUND THE TABLE AT COMMITTEE – 20th May 2025

1 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Friday 15th August 2025. Enclosed with this newsletter is the Nomination form for Committee, Team Leaders and Assistants positions for 2025 – 2026. The closing date for nominations will be at the close of the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 22nd July 2025.

Please give some thought to standing for a position or for nominating somebody to fill a role, as the Club cannot function without some willing leaders.

Positions to be filled –

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Secretary

Assistant Treasurer

Club Captain

Publicity Officer

Property Officer

Committee Positions (3)

Editor

Librarian

Membership Officer

Social/Catering

Webmaster

Federation Reps 1 and 2

AOMC Reps 1 and 2

Permit Officer

2 New Member Application

One Application has been received this month -

Lynette Webb from Sebastopol was nominated by Graham Lambourn and seconded by Barry Allison. Lynette does not have a vehicle at the moment, but is looking to purchase shortly.

Providing there are no objections received by the President prior to the July Meeting, and the applicant is present, she will be welcomed into the Club.

3 Bendigo Swap Volunteers

The Bendigo Swap organisers are calling for volunteers to help staff the event. The Swap runs from Friday 14th November (set up day), to Sunday 16th November. Volunteers are required for 2-hour shifts for duties such as manning the gates or supervision of displays and sheds. Each volunteer receives a weekend pass for the swap, a \$10 refreshment payment and a volunteer badge. In addition, \$20 is paid to our Club for each completed shift. A list is now available for you to add your name. Federation have requested that volunteer lists be forwarded to the Bendigo Swap Volunteer Co-ordinator by the 30th June 2025.

Shifts available	Friday 14 th November	8:00 am to midnight
	Saturday 15 th November	Midnight to 8 p.m.
	Sunday 16 th November	6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4 Club Permit Reassignment

Richard English advised there is now a form available from VicRoads called "*Club Permit Reassignment*" that enables a vehicle belonging to a deceased Club Member to be transferred to a domestic partner/spouse. This form needs to be signed by the CPS Officer, and replaces the need for the Club to write a letter to VicRoads confirming that the deceased was a financial member of the Club.

5 Rally Director

Andy Burns advised the Committee of his intention to be the Rally Director for the 2026 Begonia Rally.

6 Club Person of the Year

Club Person of the Year is a very special award given to a member who has gone the extra mile to help. Reward them by nominating them for this award. Forms are located on top of the votes box, at Club Meeting nights. Last chance to vote will be at the July Club Meeting.

7 Loose Change for Peter Mac

At monthly Club Meetings a donation jar is on the front table for you to drop in your loose change. Federation is a proud sponsor of Peter Mac, and this is one way we can support the important research they do towards eliminating Cancer.

Nancy Jackson
Secretary.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – 16th May 2025

We have pleasure in welcoming the following as members of the Club:

1. **Greg and Maxine Andrews** from Bolwarrah who were nominated by Bruce Kerr and seconded by Graeme Musgrove. They have 2 1987 Mercedes 300D sedans
2. **Tim Duncan** from Nintingbool who was nominated by Ian Trembath and seconded by Graeme Johns. He has a 1972 MGB Roadster

A warm welcome to you all – we hope you enjoy your time with us

Cover Story – 1978 Holden HZ Premier

Purchased in 2016 in Renmark SA, the HZ Premier had been part of a deceased estate sitting around for approx. 10 years, registered and occasionally driven. The original owner bought the vehicle from Kincaig Motors in Naracoorte. It has a 253 V8, automatic transmission, power steering, 4/70 air conditioning (4 windows down, 70mph) and optioned with a vinyl roof (in perfect condition), and towbar. It had its owner's manual and service books in the glove box verifying the 179,000 kms showing on the clock.

The original owner had an Aunger rear louvre, Aunger mags and period lambswool seat covers fitted which came with the sale. The aftermarket radio/cassette has been replaced with an Air Chief radio/cassette, rear internal venetians fitted and more recently, white wall tyres replacing the old Goodyear NCT Eagles.

Mechanically, the car has had some heart surgery with valves being replaced, a new Stromberg carburetor, radiator, water pump, heater-tap and automatic transmission serviced.



Why a HZ Holden? My dream car would be a HZ GTS, however, the Premier is a substitute for this dream! In the 1990's I owned two HZ's - a 1977 Kingswood 308 and a 1979 Premier 253, and believe the last of a series have most of the bugs sorted. Together with the RTS (Radial Tuned Suspension), the HZ performs and handles very well with no understeer as in the previous models. It is a great cruiser both around town and on the freeway, a solid and safe car that keeps up with modern traffic and driving conditions. Recently on a trip up to my old stamping ground at the Minyip Show and Shine, the car didn't miss a beat. I appreciate the V8 rumble and the classic lines as these were the cars we grew up with in the 1970's.

Essentially, the car's exterior and interior remain original, rust free, maintaining its patina. Cosmetic items such as the front side protection strips are to be replaced. Whilst the paint is a bit thin on the boot, I intend to just keep it as it is, reflecting its 47-year-old life on the road.

John Clonan and Kristen Murray

COMING EVENTS – June - July 2025

Keep an eye on the Facebook page for updates. Also, see the Calendar on page 15.

Saturday 14th June - Ladies Crafternoon – NO CRAFT in June – next one 5th July – 1.00pm

Following the closure of Lilly's at Eureka Café, we had found ourselves without a 'home' for the present. I have arranged for our group to join the Classic Stitchers group which meets at the Ballarat North Community Centre (same venue as the General Meetings are currently held). Please note in your calendars with the following dates – they are different to our normal dates: 5th July, 16th August, 27th September, 8th November and 13th December. NOTE – no craft in June or October.

Classic Stitchers is a group of generally patch workers but as we say if you are using a needle then you are welcome. This group meets from 10am – 3.30pm; however, I would suggest we meet from **1.00pm**. There is a fee of \$6.00 per day to cover the cost of the room hire – please bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share – tea/coffee are supplied.

So, we invite you to come along - bring a craft item you're working on, or just come for a chat – hope to see you at the next one – **Saturday 5th July at 1.00pm**.

And one more thing – PLEASE check each month's newsletter for the dates – thank you.

Contact Jenny Ure – 0409 954 077

Thursday 19th June - Rustless Wanderers Lunch – North Ballarat Sports Club

Make your own way there – lunch is at 12 noon – RSVP Monday 16th June

Contact Rick Thege – 0428 518 770

Friday 20th June – Club General Meeting – 7.30pm – Ballarat North Community Centre

Please bring a plate of supper to share.

Sunday 22nd June - Club Run – Beaufort and Avoca Riverside Market (Trophy Points)

We were planning on visiting the Lincoln Museum at Pomonal but the Museum is not available on this date.

We will be leaving about **9.30am from Latrobe Street at the side of Bendix** and travelling along back roads for a toilet/morning tea stop at Beaufort. The Vegemite Museum has agreed to open early that morning for us to visit them. The cost of entry to the Museum is a gold coin donation. The Museum has a new collection of retro guitars on display. There is a very good cafe next door.

Then we will be travelling along good back roads to the Avoca Riverside Market. This is a large market of about 60 stalls. The market consists of local produce, wines and food vans. The cost of entry to the market is a gold coin donation. For lunch there are several food vans at the market, hotels and take away shops in the town. For BYO there is a large undercover area in the main street.

Contact John & Gayle Pickering - 0408 914 943

Saturday 5th July – Ladies Crafternoon – Ballarat North Community Centre, 702 Walker Street – 1-3.30pm

Please come and join in as we meet with the Classic Stitchers group – bring something you're working on and also a plate of afternoon tea to share.

Contact Jenny Ure – 0409 954 077

Thursday 17th July – Rustless Wanderers Lunch - Xmas in July – Wallace Hotel

Make your own way there – lunch is at 12 noon – RSVP Monday 14th July

Contact Rick Thege – 0428 518 770

Friday 18th July - Club General Meeting – 7.30pm – Ballarat North Community Centre

Please bring a plate of supper to share.

Sunday 20th July – Club Run (Trophy Points) – President's Run

Tuesday 22nd July – Club Committee Meeting – 1 Traminer Court, Wendouree

Also the close of nominations for the AGM

Outside Events – for your interest

Sunday 29th June

The Fridge Swap Meet

Multi Storey Car Park, Central Square 6am – 1pm

Clubrooms Redevelopment Update #16

Last month I reported on the demolition of the clubrooms, and the preparation of the site to allow for the construction of the new structure. I also suggested a drive past the site to have a look at the work in progress.

Seeing is believing, so if you get the opportunity, I would encourage you to visit the site, pull up where safe to do so, and have a quiet walk around (outside the temporary fencing). You will have a good view from the front, but if you are able to, also have a walk down the south side (along the neighbour's fence line), and across the back, then return via the scout hall side. This will give a perspective of the size of the footprint we have to work with, and the chance to admire the completed retaining wall, as well as a flat and level site, with earthworks now all done in anticipation of the erection of the building. You may even notice the concrete driveway crossover and that the pine posts on the scout side have been cleaned up.



Building the retaining wall – Andy Burns, Wayne Harrop, Dodge, Tom Quinlan and Bernie Brisbane



Mal Bandy and Life Member Ron Goad doing their bit

The site preparation presented some challenges. From the south side, the former car park was okay, but moving north toward the old site, we decided to extend the pad to incorporate the verandah section, but it got a bit soft as the tip was certainly discovered! There were lots and lots of old bottles, and heaps of steel rings off barrels dumped in there, so a deeper dive to hit some solid ground and then backfill and compact with fresher fill. This is now all cleaned up and levelled, with crushed concrete added and compacted for the shed base. The rear area beyond the retaining wall has also been spread and battered away to a clean and seamless surface. It's hard to remember what the car park looked like already!

As mentioned at the end of my last report, the Building Subcommittee met on site on Tuesday 29 April to discuss progress to date, costs to date and expected expenditure to come versus budget etc. together with next steps. We looked at options for the windows, and felt the prices were excessive, but Darren Miles subsequently sourced a favourable price from an alternate supplier, so these have been ordered and a deposit paid. Doors are also being determined, Darren is fine tuning options and getting the best price on these. The server window is still to be worked out, initial pricing is not favourable at this point in time. Concrete was also discussed, with the decision to increase from 125mm to 150mm thick, and install double mesh to the library area. Pricing is being sought for this at the moment.

With the site prepared, the footings and erection were booked, and the screw piles ordered with a deposit paid. This is where the building permit is needed, and to process this, the building surveyor appointed has presented a list of requirements to be satisfied. This includes various minor



Bruce Kerr had the job of rolling all the fill – he looks like he's been doing it for years.

administrative details, information requests of materials used, signage, details of the road closure and consent from the land holder, together with the site feature survey showing boundaries and locations etc. There were also some compliance requirements around fire services coverage, pressure and flow testing etc. Not overly onerous, but time consuming to satisfy, so currently working on all of this, it will just mean the construction timeline will now be pushed out.

And finally for this month, as the project is progressing, soon we will be looking at the fit-out, so I will repeat last month's call for assistance. Do you have a trade and would like to be involved? If you are able to help out, please let a member of the subcommittee know.

Brett Holloway – on behalf of the Building Subcommittee



The site is ready – willing – and waiting for the new building

PAST EVENTS

Florence Thomson Tour, Ballarat, 28th – 30th March 2025

Driving a Beeston Humberette, Florence Thomson travelled from Adelaide to Melbourne in March 1904 earning her the title of the first female to drive the trip.

In February 1905, Florence Thomson was the sole female entrant in the Dunlop Reliability Motor contest from Sydney to Melbourne. Mrs Thomson was one of the 16 entrants who successfully completed the five-day trial, driving a six horsepower Wolseley, over what was then nothing more than 562 miles of dirt track between the capital cities.

In 2017 to commemorate the event and pioneering spirit of women in motoring, the RACV along with AOMC created the annual Florence Thomson Tour with 2025 being in Ballarat. The rules of this tour are simple, lady drivers only so the men can safely tell the women where to go and get away with it, in most cases.

Friday night registration was at the Mercure Convention Centre where a meet and greet then a buffet dinner was held. There was a very broad selection of vehicles ranging from 1910 Renault AX to 1999 BMW including FN, Bugatti, Chevrolet, Ford, Austin, Alfa Romeo, Vauxhall, MG, Sunbeam, Jaguar, Holden, Daimler, Bentley, VW, Chrysler, Morris, Rover, Singer, Mercury, Wolseley, Triumph, Fiat, Bolwell, Jensen, Morgan, Porsche, Leyland, Mercedes Benz, Mazda. There were 47 British, 17 Australian, 14 USA, with the rest being European.

Saturday began at the Kingston Showgrounds with the 95 entrants photographed in front of the old grandstand before we had breakfast then at about 10am we were off. We travelled the long option which took us about 140kms via Glendonald, Clunes, Cotswold, Carisbrook, Baringhup, Maldon Newstead, Sandon, Yandoit, Franklinford, Shepherds Flat, & Hepburn to finish at the Daylesford Mill Markets where we had a boxed lunch. A wander around the market and then home in readiness for the evening dinner which was held at the Mercure. There was a dress up to the period of your car theme to the weekend. At the dinner there were many interesting outfits on display with a professional photographer attending. Many photographs of the event can be viewed at this website <https://www.aomc.asn.au/galleries> A great meal was served and the presentations were made with the evening winding down about 10.30pm.

Sunday saw us gather and leave the Mercure to travel to the closed Windmill Drive at Lake Wendouree where we parked then over to the tram museum for a catered breakfast, a look around the museum and tram rides before everyone headed off for home.

Lyn & I really enjoyed the weekend and a couple we met were camped beside us on our recent vintage caravan weekend in Heathcote.

Mike Simpson

APPROVED SAFETY CHECKERS

The Club's approved safety checkers for pre 1949 vehicle initial Club Permit applications are:

Neale Goad Automotive, 206 Burnbank Street, Wendouree	Phone 5339 2056	Contact Neale
Reptile Gulch Motors, 209 Doveton Street, Ballarat	Phone 53337206	Contact Henry

Mother's Day at Anderson's Mill Smeaton – Sunday 11th May – Display for their Open Day



Cheryl Just from the organising committee of the Anderson's Mill invited club members out for the Sunday of their Heritage Weekend held every May. The day clashed with Mother's Day but we did our best to add some old automotive feel to the very pretty and historic setting.

What a feast of beautiful Autumn weather April and early May has served up and 11th May was no exception. Nine cars gathered in Brown Hill and at 9:30 we ventured off on Daylesford Road and headed to Smeaton, only a 35-minute drive via Kingston. Red and gold trees lined the road through the Memorial Drive, and we swung down into the picturesque valley at Smeaton. Our cars and bikes were parked over the bridge on the bank of the creek, and we settled in for the day. Several other club vehicles had arrived earlier and more came on their own over the morning and joined us.



John Pickering, Jenny Groves, Peter Rogers, Bruce Kerr, Nerene Backhouse and Neville Finch enjoying the coffee

Families and groups of all ages were descending the hill on foot as we were parking. The coffee van and food trucks were already fired up, and arts and crafts and some lost trades were also getting ready. There was a blacksmith, wood turners, hand-made wooden spoon and bowl makers, yarn spinning, sock making, embroidery, weaving and several artists plus the amateur radio operators. The historic mill building

and waterwheel which is now under the governance of Parks Victoria are a highlight on their own, but we were also able to tour the privately owned Mill House next door. This house is undergoing extensive renovation under Heritage guidance and the owners hope to be able to host wedding receptions for up to 60 people soon. They have also re-invigorated the classic cottage garden around the house and will use home grown produce in the restaurant when fully established.

After a lazy lunch, catch up chat and a good look around, the VCCC group started to get home to do their own Mother's Day things and catch the last of the sunshine. Big thanks to all who attended.

Brendan Stevens



The chimney is quite a work of art and makes an impressive sight

Lake Bolac Camp Out – Wednesday 14th – Tuesday 20th May 2025

Despite the hive of activities going on in Ballarat for the Heritage Festival, there were 17 campers from our Club but not necessarily all present at the one time – as some left either on the Saturday afternoon or very early Sunday morning in order to participate in the Heritage Display on the Sunday.

We also had three campers from other clubs, as well as visitors for lunch on the Thursday from the Grampians Club.

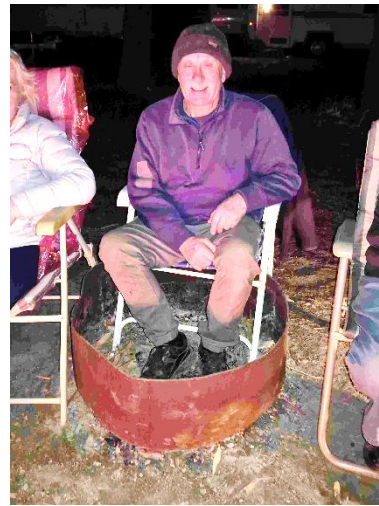
The camp fire again proved to be the highlight with everyone mingling with one another both during the day and the evenings, particularly on the Saturday night when everyone completed the circle around the fire – even if it meant Peter Grose (right) had to park himself in a fire pit. Many thanks to our wood gatherers for providing that warm atmosphere. The first load of wood came from Frank & Jan Tamis and Graeme Bell and was brought down by Mark Border and Tom Quinlan on the Wednesday. Paul Duncalf arrived the next day with another load, and then on the Friday afternoon with utes and trailers we were able to source wood from a local plantation. We were certainly very grateful for all these efforts - and we most definitely did not go cold!!

Another highlight of the weekend is the Sunday Camp Roast which is quite a community event. Bob Cole (right) checks his camp oven.

Then, all too soon, most were packing up to go home on the Sunday afternoon, which left only seven campers that night, but by the Monday night, only three were left – and they departed on the Tuesday.

Can I selfishly say we were lucky with the weather? Although the farmers would say otherwise. The Saturday was our only 'wet' day (about 1ml!!) – just enough to settle the dust and at times caused us to retreat under cover. By Sunday morning, our boots were kicking up dust again!

And so, another camp out comes to an end – we look forward to next year's event.
Nerene Backhouse



Above – the Border family, Peter & Karen Grose and Garry Hayward raise a toast to Keith Mackinlay



Noel Trengove cooking toast the best way ever – and on his home-made toaster



Looks like fun – it must have been because Fay Burnett, Jenny Crawley, Lyn Simpson and Glenis Trengove played cards a couple of times over the weekend.

Attendees – Lake Bolac Camp Out – (Trophy Points)

Campers

Nerene Backhouse	1988 Nissan Skyline Exec and 1947 Angow Home-Built Caravanette
Garry Hayward	1994 Falcon Station Wagon and modern caravan
Mike & Lyn Simpson	Modern and Vintage Caravan
Steven & Kayleigh, Evelyn & Audrey Border	Modern and 1971 Olympic Caravan

Modern Campers

Gus & Heather Angow, Wayne Lineker & Jhoy Oha, Daryl & Jenny Crawley, Roger & Fay Burnett, Noel & Glenis Trengove, Phil & Dianne Rodger, Peter & Karen Grose, Tony O'Doherty, Gordon & Pam Roberts, Bob Cole & Julie.

Tom Quinlan, Mark & Gayle Border and Paul Duncalf all camped and also brought wood for the fire.

Sunday visitor - Karen Otto 1998 Toyota Camry

Visitors from other clubs –

Campers

Robert Frampton from Grampians, Keith Dodkins from Maryborough and Trevor & Fay Parry from the Goldfields Club.

Day visitors – Gary Halls - 1965 AP6 Valiant, Barry Byron (modern) – from Grampians

Ballarat Heritage Festival Display – Sunday 18th May – (Trophy Points)

The VCCC was lucky enough to be invited back again to organise the closed Lydiard Street North display of Vintage and Classic vehicles. The Events Management from the Council team got things rolling before Christmas. This was the 4th event we have been involved with, and the council team were all familiar, so the event set up and preparation all went relatively smoothly. Unfortunately, we can't arrange the weather.

Overall, there was over 100 trucks and cars, 24 motorbikes and 1 Airstream caravan. The road was closed by 6:30am, and luckily only 2 public vehicles had been left overnight. Harry's trucks



The Pacific Belles beside 2 of Warren Harris' trucks



and the Veterans were the first to arrive, or that was the plan but there was a bit of mayhem at 9am as there was a rush and queue building up at both ends of the street. The plan of having a row of Fords in the centre of the street in some sort of chronological order from Baulchie's T Model and Quadricycle down to Phil's BF GT went out the window a bit as we squeezed vehicles in to clear the road behind. Eventually everyone was in, and the public started to roll through in good numbers from 10 right through until 3pm.

Everyone I spoke to loves the display plus the mixture of entertainment that wanders around the crowd over the day including the Veteran mime group, the Brass Band on the balcony of the George, and of course the Pacific Belles who have a style all their own.

A big thank you goes out to all the vehicle owners for bringing their vehicles out on what was a dodgy weather day yet again. Also, to the marshals and drivers who kept things moving and took people around town to pick up extra vehicles a particularly big thank you.

I hope we get to do it again next year as it's an excellent promotion of the Vintage and Classic Vehicle movement and a great education to many of the origins of what we take for granted every day as we zip around town and on the highways.

Brendan Stevens



A4054

June 2025

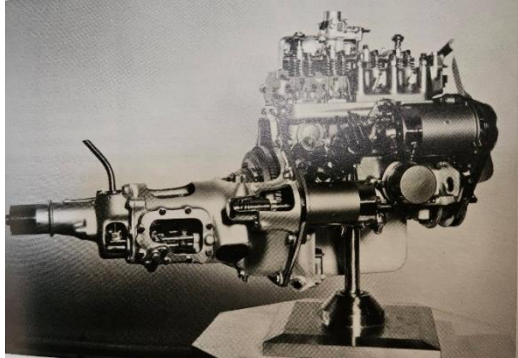
**The A-Series Engine – Its First 60 Years.
(1951-2011)**

By Graham Robson

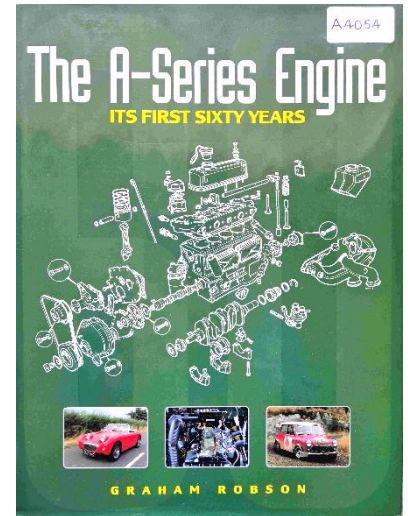
Published in 2011

208 Pages

In October 1951, the launch of Austin's new small car, the A30, changed the face of the English motor industry forever. Its engine coded AS3 at the time but soon named the A-Series became a cornerstone of the ever-developing British Motor Corporation (BMC) range and of many British Leyland cars that were to follow. It wasn't long before thousands of such engines were being built every week, and by the time the production lines fell silent in 2000 – at least 14 million had been made.



The A-series, brainchild of Austin's dynamic Chairman, Leonard Lord, was at the heart of what he planned for the increasingly complex BMC empire. Lord had arrived at Austin in 1938, determined to rebuild the company to his own standards. Not only did he want to increase sales, but also to rejuvenate the company's stodgy engineering reputation, Central to realising this dream was the design, launch and continuing development of the little A-Series engine.



Even Lord, however, cannot have foreseen for how long and in how many ways, this engine would become pivotal to the future of the Corporation. As eventually more than 600,000 engines were being produced every year. Not only that, but the diminutive power unit popped up in vehicles as diverse as the Morris Minor; Mini; the BMC Tractor; the MG Midget; the Marina and the Metro cars. It proved to be a great sporting engine as well! Cars powered by the A-Series engines broke speed records in the USA; won the Monte Carlo Rally and were superbly successful at Le Mans and in Australian and European track racing.



End of an era – the very last A-Series car, a Mini-Cooper coming off the line at Longbridge in 2000

This story features the people who made the A-Series possible, and explores the various attempts to changes, improve and even replace the engine – but it took 50 years before this could be done. Will there ever be another power unit as successful in the British Motor Industry? The last car to be built with an A-Series engine was a Morris Mini Cooper Sedan, built at the Longbridge factory in October 2000.

The production figures for all the cars fitted with various forms of the A-Series engines were Austin A30/A35 - 577,871; Austin A40 Farina – 342,180; Austin Healey Sprite and MG Midget – 281,885; Mini or Mini Cooper – 5,378,776; and Morris Minor/1100 cars – 1,267,954 vehicles. Of course, there were many other cars and tractors, also many other single seater racing cars and specials which did not sell in Australia.

Graham Robson, a long-time owner and enthusiast of cars powered by the A-Series engines has been involved in the English Motor Industry for all his working life – as an engineer; motorsport enthusiast; writer; road tester; technical analyst; and historian.

A very interesting and technical new book for our club library.
Ron Gay



Library Report – June 2025

A 4043 Studebaker the second fifty years 1902-1952
A 4047 Top Gear top drives. Jeremy Clarkson
A 4054 The A series Engine. Graham Robson
A 4055 Family Cars of The Seventies
B 1744 Service Training Manual Bedford TJ and TK
B 589 Service Training Manual Bedford TD, TC, TJ
B 3974 Bedford Training Manual, Steering, Brakes Axle
B 590 Training Manual Bedford TD, TC, TJ, S and R
C 148/7 Sports and Classic Cars Australia Vol 1,2,3 and 4
C 4656/120 Old Bike Australasia Issue 121 2025
C 7750 Unique Cars Jan 2025
C 7753 Wheels Magazine July, Sept 1956 and July 1957
C 7767 Practical Classics November 2015
C 7771 Classic and Sports Car May 84, Aug 2004, Jan 2022, May 2008
C 7787 Classic and Sports Car May, July and Nov 2002
Gordon Roberts, Club Librarian

GETTING CLUB PERMITS SIGNED – Permit Officer, Richard English has issued a friendly reminder regarding the procedure for getting your Permits signed, as follows:

First and preferred option – Bring your permit renewal to the next club meeting for signing.

If you are unable to attend a meeting then:

Second Option – Mail to Club P.O. Box and include a stamped DL size self-addressed envelope.

Third Option – Mail to Permit Officer address and include a stamped DL size self-addressed envelope.*

Fourth Option – Drop into Permit Officer's letterbox for pick up the following business day (include your phone number to get a text to say it's ready for pick up) or include a stamped DL size self-addressed envelope.*

Fifth Option – Contact Permit Officer and make other arrangements.

VERY IMPORTANT – When applying for a new Permit - PLEASE make sure you have ALL the necessary documents. This will save both you and the Permit Officer a lot of wasted time.

NOTE* re Options Three and Four – PERMIT OFFICERS ARE ALL RETIRED AND ARE NOT ALWAYS AVAILABLE. ALWAYS TEXT OR PHONE BEFORE USING THESE OPTIONS TO ENSURE THE PERMIT OFFICER IS NOT AWAY AS YOU MAY NOT GET YOUR PERMIT BACK IN TIME.

CLASSIFIEDS – FOR SALE AND WANTED

*All advertisements under Classifieds must include a **registration number, engine number, VIN OR chassis number and cash price**. Vehicles advertised in this Newsletter must be 25 years or older in line with Club Policy. The advertisements will remain for three (3) consecutive issues unless they are re-advertised.*

Please advise the Editor if you sell your item or obtain what you want.

Deadline for articles – Tues 1st July 2025 Editor, Nerene Backhouse – npbackhouse.a30@gmail.com

Request re Star Vehicles

With 2026 just around the corner, I am about to embark upon the restoration of a 1926 Star of Wolverhampton 14/30 tourer. I have been advised that Graeme Birkett, who sadly passed away late last year, restored several of these Star cars and I am very keen to see some of these and meet their owners.

My mobile number is **0419 371 787** and my email address is tuckerrobert1@me.com

I thank you in advance for any assistance you can offer,

Kind Regards,
Robert Tucker

For Sale

NOS Radiator Hose (bottom) to suit EH Holden 179 cu in motor (Mackay brand – pack no. CH590) \$10

NOS Radiator hose (top) to suit Ford Cortina TC or TD 1972-1975 200/250 cid motor

(Dunlop brand pack no. CH024)

\$10

Contact Ray Reynolds – tel. (03) 5331 7029

Wanted – Holden V8 Parts

1. Bell Housing and 2. Cam Shaft

Contact Brett Halliwell – 0413 662 758

For Sale - 1992 VP Commodore V6 3800

Spent \$5000 on parts etc

Original motor – 342,000 kms

\$7,500 or best offer. On club rego.

Prefer to go to club member.

Contact Mark Frew – Email –

mark.frew@hotmail.com or Mob - 0400 602 279



For Sale – 1969 Mini Cooper S

Includes Twin fuel tanks, Front disc brakes, 1275cc motor with oil cooler, Twin Su carbs, 4 speed box, 120 MPH speedo, and Smiths tacho, Vintage style driving light, Sitting on 10" mini-lites with Dunlop formula-R rubber. Period correct radio. Painted in BRG with white roof, \$48000.00 ono.

Contact 0408 523 899.



For Sale - 1978 Leyland Mini 998cc

Starts and runs well. One of the very last off the assembly line in '78 and first registered in March '79. Regretful sale to fund other projects.

No Rego

Engine No. 99H889AJ-H001727

Chassis No. XNPAB18Y-100054

\$10,000

Contact Ross - 0419176812



For Sale - 1958 Triumph TR3A convertible

2.2 litre 4 cylinder engine 4 speed gearbox with electric overdrive on 2nd, 3rd and 4th gears.

Full ground up restoration in early 2000's. Presents extremely well and lovingly maintained.

Currently fitted with a hardtop that can be removed if required.

Won the prestigious People's Choice Trophy at an all -Australian Triumph TR Concourse competition.

No rust, recently serviced and runs well. Will not disappoint. On a non-transferable Victorian Club Permit. \$40,000 neg.

Phone:- 0414 559 661



More photos from the Heritage Festival



The Mimes had been parading up and down Lydiard Street all day, and when they hopped in Peter Fitzgerald's Maxwell, they were widely photographed



The display certainly looked impressive from above

CLUB CALENDAR – MAY - JULY 2025

For the Details of Events, see Page 6; also refer to the 12-month calendar.

NOTE – the change of dates for the Ladies Crafternoons – they are now not the second Saturday of the month until the new Clubrooms are ready.

JUNE		What	Where	Contact	Phone	Time
Thurs	19th	Rustless Wanderers Lunch	North Ballarat Sports Club	Rick Thege	O428518770	12 noon
Fri	20th	Club General Meeting	Ballarat North Community Centre			7:30pm
Sun	22nd	Club Run to Avoca (Trophy Points)	See Coming Events	John & Gayle Pickering	O408914943	9:30am
Tues	24th	Committee Meeting	1 Traminer Court Wendouree			7.30pm
Sun	29th	<i>Fridge Swap Meet</i>	<i>Multi-Story Carpark Ballarat</i>			<i>6am-1pm</i>
JULY						
Sat	5th	Ladies Crafternoon	Ballarat North Community Centre	Jenny Ure	O409954077	1-3.30pm
Thurs	17th	Rustless Wanderers Lunch	Xmas in July at Wallace Pub	Rick Thege	O428518770	12 noon
Fri	18th	Club General Meeting	Ballarat North Community Centre			7:30pm
Sun	20th	Club Run - President's Run (Trophy Points)	TBA	Andy Burns	O428935988	
Tues	22nd	Committee Meeting – close of nominations	1 Traminer Court Wendouree			7.30pm
AUG						
Sun	3rd	Naked Radiator Run	Depart Latrobe Street near Bendix	Frank & Jan Tamis	O475192372	10:30am
Thurs	14th	Rustless Wanderers Lunch	TBA	Rick Thege	O428518770	12 noon
Fri	15th	Club General Meeting & AGM	Ballarat North Community Centre			7:30pm
Sat	16th	Ladies Crafternoon	Ballarat North Community Centre	Jenny Ure	O409954077	1-3.30pm
Sun	17th	Club Run - Restoration Roundabout (Trophy Points)	TBA	Mike Simpson	O419935147	TBA
Tues	19th	Committee Meeting	1 Traminer Court Wendouree			7.30pm
Sun	31st	<i>Federation Picnic</i>	<i>At Marong</i>			

Events in italics are hosted by other clubs/organisations. Calendar info to Brendan Stevens by **25th** of each month



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Club Member

0421 327 204
5333 7206

ABN: 86 604 838 006

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Mike Simpson
Owner/operator

12 Weemala Avenue, Delacombe, Ballarat VIC 3356
Mob: 0419 935 147, A/H: 03 5335 9806

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David Waight Club Member

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