

Casterton Motor Enthusiasts' Club CASTERNOTES MAY 2026



Presidents Report

The year is getting away from us and there is a bit to get done before our tractor trek this year. Hopefully Gerard and his team are on the job. We sincerely thank them for the effort they put in, to make this event the success it has been over recent years.

Last months meeting, a barby lunch at the shed, on a lovely Sunday was well attended, considering that we had quite a few apologies. The gathered, sat around sharing stories and a few tales, which are always listened to with enthusiasm, but not necessarily recorded in the minute book for obvious reasons.

I took this photo pictured below here, at a lookout up at Maladon recently. The story of the car race and the entrants was very interesting, notably the first car race recorded in Australia. The various models and brands that entered were no doubt the the pick of the cars available those days.

The discussion of the whereabouts of the soup spoon has reached a new level, but any sort of a conclusion has failed to be reached. After much discussion and following up I think the time has come to move on, and I accept the responsibility of the predicament that we are in. Mind you, there is light at the end of the tunnel, as Steve Gregory has come up with a solution. He is willing to donate an article to replace it, which sounds fantastic, and we are looking forward to seeing it. I am sure all will be scrambling to have the distinction of being the first winner and recipient. Good luck everyone, you will have to beat me.

So long weekend in June, we will be wanting as many entrants as possible for the street parade. It is a good look for our club to be out there and seen to be supporting the festival. You must consider this is such a big thing for the town, and people love the parade. So polish up what you have got and make the effort. We all like the town businesses to help us out, here is your chance to return their generosity. It is great to do, as the gathered crowd are so appreciative.

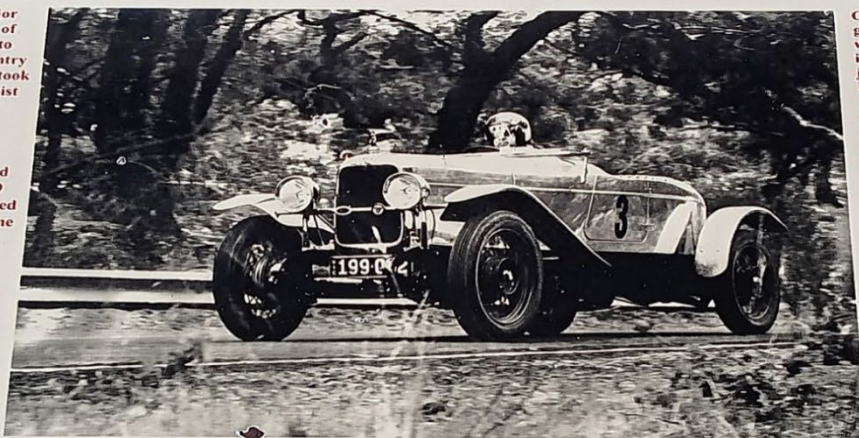
Gavin Lowe. Presidentt

Mt. TARRENGOWER - a silent witness

On 26th September 1836, Major Thomas Mitchell passed south of Mt Tarrengower on his return to Sydney after exploring the country he called 'Australia Felix'. He took bearings of the mountain to assist in making a map of the area.

The first European settlers to arrive in the Maldon area were pastoralists who grazed sheep and cattle. Land was taken up in 1839 by Lachlan MacKinnon, who called his run 'Tarringower'. At the same time a licence was issued for the adjacent run 'Cairn Curran' on which the town of Maldon is now situated. That property soon was held by the Bryant family and the area around Maldon became known as Bryants Ranges.

In December 1853, rich gold was found in the gullies about Bryants Ranges.



A 1927 Alvis 12-50 climbs the mountain

Photograph courtesy of Vintage Sports Car Club of Victoria

Charles Thatcher, a famous goldfields minstrel of the times, wrote a ballad called 'Rush Away', its chorus commencing 'Rush, my jolly pals, rush away, To Bryants Ranges, rush away'.

Mount Tarrengower is roughly, give or take a few kilometres, the centre of Victoria. Near the table to the east of the tower is a survey point marker, with another directly beneath the centre of the tower. These survey points are still used by surveyors today in identifying other feature locations in the region.

Tarrengower is thought to be an Aboriginal word meaning 'big rough hill'. The birth of the mountain belongs to a volcanic period in the geological history of central Victoria. It is made from hornfels, a metamorphic rock, which has been heated and hardened by volcanic action.

The road up the mountain was constructed so that the tower could be dragged up the hill by horses. It was first used for a hill climb for motor cars in 1928. Participating makes of cars in 1928 were Lancia, Bugatti, Graham-Paige, Morris, Austin, De Soto, Chrysler, Riley and Ford. The race has been an annual event ever since. Today it is a 'classics only' event held each October. Vintage motorcycles are also a feature of the Mount Tarrengower Hill Climb, the oldest motor sport event in Australia.

Casterton Motor Enthusiasts' Club

Club Address – PO Box 144, CASTERTON, VIC, 3311

Office Bearers 2024 – 2025		
President	Gavin Lowe	0432 013 935
Vice President	Brian O,Connell	0407 677 387
Secretary	Jeoff Hortle	0417 349 672
Treasurer	Irene Hornibrook	0490029041
Assistant Treasurer	Phyllis Johnston	0437 563 672
Librarian and Property Officer	Janine Johnston	0428 354 237
Editor / Publicity Officer	Irene Hornibrook. cmeceditor@gmail.com	0490029041
Club Captain Co-ordinator	Committee	0417349672
Federation Reps	Gavin Lowe (President) Brian O,Connell (Vice President) Irene Hornibrook {Treasurer}	Jeoff Hortle (Secretary)
Committee	Gerard Baker & Kerrie Robins Spencer & Jill Colquhoun Bruce & Phyllis Johnston	0427 327 779 0355 719 222 0437 563 672
Signatories (CPS Scheme)	Gavin Lowe Jeoff Hortle	0432 013 935 03 5581 1020
Pride of Ownership Coordinator	Gerard Baker (Tractor Trek) Brian O`Connell. Brian Burgess	0427 327 779
March Rally Coordinator	Committee - Jeoff 0417 349 672	Irene – 0490 029 041

Foundation Life Members

- 2. Jim Kent (dec)
- 6. Garry and Jenny Thompson
- 10. Jeoff and Jill Hortle

- 11. Keith Beauglehall (dec)
- 14. Arnold and Irene Hornibrook
- 16. Greg and Julie Lindsay

FROM THE EDITOR

I guess most of us agree that we have seen many changes in our lifetime, but I must be getting old as I recall my first mode of transport being a horse and buggy. It was a big day when we were living at Tarrayoukyan and would get aboard to go and visit my uncle & auntie at Brit Brit. This is probably the biggest outing I remember as a child.

From that we graduated to a Chev ute probably around a 1920 model, after that it was a Hudson with suicide doors which I fell out of coming out of the Nareen station driveway. Then in 1953 when the FX Holden was released Dad bought his first new car, one of the two first ones to come to Casterton. I can still remember the smell of the upholstery and the luxury of a modern car.

Now my humble home "Dovecot" at Tarrayoukyan which had no electricity and bare essential living when we lived there, is now on the market for \$815.000.

The Hyundai Kona we now own is far from the horse and buggy days. It even has a switch which says "Rear Wiper" but I haven't been brave enough to try that one.

Recent studies show that the most expensive vehicle to operate is a grocery store trolley.

Take note of our B.B.Q. on the 24th May at 12.00 p.m. followed by our monthly meeting. Our membership is due on the 31st May so membership forms are with this newsletter.

Irene

CMEC General Meeting

April 26th 2026 at Club shed.

B.B.Q. held prior to meeting

Meeting Opened:	1.20 p.m.
Members Present :	Jeoff & Jill Hortle.G.Lowe. I.Hornibrook. Peter & Jeanette Crosbie. B.Pettingill.W.Eldridge. J.Johnston. P.O`Connell. S.& J.Colquhoun. S.Gregory.
Apologies:	A.Hornibrook. B.& P.Johnston. M.McArlein. B.O`Connell. G.& D.Arthur. B.Burgess. G.Baker. K.Robins. E.Dillon. J.Courtney
Minutes:	As published in current newsletter were accepted on motion of Jill Hortle Seconded by Peter Crosbie. Carried.
Business Arising:	Tax verbal to West Currie- Trying to arrange N.F.P arrangements.
Treasurers Report	Credit Balance reported and account passed for payment on the motion of Irene Hornibrook seconded by Jill Colquhoun. Carried.
Correspondence In:	Various Club newsletters
Correspondence Out:	Nil.
.Soup Spoon.	Gavin reported that the spoon is missing. Steve Gregory will organise replacement.
Tractor Trek –	Nov 27/28/29 -2026 Gerard. No report
Tour 2027	Irene- Last year`s visitors have booked accommodation. Suggestions for small Tour included-Junction Walking track. Dunrobin Hall.
General Business:	Note that Hamilton Rally has been cancelled. We will keep organising our meetings for a Sunday lunchtime. Next meeting Sunday 24 th May at 12.00 p.m. at shed with B.B.Q. prior Consenses at meeting wishing to investigate Heating/Cooling for shed- Check electricity
Reports :	Horsham/Castlemaine Swaps- Many sites vacant at both venues- less people as well. Didn`t seem to be as many sales at venues either. V.D.C. visited Casterton area recently. Few A Model Ford vehicles.
For Sale:	Nil
Wanted:	Gavin wants a Jeep
Door Raffle:	Peter /Wayne
Meeting closed 2.00 p.m.	

Next meeting Sunday May 24th 2026 B.B.Q. Lunch supplied at Shed . 12 p.m

Club Events

May 24th	Club meeting at shed B.B.Q. supplied 12.00 p.m.	

4th Tuesday of each month at Senior Citizens Clubrooms, Clarke Street, Casterton

- **Meeting times April to September 7:30pm**
- **Meeting times October to March 8:00pm**
- Articles and photos for inclusion into the club newsletter are due by the **9th day of each month**
- Committee meetings are held as required, min 4 per year
- The AGM is held each year at the Senior Citizens Clubrooms on the 4th Tuesday in June at 7:30pm
- Tractor Trek is held last weekend in November
 - Gerard Baker 0427327779
 - Trucks, tractors, cars, stationary engines are eligible to enter
 - Camp sites and full catering available on-site

CASTERNOTES is the newsletter of the Casterton Motor Enthusiasts Club Inc. (NO A002000D)

DISCLAIMER – Any opinions expressed in articles and features published in the newsletter should not be regarded necessarily as being the opinion of the club or committee, which cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any information which is published in good faith as supplied to the editor.

*When we were young we`d sneak out to go to a party.
Now we`re old we sneak out of a party to go home*

*An elderly lady calls her neighbour and says. "please come over I have a puzzle and I can`t figure out how to get started". Her neighbour asks" what is supposed to be when it`s done"
The little silver haired lady says "according to the picture on the box, it`s a rooster"
He decides to go over and help with the puzzle.
She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle pieces spread over the table.
He studies the pieces for a minute, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says
"first of all, no matter what we do ,we`re not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster"
He takes her hand and says, "Secondly I want you to relax. Let`s have a nice cup of tea, and then"he says with a deep sigh
"Let`s put all of the Corn Flakes back in the box"*



