



BACKFIRE

Volume 59 No 3 July 2025

PO Box 200 Newcomb VIC 3219.

Clubroom: Showgrounds, 79 Breakwater Rd East Geelong.

Club meetings: 7.30pm 2nd Tues each month.



Ian Thomas's 1972 HQ Holden Premier

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)



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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	VACANT - your name here???	
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	



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The President's Piece - notes from a big country

Greetings to all,

As we snuggle up to keep warm, we can be thankful for these sunny days that still bring us out for a drive to admire the green that has shot up since the wonderful rain.

Pleased to report that the Auction Night was enjoyable and successful. Around \$500 was raised thanks to those who donated goods, and those who purchased. Thanks to all those who helped organise this event.

Once again Soup Line Day was a delicious success. Sincere thanks to the soup makers, kitchen staff, and those who came along for some good food and company.

A suggestion has been made that the club take a bus to the Shepparton Motor Museum and complex, which would be later in the year. If this is to go ahead, we would need a commitment re numbers. It would be a long day: unknown cost at this stage.

Please think about it and be ready for a show of interest next meeting.

Once again, thanks to those who continue to organise regular events each month, and to Barb. for taking care of business while I was away.

Best wishes and happy motoring with a good knee rug or efficient heating system,

John.



John and Julie came across this wooden-bodied bus in north east Turkey . It regularly takes tourist on rides! Imagine what VicRoads would make of it!
- Ed

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of General Meeting No 647 of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club Inc.
Held at the clubrooms on Tuesday 10 June 2025

Presiding

President John opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed members and visitors, including potential new member, Garry Kennedy.

Apologies: Tim Paech, Rhonda Alexander, Gary Mellington, Noreen Mellington, Hank Fiolet, Gary Wallace, Merv Giddings, Manoj, Dallas Jones, Lyn Jordan, Graeme Peacock, Lindsay Hose, Marg Hose, Barbara Thompson, Pat Evans, Simon Anderson. James Park, Jennie Green, Helen Graham, Harold Newton, Ray van Galen, Murray Foran.

Moved: ?

Seconded: ? Carried

Sick List:

None

Bereavements:

None

Minutes

The minutes of the May general meeting as published in the Backfire are confirmed as a correct record.

Moved: Max McKenzie

Seconded: Peter Telfer Carried

Correspondence (Fred)

Inward

Letters In

- Bendigo Bank – investment statement
- R. Hodgetts - wanting to sell his Volkswagon hatch back

Emails In

- Federation - requesting volunteers for the Bendigo Swap
- Wimmera Mallee Historical Vehicle Society - invitation to attend their Highlights Tour

Outward

Letters Out

- VicRoads - letter to inform VicRoads that Pauline Battye is a current financial member of the WDHVC

Emails Out

Nil

Moved: ?

Seconded: ? 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: ? Carried

Program Director (John)

- The July speaker will be Simon Keogh, from VicPol, speaking about Scams .

Library (Phill)

No report

Dine Out (Sharyn)

Wed 11/06/25. The Leopold Sportsman's Club about 6pm.

Editor (Jon)

Nil.

Website (Damien)

Nil

Federation Report (David P)

Bendigo Swap Meet, Date = ???

Slight changes due to changes of management, new tax rules, etc

Coffee Run (Col)

Thu 03/07/25 to Anakie Store
Meet there from 9.45am

Tinker Day (Vacant)

No nominees yet: something in the wind.

Committee Report (David)

No May committee meeting to report on.

Merchandise (David M)

- Proposal for 380ml thermos style cup with screw on lid and WDHVC logo on front to suit standard cup holders, selling at \$16ea which is cost price.
- Garage Girls Show Sat 16/08/25. Based on the Austin 7. 10 x individual tickets left, \$30/ticket/each, heavily subsidized by club. Phone David Mitchell 0409 099 716.
- Winton Historic Meeting date weekend of 25~26/05/25. Cars only: no motorcycles due to some problem with permits

Vehicle Permits (Gus)

No report

Rally Reports/Events (Ken)

- BBQ in the Bush Sun 22/06/25 in the You Yangs Meet Nth Geelong Railway Station, Melbourne side. Leaving 10:45am. Please RSVP 18/06/25 if attending so you can be catered for.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES ctd

- Weekend rally. Maryborough, 3 nighter. Date TBC. Deal with 2 motels for accommodation Looking forward to filling 8-10 rooms.

Long Distance Rally (Lyn Jordan)

Date TBC. 9 couples planning to go with planning in progress.

Tech Night (Peter)

Tues 24/06/25 "Filters".

July 22 will be on "Instruments".

Swap Meet (David M)

Nil

Kitchen (Pam)

Nil

General Business

- Roger Sykes awarded an OAM on Kings Birthday Mon 09/06/25.
- Tesselars Tulip Festival in Sept 2025 Still in planning. Please provide numbers to Sharyn.
- "Move" Car Museum in Shepparton, opening hours 10am – 4pm, \$15 entry. 57 attendees required to justify coach. Committee to discuss.

For Sales, Wanted and Confessions

VW 1971 Hatchback. Partially completed restoration. Details on notice board.

Meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Next meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 8 July 2025 in the clubrooms.

- Victor Gestautus

Casserole Day Sunday 13 July

Don't forget the Casserole Day, from 11.30am at the clubrooms.

Bring your oldest vehicle to show others what you enjoy driving.

Please cook and bring in a casserole or a sweet to feed six people. This is shared on the day so can sample quite a few different flavours.

Contact: Barb to advise if you will bring a casserole or sweet. 0408 664 537

Club Member Receives OAM

The recent King's Birthday Honours List included Past President and Committee man. Roger Sykes.

The Geelong Advertiser printed the following report on Roger's award.



Roger Sykes OAM

Moolap's Roger Sykes was just 17 when he joined the Geelong West Brigade of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in 1958. Mr Sykes said he joined up largely for the "sporting aspect" being a keen runner. More than six decades later at the age of 84, he still involved as a volunteer and has now been recognised for his community service with an Order of Australia medal.

Mr Sykes said the most fulfilling part of a lifetime spent in the CFA was "feeling as though you're contributing" and the support of the firefighting community. Throughout his time at the CFA he has worked to raise funds, sat on committees, and being chair of both the Geelong West and Belmont Brigades, the latter of which he transferred to in 1989. In 2008 Mr Sykes became a life member of the CFA, and 10 years later was awarded his 60 year medal.

Volunteering as a firefighter wasn't the only way Mr Sykes gave back to his community. Between 1991 and 1993, he was mayor of the city of South Barwon prior to the amalgamation, capping a decade-long stint on the council.

Born in Belmont, Mr Sykes attended school in North Geelong. Outside of his community involvement, Mr Sykes worked in the trucking industry. Sykes Transport traces its origins back to 1959 and the company is run to this day by Mr Sykes's son in Western Australia. By 1973 the company had 10 vehicles and, according to the company's website, in 1981 became the first operator to obtain the "necessary permits" to operate road trains across the Nullarbor.

Vehicles have been a passion for Mr Sykes; since 1998 he has been a member of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club, serving on the committee from 2003 to 2015 and as president from 2011 to 2013.

Photo: Alison Wynd

The First 60 Years - a Club History

On 18 April 2027 it will be 60 years since the meeting in the Highton Hall that marked the public beginnings of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club.

To mark this special date our President has suggested that we publish a club history, hopefully in time for this 60th anniversary. A subcommittee, presently including Graham Anderson, John Bailey, Jon Breedveld, Ray & Judith Matthews and Trevor Schneider, has begun thinking about how such a publication might come about and what it might contain.

The aim is to print a hardcopy book, with the possibility of creating an electronic record as a by-product. (These electronic files could end up in the library and/or on our club website as scanned images and individual collections about separate subjects.)

We are telling you about this now for a few reasons. While April 2027 might seem a long way off, it isn't long when undertaking a big project like a club history. We need to start now so that we can collect and record all the raw material that will contribute to the book.

We have a wonderful record in the Backfire, which has been produced since the club began. This will provide the basic time line of what happened, when and who was involved. We need your input to fill out these bare bones: to add the color, the personal stories and the detail.

Here's how you can be involved at this stage.

Firstly, start looking through your club memorabilia. **Photographs, slides and artefacts** will contribute enormously to the publication, so have a rummage around. Think about the club events you have taken part in over the years and the items you might have that would illustrate this in a book about the club. Two & three day rallies; swaps; Oily Faces; dinners; working bees; overseas trips; the various places in which the club has met over the years; the Backfire and how it was produced – just to give you a few ideas to start thinking about.

What about the memorable people who have taken part?

And of course the vehicles - the restorations, the trips, the breakdowns and the repairs.

Secondly, you may want to contribute as a member of the subcommittee overseeing the project. Contact John Bailey if you do.

I will be the collection point for your images and memorabilia, so give me a call to arrange for me to borrow it, scan/copy it and get the details.

One vital early tip: if you have suitable photos/slides/items, before loaning them to me, write the basic detail of each one down clearly (who, what, when and where) and YOUR NAME – either on a Post It note stuck to the item or in a **soft grey lead** pencil directly on the back of the print.

I imagine my study may turn into a very busy collection in coming months and these basic details will ensure that I know what is included and who to give it back to afterwards.

We will provide updates and make further requests in coming months about this exciting project. We expect to be talking to individual members too, to record their stories.

Meanwhile, contact John Bailey (0413 258 302), myself or any other member of the subcommittee if you have questions or ideas.

Cheers

Jon

0417 311441

editor@wdhvcgeelong.com



GEELONG ADVERTISER, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1967

HISTORICAL VEHICLE CLUB

Increasing interest and activity during the last three years has prompted the formation of the Western District Historic Vehicle Club, which will have Geelong as its headquarters.

The president of the club (Mr. T. Spurgeon) said yesterday that at least 100 vintage and veteran cars owned in Geelong would be eligible to join.

The club hopes that many of these people will attend a special meeting at 7.30 to-morrow night at the Highton Progress Association Hall, Barrabool Road.

Although several clubs and associations already in operation in Australia cater for vintage and veteran car enthusiasts, there is no facility in the Geelong area.

Several enthusiasts, led by Mr. Spurgeon and Mr. D. Doman, of North Valley Road, Highton, initiated two organisational meetings, following which to-morrow's gathering was decided upon.

The W.D.H.V.C. already has about 15 members, who own a total of 20 vintage cars and motor cycles between them.

These include a 1922 Packard, 1926 Rolls Royce, 1933 Austin 7, 1912 Adams, 1914 Spyker, 1904 Clement Talbot and pre first world war belt driven Douglas motor cycles.

Anybody interested in the preservation of historic vehicles can join the club, which stipulates that "vintage" or "veteran" cars must be pre-1940 models.

The cars would be scrutinised to ensure that they meet the high standard of preservation and condition demanded by enthusiasts.

Of the present 15 members, four are from Colac. The club believes it also will recruit enthusiasts from Melbourne and as far away as Warrnambool.

Further information can be obtained by 'phoning Mr. Spurgeon (86218), or Mr. Doman (87792).

Some of the veterans of Geelong's newest car club. Left to right: Pre-first world war Douglas motor cycle, 1933 Austin 7, 1912 Adams, 1922 Packard and 1926 Rolls Royce.

Club Legends

Ray van Galen

Our club includes people with a wealth of knowledge and experience that we wish to preserve. This is #12 in a series about these "Club Legends".

Ray married Barb in 1962 with the line he had a money tree in the backyard. She is still looking.

They have two children, nine grandchildren and 6 greats. WOW!

He was born in Enschede in Holland. He arrived in Australia and started driving his brother's car in the backyard when he was eight.

His first job was as an apprentice at Murphy's BMC Dealership and he qualified as an A grade mechanic.

He then moved on to Shell as a refinery operator. His nickname was "Half Gallon".

His first vehicle was a Standard 10 convertible paddock bomb. His first road car was a Renault 2CV which he had for 18 months.

He has owned numerous cars and bikes over the years: too many to list here.

His favourite vehicle was an HQ Holden Premier V8. It was a well-built, long-lasting car that he never had to fix.

He now has a 1950 Austin A40, a 1989 Mercedes sedan, a 1922 Indian motorbike and a 1958 Matchless. All are unique and pleasant to drive and ride.

He restored the Matchless, A40 and the Indian. They each took about two years to get right. Getting parts for the Indian was especially hard. Club members and good friends were a great help.

Ray has no dream car: he is happy with what he has.

Ray and Barb have been in the WDHVC for 26 years. Over that time he was President and on the Committee for many years. He has helped with printing and organised Tinker Days for 15 years till he resigned two years ago. (We are still looking for a replacement.)

He also ran Smell the Roses bike runs and the Mars Bar photos. He is always available to help where needed.

Ray was made a life member in 2023. Hi hobby now is sailing model boats.

In Ray's opinion the club is the best club you could ever wish for. He has had a lot of help over the time, seen a lot of places and sights that he wouldn't have seen otherwise.

Ray you are a legend for this club.

- Sharyn



Annual Club Auction

The annual auction, which followed the June meeting, was again an enjoyable, event filled with laughter and unintended purchases.

Over 50 lots were sold, raising around \$500 for the club.

- Ed

(some photos and a contributed report of this event would have been great.)



RALLIES & RUNS

Soup Day line up

I'm told there was an excellent turn up of around 40 people for the annual soup day line up at the clubrooms on 19 June. While Adrian has supplied these photos of the event, no one wrote up a report, so I can't give you any details. However I can recount a coincidence that related to one of the items brought along to talk about on the day.



Among Adrian's photos was one of an old house. I gather this print had been brought along by Ray and Judith Matthews.

I recognised it immediately because I had scanned the self-same image during my stint at the Geelong Heritage Centre just the Friday before. It is of a print of Highton House, built by John Highett in around 1840. Highett was an early Geelong landowner who came here from Van Dieman's Land in 1837. He also took up Mt Hesse Station in partnership with his cousin, William Harding.

Highton House was built on a commanding site above the Barwon River. Highett was a successful farmer and flour-miller and well known as a horseman and breeder. He died at Queenscliff on 16 January 1867, survived by his wife Sarah, five sons and one daughter. As explained in the detail from the Highton Rotary Club website (below) the original painting was done by Bob Tantau, a Rotary Club member. Bob's son John is a current member of the WDHVC. Small world!

- Ed



Highton House
painted by Bob Tantau

Highton House.

The picture is a print of a water colour painting of Highton House by a past club Highton Rotary Club member, Robert W Tantau. *(The Club used to give a copy in a presentation folder, to guest speakers at dinner meetings as thanks for their visit. – Ed)* Highton House was a stately eight room mansion, built for John Highett (1808-1867). The two-storey building, sited on a 50 acre farm, with an orchard and vineyard, was approached by a long, tree-lined driveway from Barrabool Road. The mansion had a wide verandah on all four sides and cellars beneath the verandah contained a bar, a butcher's shop and dairy. The sandstone walls were two feet thick. Highett bought much of the surrounding land after coming from Tasmania in 1847 and the area became known as "Highett Town", which was later shortened to "Highton". He tried to sell Highett House and his land in 1854, but could only lease it in 1858 to Edwin Hooper, who made it into the "Montpellier Hotel, Picnic Gardens and Pleasure Grounds". The hotel, with commanding views of Corio Bay and Geelong Town, became a popular family picnic resort, patrons walking from Geelong to the Barwon River to be transported free of cost across the river by punt. It was then a short walk up the hill to the hotel. *(It may have been short - 600m -, but it was very steep. I believe a horse and wagon was used to get to the top. – Ed)* Highett resumed residence in 1865 and the house remained in the family until about 1886 after which it had several different owners until 1932, when it was damaged in a storm. It was demolished shortly afterwards. The ruins and park were purchased by the Geelong City Council in 1960. The foundations were partly restored by the Barwon Jaycees in 1974 and are now incorporated into Montpellier Park.

- from the Highton Rotary Club website



Events Calendar

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

Friday 27 June

Backfire folding morning 9am Clubrooms.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

Thursday 3 July

Coffee Run Anakie Roadhouse 2153 Geelong-Ballan Rd Anakie. They haven't got their wood heater any more but it still should be warm and cosy!!! Meet there from 9 45am. Parking is across the road opposite the roadhouse for those with better mobility, or out the front. Cheers from the Coffee Co-ordinator.

Contact: Col 0425 822 026

Tuesday 8 July

General Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 9 July

Dine Out 6pm Gateway Hotel Corio. Seniors \$25 for a buffet. I am going on recommendations given me that it is good value.

Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089

Thursday 10 July

WDHVC Ladies Day Lunch at the Davidson 2 Fenwick St. Geelong (part of the Gordon). Leave the clubrooms at 9.45am. Finish around 2.30pm. Names & numbers needed by Thursday 3 July.

Contact: Anne De Bono 0439 743 591

Sunday 13 July

Casserole Day 11.30am at the clubrooms. Please bring your oldest vehicle to show others what you enjoy driving. This event has always been a big hit. Please cook and bring in a casserole or a sweet to feed six people. This is shared on the day so can sample quite a few different flavours. I will be bringing along my World Famous Special Fried Rice, made from an old Dutch recipe. There is usually not much food left over at the end of the feast.

Contact: Barb to advise if you will bring a casserole or sweet. 0408 664 537

Tuesday 15 July

Committee Meeting 7.30pm in clubrooms.

Sunday 20 July

Pub Run to Wallace Hotel . Enjoy a scenic drive in the countryside approx 90Ks. Meet at Batesford Pub for an 11am departure. A sheet for names at the July meeting.

For more info ring Fred 0417 306 177.

Monday 21 July

Aug. Backfire Deadline 5pm.

Contact: Jon B 0417 311 441

Tuesday 22 July

Tech Night "Instruments". Gauges, musical and a mind boggling range of other instruments. Surprise guest presenter, as Peter will be laid up in hospital. Members & visitors welcome. Be there about 7pm, to set up for a 7.30pm start. Wear your name badge for a FREE CHOCOLATE FROG.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938.

Friday 25 July

Backfire folding morning 9am Clubrooms.

Contact: Peter Telfer 0427 526 938

Thursday 7 August

Coffee Run . We will head to the Clyde Park Winery at 2490 Midland Highway Bannockburn. If you want we can meet at the carpark opposite the Batesford Roadhouse to leave there at 9 45am. Otherwise meet at Clyde Park at 10am. Cheers from the Coffee Co-ordinator.

Contact: Col 0425 822 026



Upcoming Events

Saturday 16 August

Garage Girls - from 7pm. Garage Girls is a radio play to be held in our club rooms. We are sharing the event with the MG Car Club of Geelong with 60 seats available for our club.

Don't miss out: only have 10 seats left! Seats cost \$30 each (subsidised by the club). It will be a great night.

Contact: David Mitchell 0409 099 716.

Sunday 24 August

Club Run Country Pub Lunch about 30 mins from Geelong.

Contact Ken 0437 254 351

Thurs 11 Sept – Sat 13 Sept.

3 Day Maryborough Run. Visiting five private collections. I have 8-10 motel rooms on hold at \$150 per double per night (\$140 a single). Deposit by August.

Details: contact Ken 0437 254 351

Wed 17 September

Tessalar Tulip Festival A bus trip to the tulip festival. Open to all members, male and female. Entry to Tessalar \$22.50, and the bus is being subsidised by the club: cost to be established. This should be a lovely day there are plenty food trucks at the site or you can bring your own lunch.

Contact: Sharyn 0417 546 089

6 to 14 October

Long Distance Rally The LDR will be exploring the Gippsland area. Nine couples have indicated their interest in participating in the adventure. Motel accommodation will be booked soon, so make up your mind sooner rather than later!!!

Contact Lyn: 0425 822 025.

RALLIES & RUNS

Coffee Run to Lethbridge Railway Station - 5 June

Club member Allan Tipper is also the president of the committee for the Lethbridge Railway Station building and he suggested that it might be an interesting venue for a coffee run. Our Coffee Co-ordinator thought that sounded pretty good and the result was that about 20 cars enjoyed a nice run out there on 5 June.

Allan and other committee members were there to greet us and the building was open for us to inspect. The sun was shining and the two-storey bluestone station looked most attractive.



became the focus for coffee and conversation, before we made our way home in the late morning.



Club members had the run of the place and were able to wander through the various rooms of the station and the adjoining station master's home. Locals were on hand to

answer questions and tell us about the building as we walked about.

Meanwhile our Coffee Co-ordinator and a few helpers set about preparing the hot drinks and eats in the kitchen. The morning tea was delicious and the \$10 a head raised was donated to the station committee to further its restoration and furnishing projects. A long table in the station waiting room

The station had been abandoned and run down, before Vic Track restored it. The VicTrack website explains: "We are restoring historic station buildings through the Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program. The program involves restoring disused station buildings in regional towns, some of which have been vacant for decades, so they can be used by local community groups."

Often rural communities don't have nearby spaces for people to get together or for local groups to use, so the program has the double benefit of bringing the station buildings back to life while providing the community with new spaces for them to enjoy. The restored buildings also provide a boost to the regional economy, by attracting tourists and visitors to rural towns."

So far over 20 buildings have been restored under the program. The Lethbridge project was only opened in April this year, and we could still smell the fresh paint.

Photos: Adrian van Der Lee.

RALLIES & RUNS

Coffee Run to Lethbridge Railway Station - 5 June

Lethbridge Bluestone Train Station Inc. subleases the building from Golden Plains Shire Council and will manage it as a multi-purpose community arts and cultural hub.

The restoration work included structural repairs and refurbishment, a new kitchenette and an accessible toilet so the building can be used for community events and meetings. An expert heritage architect, worked with the contractors, Rendine Constructions, to ensure the restoration respected the building's history. - Ed

History of the Lethbridge Bluestone Train Station



Lethbridge station circa 1890. The place was unchanged from opening day, preserving its neat and tidy appearance. It had an extra operational role in managing train movement to the nearby quarry siding when it was in its prime. - Library Victoria image.

The Lethbridge Railway Station on the Geelong - Ballarat line was erected in 1862 by contractors John Campbell and Co from designs prepared by Victorian Railway architects. This regular coursed, squared basalt structure in the Victorian Italianate style consists of a part two-storey station office, residence, lamp room, and with a timber veranda over the platform.

The Lethbridge Station is one of a notable group of stylistic similar railway stations erected in 1862 on the Geelong-Ballarat line. This structure is an excellent example of country railway station architecture of the 1860's in Victoria, designed by innovative Railways Department architects, at the time of great railway building activity in the state. The Geelong-Ballarat line, which opened on 10 April 1862, includes important viaduct structures at Moorabool and Batesford.

The Lethbridge Railway Station was extended by construction of a weatherboard kitchen and wash house prior to 1923. Minor internal alterations have also been carried out.

The passenger train stopped operation in late 1978. The operation of the station shut down on June 30 1990. Residency at the station stopped shortly after. Goods trains and steam trains still pass through the station.

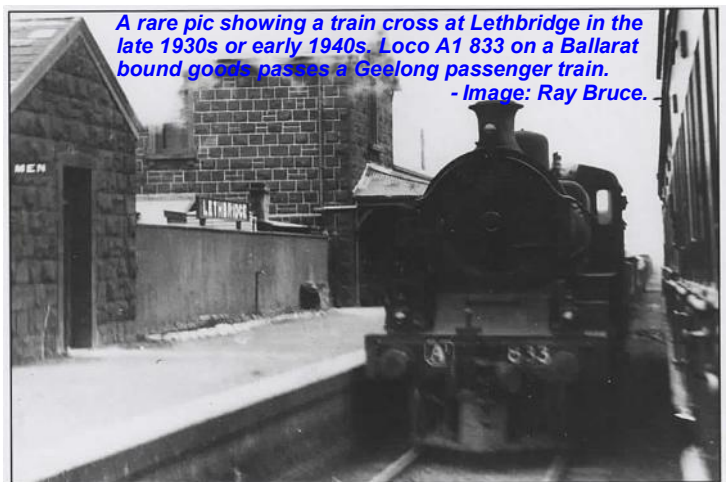
- Source: the Victorian Heritage Database

From *The Geelong to Ballarat Railway - A Stations History* by Norm Houghton

24 Lethbridge 99.3 km; 168 metres

Lethbridge township was formed in 1854 as a way point on the road to the Ballarat goldfields and as a pastoral and agricultural centre. It was a small place at first but boomed when the Geelong to Ballarat railway was being built through the area and reaching a population of more than 1,000 persons. Much of the boom was attributed to railway construction workers at the Lethbridge quarry. On railway completion the place settled to a more sedate existence with a population of 300. The town had all the usual amenities such as three general stores, bakery, blacksmith, hotel, three churches, mechanics institute and library, school and post office.

The railway station at Lethbridge opened with the line. It consisted of a bluestone station building with office and residence, Up and Down platforms of 92 metres, goods siding with shed and livestock loader. A little later an additional dead end goods siding was placed on the Down side of the station at the Geelong end to cater for the grain and firewood trade. The place was a loco watering station from line opening, this facility being a large reservoir on Bruce Creek with a pipeline to a tank and crane at the station.



A rare pic showing a train cross at Lethbridge in the late 1930s or early 1940s. Loco A1 833 on a Ballarat bound goods passes a Geelong passenger train. - Image: Ray Bruce.

Passenger traffic was one of the better performers along the line. Averages for outwards journeys to the mid-1920s were in the order of 5,800 annually before a dip through the Depression. There was Revival from the late 1930s and particularly in the post war period to something like 6,400 annual averages. A terminal decline set in from 1961 steadily diminishing from a few thousand down to a few hundred by the time the rail passenger service ended.

Outwards loadings were not heavy. They composed wool, hay, grains, rabbit carcasses and fruit. Wool was not a big loader, being about 100 bales or so each season. Firewood was not as extensive as other stations and ran in bursts of a couple of thousand tonne annually when it did.

Continued overleaf

From The Geelong to Ballarat Railway - A Stations History by Norm Houghton

Inwards traffic was a lowly few hundred tonne each year until collapsing to virtually nothing after 1950. When the double line was singled in 1934 Lethbridge retained its local facilities and was made a crossing station.

The station was closed to all goods traffic on 10 April 1967. Passenger services continued until the termination of the rail in 1978 and switched to road coach. The place continued as a crossing station until 30 June 1990. That was the end of Lethbridge.



Stuck for a Word?

Have you ever been in a deep discussion or been searching for the correct term for a particular automotive part or process? Or just been curious about "what that means"? With over 20,000 entries, this website should cover off on almost any definition you could imagine. Check it out!

A Dictionary of Automotive Terms

An illustrated glossary for automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, and motors

[Dictionary of Automotive Terms A-Z](#)

- contributed by Victor Gestautus - thanks Victor!

A Crossley Collection - Photos



Words from Seniors!!!

Old is when your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes, when you are standing bare footed!

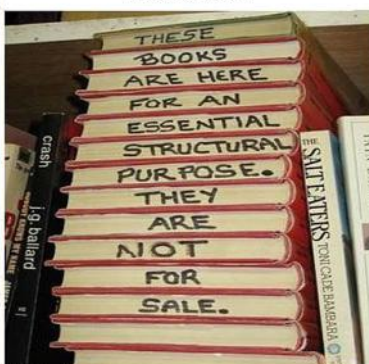
Cloudy, dreary, miserable. But that's enough about me. What about you?

My body knows how old I am but my mind refuses to believe it!

- from the Antique Car Club Albury Wodonga newsletter

Men Can Fix It!! No. 7

Bookshelf cracking under the weight?
—I can fix that!!



Dog destroyed the couch cushion?
I can fix that!!



Asked your husband to fix it?
Women can fix that!!



Letters to the Editor



A Crossley Collection

I had a call from Harold Newton recently, asking if the club had any "official" storage space available. (A great question. Many members would love access to more shed space. I am certain that, however large such a space might be, there would be material to fill it!) I said that I knew individuals made their own arrangements to gain access to an extra shed or two, but that there was nothing official arranged by the club.

I gathered from the call that Harold had learned of a huge hoard of parts for his beloved Crossleys, involving up to six bodies and a mountain of bits. As a follow up Harold has sent in this letter and photos. It must have been a real treasure trove and illustrates an observable trend, as older owners die or dispose of their collections!

- Ed

Hi Jon,

Here starts the lesson.

That out-of-the-blue phone call from fellow club member Lachie Jackson about six weeks ago started a series of events that lead to the partial dispersal of a deceased estate in Melbourne with a cache of Crossley and Ford Model A parts.

Lachie said I should call a chap in St Leonards, who then gave me another number to call about the Crossley parts.

This chap, who was cleaning out the house for the brother of the deceased, advised that I had first right of refusal for the items retrieved and a meeting was arranged the following weekend.

The scope of what had been initially retrieved was extraordinary in the volume of Crossley, Ford Model A and other makes, and they had not finished clearing the property. An offer (a bit low) at this stage was influenced by the sheer number of items and the property had not been totally cleared out.



All went quiet until an ad appeared on Facebook for a Crossley 19.6 Vee shaped radiator, which sold very quickly to the UK.

Another inspection was arranged by the vendor for a job lot price but I had to admit that I did not have the capacity to transport and store the multitude of items and so I left it.

At this point I understand that a lot of the Ford Model A parts were sold, although I suspect only those usable parts were sold as several badly rusted items remained.

Another inspection was arranged, with the total numbers of items on display and the option to purchase items that were appropriate for our requirements. So I, my two sons and two Crossley friends went to review the items. A bit like a private swap meet actually, and we all came away satisfied with our purchases.

The original owner of the parts was a Crossley owner of a 19.6 sports tourer who I met at the Geelong speed trials in the early 1980's. He put me onto my second one-owner 15/30 Crossley, located at Colbinabbin and which had been converted to a farm hack, running on a combination of petrol (to start) and kerosene (to run).

The collection had the remains of at least seven vintage Crossley's with four 15/30's and three 19.6 models, as well as possibly parts from some veteran Crossleys. While a lot of the jewellery items had been stored in the house (as well an incredible amount of magazines etc) the majority had been relegated to outside storage and had suffered from the elements i.e. rust.

Interestingly a 19.6 chassis that the brothers owned had been cut in half as they could not agree with what to do with the chassis: sad.

Regards,
Harold



Phill's Phunnies

- from the days when we read books

Back in my day we didn't have GPS.



We had Road Maps.

Waiter: "How do you like your steak, sir?"

Sir: "Like winning an argument with my wife."

Waiter: "Rare it is, sir!"

- contributed by Tony Brincat

It's Your Newsletter, so Keep Contributing!

This was one of those months when copy was thin on the ground. The regulars sent in some photos, but there were no reports about the events at which they were taken. The Editor's job is to edit, not to write (and I seem to have been doing too much writing lately, to fill the Backfire.)

So send me your contributions. Emailed, hand delivered, posted, by SMS or carrier pigeon! Hand written or typed. Don't leave it to the faithful few or your editor. If you are at an event, take a photo on your phone or scribble a few notes.

Send them to:

Mob. 0417 311 441 or editor@wdhvcgeelong.com

Thanks

Jon

P.S. Many thanks to those regulars who do contribute photos and text: couldn't do it without you!



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
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
50 th Anniversary Metal Badges	\$5 each or 3 for \$10
WDHVC pens	\$4 each or 3 for \$10
WDHVC Log Book reminder stickers	\$2
Magnetic WDHVC Badges	\$4 each or 3 for \$10
Windscreen Banners	\$10
To buy any of these items, please contact David Mitchell on 0409 099 716.	

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



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

For Sale

For Sale. Lathe Single phase. About 4 ft bed & 12-inch swing. Price to be negotiated. Contact Rocco on 0407 040 054 for details. **7/25**



.....
For Sale 1977 Triumph Stag. 3 L V8, 3 Speed Auto. Comes with Hard and Soft Tops. Eng No LF45044HEA. \$16,000 ONO. Call Rod Booley 0417 021 982. **5/25**



FOR SALES, WANTED & CLUES

For Sale

For Sale 1996 HX Falcon Ute Auto S Pack. Reg. OEC 498. Dual fuel (gas disconnected). ABS, A/C, cruise control, driver air bag, and bull bar. Good condition, and low mileage. Asking \$5,500. Please contact Phill by text only 0439 965 210 for details. **5/25**



.....
For Sale 1961 Mark 2 Jaguar. 2.4 L, 4 Speed with O/D. Vin 109618DN. \$22,000 ONO. Call Rod Booley 0417 021 982. **5/25**



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).

Tinker Day Coordinator Needed

We will need a new Tinker Day Coordinator as Dallas has retired from the job.

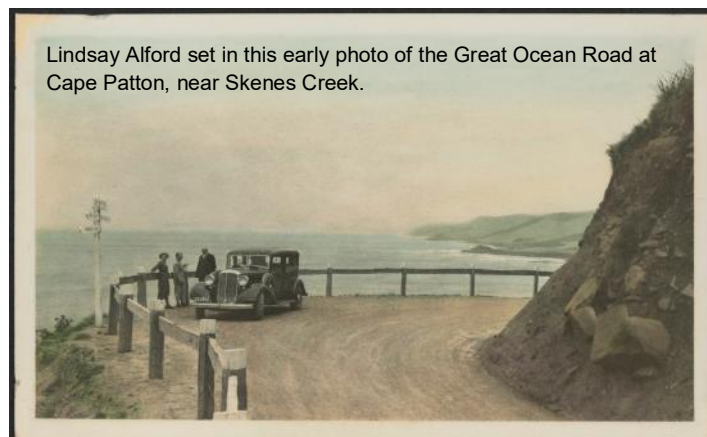
See John Bailey if you are interested or Dallas to find out more about what's involved.

KEEP IT IN THE CLUB

Got a vehicle for sale?

Please consider advertising it in *Backfire* first, to give your fellow members the first option of buying.

Lindsay Alford set in this early photo of the Great Ocean Road at Cape Patton, near Skenes Creek.



If undeliverable return to:

WDHVC
PO Box 200
Newcomb VIC 3219

Backfire

PRINT POST
APPROVED
PPN 1000/19091

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



July 2025 at a glance (details Page 9)

1903 Standard 2hp

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22 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.	23	24	25	26	27 Backfire Folding Morning	28
29	30 June	1	2	3 Coffee Run Anakie Roadhouse	4	5
6	7	8 General Meeting 7.30pm	9 Dine Out Gateway Hotel Corio 6pm	10 Ladies Day. Leave clubrooms 9.45am	11	12
13 Casserole Day 11.30am Clubrooms	14	15 Committee Meeting 7.30pm	16	17	18	19
20 Pub Run Wallace Hotel 11am Batesford	21 Backfire Deadline	22 7pm Tech Night "Instruments"	23	24	25 Backfire Folding Morning	26
27	28	29	30	31	1 August	2