BACKFIRE

Volume 60 No 7 November 2026

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219.
Clubroom: Showgrounds, 79 Breakwater Rd East Geelong.
Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Tues each month.



1957 Buchanan Special Dallas Jones

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 wdhvc_car_club_geelong

HONORARY OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE - 2026/2027

President	Barb van Galen (Ray)		0408 664 537
Vice President	Simon Anderson (Tess)		0414 482 241
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	Jon Breedveld (Glenda)	0417 311 441
Ivan Cave (Jean)	0436 597 000	Anne De Bono (Angelo)	0439 743 591
Col Jordan (Lyn)	0425 822 026	David Mitchell (Libby)	0409 099 716
Ken Parry (Jenny)	0437 254 351	Gus Shea (Pam)	0400 203 151
John Bailey (Julie) - Immediate Past President			0413 258 302

Rally Co-Ordinator	Sharyn Harris (Fred)	0417 546 089
Long Distance Rally Co-Ordinator	Lyn Jordan (Col)	0425 822 025
Program Director	John Bailey (Julie Bennett)	0413 258 302
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Web Site	Damien "Gus" Giustini (Teena) 0418 587 415 webmaster@wdhvcgeelong.com	
Minute Secretary	Phill Abbott Emergency; Victor Gestautas	
Tech Nights	Peter Telfer	0427 526 938
Clubroom & Equipment Caretaker	Ken Parry	0437 254 351
Membership Registrar	Ivan Cave 0400 660 387	
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	Rod Booley 0417 021 982	
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	Col Jordan (Lyn)	
Ladies Committee Co-ordinator	Pam Shea (Gus) 0487 696 097	
RGAPS Council Representative	Col Jordan 0425 822 026	
Life Members	Ken Batson Fred Harris Judith Matthews	
	Max McKenzie Trevor Schneider Max Tucker	
	Ray van Galen	
Club Member of the Year	David Mitchell	
Eric Baker Memorial Award	Pam Shea	

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President's Report

We have had a very busy month with many outings available for us to attend. A big thankyou to Fred Harris for organising our display for the Geelong Show. It was very well attended over the 4 days with wonderful weather, and also a big thankyou to the people who volunteered their time to talk about our cars and bikes to the public. Just seeing the looks on Children faces as they checked out the old cars and bikes made my day. Also don't forget to get your tickets for our Xmas Dinner Dance from Pam or Julie, as they put on a great night for us.

Barb

BACKFIRE

Remember, the editor's job is to edit, not to write, and with Jeremy working remotely, and not often able to attend events and meetings, it becomes critical that members supply the content to him.

So keep sending in your contributions.

Don't leave it to the faithful few. As we say to prospective new members, what you put in determines what you get out. If you are at an event, take a photo on your phone or scribble a few notes.

From now on the Editor's phone number changes to

0478 412 772. Add it to your contacts list.

The email address remains unchanged:

editor@wdhvcgeelong.com

Frank McKenzie BBQ

Frank's 1933 Riley MPH shared in the celebrations with quite a few members of the Riley club.



Frank's daughters Sonya and Marita at the BBQ







GEELONG SHOW CLUB HOUSE 2026



The Geelong Show had an extra and interesting display this year, as we used our clubrooms for a great display of vehicles dating from 1899 to the late 70s. 10 cars and 7 motorbikes were there for the general public to look at and admire. We had lots of questions from the public as they don't get to see these older machines much normally, the young people were amazed that we had a steam car on display. Over the four day period of the show, we had 1504 visitors come through the display area. We would like to thank all the people that volunteered to help set up the display and the members that brought in their vehicles for the weekend. It all went very well, and was a great success, we will do this again next year if we can.

Ray van Galen.





Anniversary Year Club Calendar

For our 60th anniversary year Club Calendar, the committee is considering featuring current member's vehicles that are **100 years old (i.e. up to 1927**). Vehicles that have been in the club and/or with the same owner since 1967 are of special interest. Motor bikes as well as cars.

If your vehicle fits these criteria and you already have a good photo that you would like to submit for consideration, feel free to email it to me at secretary@wdhvcgeelong.com. I can also scan printed photos if you'd like to get those to me.

Electronic files need to be of at least 3-5Mgb in size. Any smart phone set to take standard or high quality photos will be fine. Also think about the lighting and an attractive background if you are taking a photo. No deep shadows, or lamp posts, or people, or other people's vehicles in the background – although you could submit a group photo of more than one vehicle that you own.

If there is interest, we could arrange a day at which suitable photos of vehicles can be taken (at a central parkland or riverside location). This could include group photos of vehicles, so that more than 13 could be included in this special commemorative calendar – more about that later.

Other details will be as for previous years, and the calendar is planned to be ready for distribution at the 8 December general meeting – one free calendar per member.

We hope you take part in this special opportunity to showcase some of the magnificent older machines in our club. We to look forward to receiving your images for consideration.

- Jon Breedveld
0417 311 441
(for the Committee)

Celebrating 60 Years

The Club will celebrate its 60th birthday in April 2027.

The committee has appointed Fred & Sharyn Harris, Barb van Galen, John Bailey, Jon Breedveld and David Mitchell to help organise suitable ways of celebrating this milestone.

Club members are invited to join this subcommittee, and to contribute their suggestions for appropriate ways in which to mark this historic occasion?

Please let any member of the Committee know if you'd like to join in or share an idea.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Show You Belong

The WDHVC has items on display in the cabinet at the rear of the Clubrooms for members to purchase.

Coffee Mugs	$15
Insulated travel cups	$16
Lapel Badges	$10
WDHVC Key Rings	$8 ea or 2 for $15
Wide brimmed hats	$20
Club stickers	$2
WDHVC Metal Car Badges	$25
Drink holders	$7
Black Geelong Plates	$33
Replica Inaugural Metal Club Badge	$10
50th Anniversary Metal Badges each	$5 or 3 for $10
WDHVC pens each	$4 or 3 for $10
WDHVC Log Book reminder stickers	$2
Magnetic WDHVC Badges	$4

Events Calendar

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

November 1st: Waterfront Display

We will be displaying our cars at the Waterfront near Cunningham Pier entrance and there is a market on the same day.

This is the start of Melbourne Cup weekend so it will be busy, please follow parking instructions from Fred or myself, as this is a

council requirement. Assembly will be from 10am.

Sharyn 0417 546 089

11th November: Dine out

Dine out at 6 pm Oppies Bistro Norlane Hotel .

Contact Libby 0427 606 444

November 14th & 15th: Bendigo swap

Lyn Jordan

19th November TINKER DAY

To be held at the Harris's in Portarlington

This is the last for the year and the BBQ will be in attendance.

Names will be taken at the October and November meeting.

You will be asked to bring a salad or dessert.

Sharyn 0417 546 089

November Tech Night Tuesday 24/11/26

Topic: Cylinder Heads and related items such as head bolt gaskets and failures and more.

Note: Wear your name badge for a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG.

7 pm, to set up for a 7.30 pm start. The Tech Night team: Peter, Lindsay and Ray.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938 Lindsay Alford 0419 350 106

Events Calendar continued

Saturday 28 November: Christmas Dinner Dance

6.30pm for a 7pm start. A delicious 2 course dinner

BYO drinks and glass. Fabulous band to enjoy and get us up dancing .

$30.00 per person

Names and payment required by our November meeting.

Come and enjoy a special night out.

Contact Pam Shea 0487 696 097 or Julie Bennett 0432 147 555

Sunday 13th DECEMBER : Christmas Breakup at St Leonards under the trees

Names and numbers will be taken at the October , November and December meetings.
No name no food as catering is by the club.

Sharyn 0417546089

Of Interest

Christmas Cakes/puddings now available –

Christmas cake 1.5 kg (at $21 each) or 1 kg (at $17 each) or

400 gram puddings at ($11 each)

Can deliver to next meeting or as required – proceeds to local charities

Brian Edward T 03 52 226 986

RALLIES & RUNS

Swan Hill





Monday October 5 saw nine couples meet at the Batesford Roadhouse ready for an exciting trip to Swan Hill. After breaks for a cuppa and a delicious lunch from the Bridgewater bakery (even though we had a packed lunch) our first visit was to a Eucalyptus distillery in Inglewood.



Tuesday morning saw us rise and shine ready to visit the Pioneer Settlement. This settlement is well maintained and manned by a number of volunteers.

Tuesday afternoon was kept open to further explore either the Pioneer Settlement or the Swan Hill township. After a delicious dinner, we returned to watch the light and water show Heartbeat of the Murray. The story is light projected onto a wall of water over the Murray River. It really was a dream like experience. Definitely worth seeing!















RALLIES & RUNS

Swan Hill







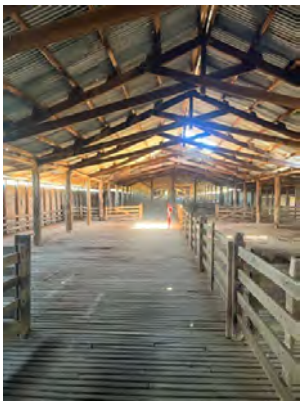
Wednesday morning saw us travel out to Nyah West. The ladies explored an impressive doll collection, followed by a delicious Devonshire tea. The Gents explored an equally impressive tractor collection.

After lunch we went on a paddle steamer ride.





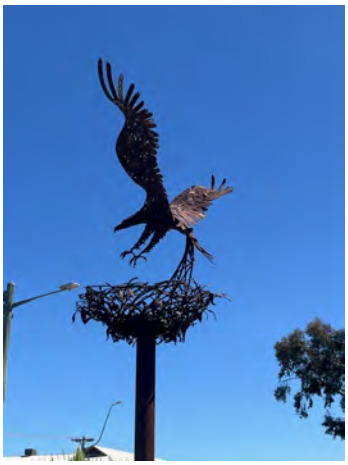






Thursday saw Libby Booley celebrate a birthday. We travelled to Balranald to explore a historic homestead and wool shed. Some local horses took themselves for a gallop up the local street.







RALLIES & RUNS

Swan Hill

On Friday we went to the Lake Boga flying boat museum. There is a large display of all kinds of military memorabilia and of coarse a Catalina flying boat. You are able to access your relative's military records here. Several people left with photos of their ancestors.





The ambulance is displayed by former club member Hugh Thomson.







Manuel had a slight issue with starting the trusty Valiant on gas. Several people offered assistance/opinions. It got us home running on petrol.

Then we travelled a short way along the highway to view the local silo art.

Thanks go to Lyn and Col Jordan for organising another interesting trip away. We ate well and explored many places that Manuel and I may not have discovered by ourselves.

RALLIES & RUNS

Swan Hill









A few items from a private collection that we inspected on Friday afternoon. Arranged by another former member who volunteered at the Pioneer Settlement and recognised the badges our members were wearing.

Libby Booley enjoying the horse and cart ride.



Tech Night

Tech Night: September 22/9/26 Brakes

Picture 1 is a Falcon front disc brake. 'A' is the slide rods with rubber boot covers, a little worse for their age. 'B' is the twin pistons. Twin pistons are used instead of a single piston as the disc pads are long.
The pads are not shown in the picture. 'C' is a mounting bolt. 'D' is the mounting frame. A problem with this setup is that the far-side pad will wear twice as fast as the piston pad. Reason: The piston pushes the pad against the disc; the mounting frame moves slightly to apply even force onto the disc. When you release the brakes, the piston and pad move back—the slight wobble moves the frame, releasing the force between the pad and the disc. However, the pad and disc still make slight contact. This pad will wear out quickly, while the piston pad will only be half worn out. Keeping the slide rods under the rubber boots well greased will help minimise this. Two-piston brakes are better, but more expensive.

The same thing happens with brake drums and single-piston wheel cylinders. The wheel cylinder will slide on the backing plate. Again, keep the slide well greased.

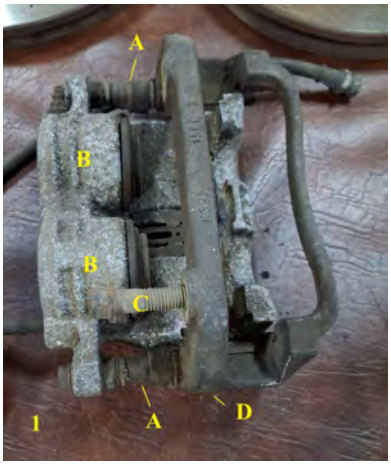
Picture 2 is the front brakes for a Willys. 'A' is the double-piston wheel cylinder. 'C' is the direction of rotation. It has a leading (L) and a trailing (T) brake shoe. The leading shoe gives better braking. When applied, the drum's rotation pulls and wedges the shoe tighter against the braking surface. This self-energising (or servo) effect creates much more friction and provides the majority of the stopping power. Trailing Shoe: When the brakes are applied, the drum's rotation tends to push this shoe away from the friction surface. It provides a secondary, stabilising role rather than heavy stopping force. (Reference Wikipedia)

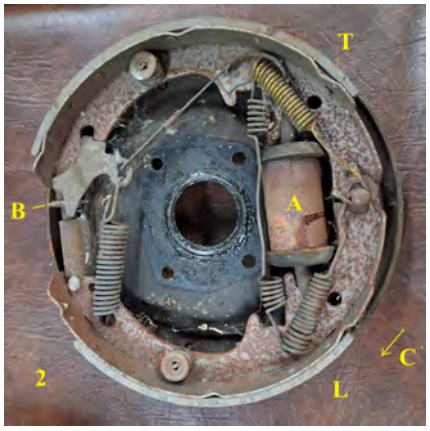
Picture 3. Eric made a trailer and fitted brakes to it. He purchased two kits from PBR, as shown in Picture 4. One for the truck and one for the trailer. They are hand-operated vacuum brakes. Our farmers are resourceful people.
Ray has not lost his marbles. He tipped a bag of glass marbles onto a metal dish to prove it.

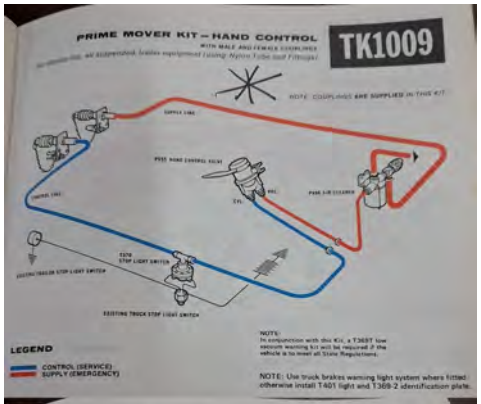
Ray said manufacturers make mistakes. His 1926 Nash mistake was with the drum brakes. They pressed them out of steel. When the brakes were applied, the brake drums increased in diameter at the edge, causing braking problems. Ray fixed this by making a steel ring and shrink-fitting it to the outside edge of the brake drum. Before fitting it, the drum rang like a bell when hit with a hammer; after fitting it, it made a duller noise.

Ray also had some bicycle brakes. They were rim brakes. The original ones were centre-pull. They changed to side pull. Which is better? Racing bikes now use hydraulic disc brakes. According to the people at Baum Hand Crafted Bikes (Tinker day 15/10/2026), rim brakes don't work very well in the wet, when you need them most. Also, they melt carbon fibre rims.

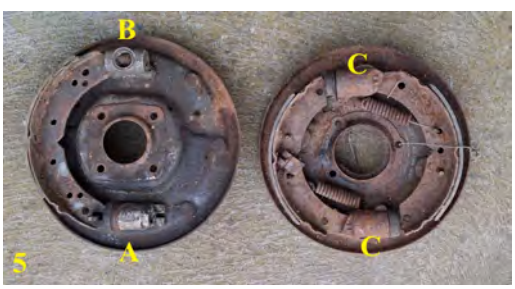
Picture 5. Rear and front brakes for a Hillman Imp. Parts are missing. Guess how many? 'A' is the wheel cylinder, which slides on the backing plate when you apply the brakes or the handbrake. It has leading and trailing shoes, so one is more effective on uphill parking and the other for downhill parking. 'B' is the brake adjuster. 'C' are two wheel cylinders for the front brakes. This has two leading brake shoes for better braking, as explained above. The Willy setup on the front brake would be better for the rear brake. However, there is a problem with the hand brake.

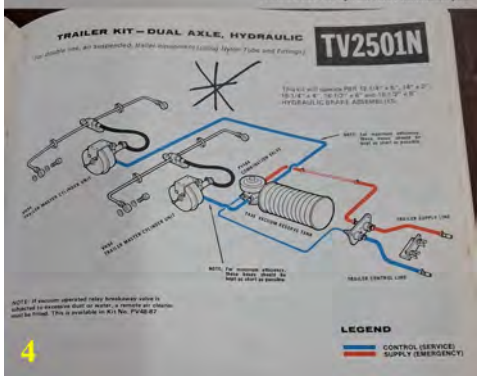












Condolences

VALE - JULIE WILBY

Sadly Julie passed away on the 5 th June aged 72 years. Kevin and Julie met at "The Palais" and were married in 1974. In her teenage years, Julie experienced poor health, but she was a resilient person who graciously faced health issues during her life. Julie was a wonderful wife to Kevin and a dedicated mother to their family of four. She enjoyed playing guitar and singing, and craft work. She volunteered as a gymnastic coach at the Sydney Olympics, and was a board member of the YMCA.

Kevin is known for the restoration of his 1922/1923 Itala Tipo 51.

At the very well attended funeral service, tributes were paid to the manner in which Julie coped with health issues without complaint, always thinking of others. One of her favourite expressions was "When life gives you 100 reasons to cry, show life you have 1000 reasons to smile". Julie was an inspiration to all who knew her.

We express our deepest sympathy to Kevin and the family.

Barb van Galen & Trevor Schneider.



FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

For Sale 1926 Sunbeam 14/40 Sports Tourer



Body off restoration 20 years ago. Engine rebuilt 2016. Has full weather gear. Great touring car. Chassis number 5129/F. $55,000 ONO.
Call Peter 0409 002 881. **4/26**

Clues

Clues. Cars that may be of interest. Green ZH 35/; green ZG Fairlane 302 & boot lid; BA Fairlane; 2 Capris, 1 white, 1 green.
Call Ken 0437 2254 351 **4/26**

For Sale



For Sale 2001 4.0 Lt V8 MY01 Jaguar S Type Luxury Sedan

Vic Registration expiry 28/07/2026

Vin No: SAJ AC01F4YG L80592

Colour BRG

Full Factory Options

Tidy Interior Leather Seats

Factory 10 CD Stacker

5 SP Automatic Perfect

Appearance perfectly fine

New battery 2024

Full history available all upgrades carried out

Currently needs a fix however no time available

Owned since 2003 current 199,000 kms

$ 6500 ONO

Pirelli Tyres P6000 Fine 90%

Contact: Cameron 0418107998 **5/26**

Wanted

Wanted: Bosch magneto 50 degrees twin .Cheers Paul :0417390027





FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

For Sale 1922 Sunbeam 14HP Tourer



Rare 1922 Sunbeam 14HP Tourer which is a restoration but the Sunbeam is a complete car with some additional spare parts. Engine No. 5736/B Chassis No 5729/B $20,000 negotiable. Call Ken 0438 377 585 (evenings) Extra photos available.

7/26

Clues

Clue - engine and gear box available to suit Austin A30. Also some body parts
Contact via 0418128624 **10/26**

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 0478 412 772).

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.

If undeliverable return to:
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PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST APPROVED
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POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

November 2026 at a glance (details Pages 7-8)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30 ***Backfire folding morning*** **9am**	31 **Halloween**
1 **November** **Waterfront**	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 **7.30pm General Meeting**	11 **Dine out Norlane**	12	13	14 **Bendigo Swap**
15 **Bendigo Swap**	16	17 **7.30pm Committee Meeting**	18	19 TINKER DAY	20 **Backfire Deadline**	21
22	23	24 Tech Night	25	26	27 **Backfire folding morning**	28 Christmas Dinner Dance
29	30	1 **December**	2	3	4	5