

New

ABCCC

A0035462V A friendly family social motoring club

An incorporated club

Edition 118

May 2008

A Fine Jensen 541-R



THE EDITOR'S SECOND CHOICE

During the RACV Fly The Flag Tour there was a vote for most popular car by the Tour entrants. My choice, on the voting slip, was a virtual tie between a Bristol 401 and this 1959 Jensen 541-R. In the end my choice went to the Bristol. The stunning Jensen, here seen departing the Fox Museum, belongs to club members Robin and Anne Jervis-Read

A full story on this car please! Is this the Jensen that used to sit beside the Western Highway near Great Western some years ago?

Please send in photographs of your British Classic so that it can be featured here – otherwise, definitely more Jowett pictures!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual membership subscription for the ABCCC Inc. is \$35.00. There is a once only joining fee of \$30.00. Please send membership subscriptions to:

Val Jefferyes and Jim Spence

PO Box 8092, Burnt Bridge Shopping Centre, Croydon, VIC, 3136 Please Note: Membership subscriptions should be paid prior to the end of December.

THE ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB (VICTORIA) INC., FOUNDED - SEPTEMBER 23rd 1997 THE ABCCC IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MOTORING CLUBS INC. Club Founder – The Late Frank E Douglas

"Owning And/Or Appreciating The Spirit Of Fine British Classics"

ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB (VIC.) INC. - YOUR COMMITTEE

		· · · ·	
President	Tony Pettigrew	(03) 9739 1146	tony1@uvtc.net.au
Vice President	Ray Higginson	(03) 9336 7306 (AH) (03	B) 9310 5286 (BH) Ihigginson@kangan.edu.au
Treasurer	Tony Hodges	0419 307 026	siddeley@netspace.net.au
Secretary	Pat Douglas	(03) 9739 4829	patjdouglas@iprimus.com.au
Membership Secretary	Val Jefferyes	(03) 9725 1117	spencestandard8@optusnet.com.au
	Jim Spence	0412 808 050	spencestandard8@optusnet.com.au
Magazine Editor	Mike Allfrey	(03) 9729 1480	michael.allfrey@bigpond.com
Assistant Editor	Mary Nolan	(03) 5978 7798	MaryCheng@bigpond.com
AOMC Delegates	Bill Allen Ross Gardiner	(03) 9846 2323 (03) 9589 2013 (AH)	consultanalogue@hotmail.com
Club Regalia	Bill Allen	(03) 9846 2323	
Victorian Club Permit Scheme Officers	Nello Mafodda Colin Brown	(03) 9719 7948 (03) 5964 9291	dimafodda@hotmail.com colin.brown@hotkey.net.au
Committee Members	Frank Sawyer Colin Brown	0408 633 778 (03) 5964 9291	frank.cars@bigpond.com colin.brown@hotkey.net.au
Website Maintenance	Chris Newell	0438 007 021	chrisnewell@abccc.com.au

THE ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB WEBSITE IS

http://www.abccc.com.au

IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

Introduction

The All British Classics Car Club of Victoria Incorporated, hereafter called the ABCCC, is a fully incorporated club in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act. Accordingly, any publication or document officially issued by the ABCCC, must carry the ABCCC's Association Incorporation Registered Number: A0035462V.

The ABCCC Magazine (Including Disclaimer)

The publication, *Your ABCCC News*, is the official magazine of the All British Classics Car Club Inc. It is published once a month, with the exception of December. The magazine's issue date is during the week of the 25th of each month. To make the editor's task a little easier, it is requested that articles, events information and photographs are with the Magazine Editor prior to the 14th of each month. Articles published in *Your ABCCC News* may be used without permission. However, the ABCCC does ask that appropriate acknowledgment be given.

This publication contains general information that should not be relied upon without specific advice from a suitably qualified professional. The authors and the All British Classics Car Club Incorporated expressly disclaim liability for anything done or omitted to be done by any person in consequence with the contents of this publication.

Those products and/or services mentioned in this publication are not necessarily endorsed by the ABCCC Inc. Articles and photographs published in *Your ABCCC News* do not necessarily reflect the views of the Committee, the Club's Membership or the ABCCC Inc. Events, other than those conducted by the ABCCC, are included for interest purposes only, and they are reproduced in good faith. The ABCCC Inc. cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies relating to other clubs' listed events.

For those members who receive their issue of *Your ABCCC News* via E-mail, the magazine will be available to download from the ABCCC website http://www.abccc.com.au at the same time that the printed copy of the magazine is mailed to those club members who do not have access to the Internet.

Address all correspondence to: The Magazine Editor, 59 Rowson Street, Boronia, Victoria, 3155. Other editorial contact information is listed above.

The Victorian Club Permit Scheme

The ABCCC Inc. is a club that is authorized by VicRoads to operate vehicles under the Victorian Club Permit Scheme. On the Committee there are two Victorian Club Permit Scheme Officers, and their contact details are listed in the Committee Directory.

Club members will be kept up to date with respect to changes and improvements to the Victorian Club Permit Scheme. However, it cannot be stressed enough, that a vehicle operated on the Scheme, must carry the VicRoads Permit (current), the AOMC Victorian Club Permit Scheme Handbook and a copy of *Your ABCCC News* that contains details of the event the permitted vehicle is participating in.

All enquiries should be directed to the ABCCC Victorian Club Permit Scheme Officers.

 A number of marshals' safety vests are missing! If you know of their whereabouts, please call Maxine Pettigrew on (03) 9739 1146. We need them to restore club inventory.

 Your ABCCC News – May, 2008.
 Fellowship, Friendship = All British Classics Car Club
 Page 2 of 14

THE VICTORIAN CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

For your Victorian Club Permit Scheme (VCPS) renewal, please forward your completed renewal form to Colin Brown at PO Box 40, Coldstream, Victoria, 3770. Please enclose a stamped envelope, addressed to VicRoads along with a cheque/money order for your VCPS Fee, and I will sign on behalf of the club and forward it on to Vic Roads for you.

Please note that the Customer Copy and VicRoads Copy must be intact It is your responsibility to maintain the motor car in a safe operating condition.

Colin Brown.

NEW VCPS APPLICATIONS

For members wanting to place a car on the VCPS, under the auspices of our club, please contact: Nello Mafodda on (03) 9719 7949, who is the ABCCC VCPS Officer in Charge. Nello will be pleased to provide all the information required to place a motor car on the VCPS.

Nello's position is entirely voluntary, so due consideration should be given when contacting him.

ABCCC EVENTS DIRECTORY

....

Note: All events listed in this directory are placed in good faith. Events for inclusion must be with the Magazine Editor prior to the 14th of each month. Events organized by other clubs or associations have a contact telephone number, that should be contacted prior to the event, if giving consideration to take part in it, to confirm date and venue.

May 2008		
3 – 4	Rusty Springs Weekend – An ABCCC Event Venue – Avenel, Victoria.	Rob Nolan (03) 5978 7798
18	Visit to Point Cook Homestead – An ABCCC Event This event forms a part of the AHMF's National Motoring Heritag Meet Point – Todd Road Service Area, West-bound Westgate F	
June 2008	}	
7 – 9	The Echuca Steam Rally – An ABCCC Weekend Run See inside April issue for details and map. Meet Up Point – Cadell On The Murray Resort.	Lyn Higginson (03) 9336 7306
22	A Visit To The Nyora Speedway – An ABCCC Event Venue – Nyora Speedway, Grundy Avenue, Nyora, Victoria.	Heather Cannon (03) 5659 0264 (AH)
28	The Great ABCCC Trivia Challenge – An ABCCC Event Venue – The Lilydale International Club, Nelson Road, Lilydale,	Phil Cook (03) 9842 5449 Victoria.
July 2008		
2		
13	You Yangs Day Out – An ABCCC Event Meet At – Todd Road Service Area (Near KFC), Westgate Free	Anne Tootell (03) 9891 6905 way.
26	AOMC Information Seminar Venue – TBA	AOMC Sec. (03) 9555 0133
27	Club's Annual Dinner – An ABCCC Event Venue – Tokar Estate, Coldstream, Victoria.	Colin Brown (03) 5964 9291
August 20	008	
10	BYO Lunch Outing – An ABCCC Event Venue – TBA	Judy Birkett (03) 9755 1772
30 – 31	The Wonderful ABCCC Indulgence Weekend – An ABCCC Eve Meet Up Point – TBA	nt Peter McKiernan (03) 9528 4644
Septembe	er 2008	
14	The ABCCC Picnic Day Out – An ABCCC Event Venue – Hanging Rock Reserve or Hanging Rock Winery.	Marjorie Pepper (03) 9439 7875
24	Mid-week Run – An ABCCC Event Meet Up Point – Lilydale International Club, Nelson Road, Lilyda	Maxine Pettigrew (03) 9739 1146 ale, Victoria.

28	Bay To Birdwood Run – A Vintage Event (ABCCC Invited) Finish Point – Birdwood Mill Museum, Birdwood, South Australia.	Graham Tonkin (08) 8258 6547
Octobe	r 2008	
12	Rolling Hills Run – An ABCCC Event Venue –Gippsland, Victoria.	Rob Nolan (03) 5978 7798
25 – 2	26 Como Gardens Open Weekend – An ABCCC Assist Event Venue – Como Gardens, 79 The Basin – Olinda Road, The Basin, Vi	George Hetrel (03) 9761 1341 ctoria.
31 – 4 Nov	Touring The Limestone Coast – An ABCCC Event . Visiting South Australia.	Bryan Tootell (03) 9891 6905
Novemb	per 2008	
15 – 1	6 Bendigo National Swap Meet – Federation Event	
26	Archery Competition Round 2 & Lunch – An ABCCC Event A Mid-week Event. Meet At – Lilydale International Club, Nelson Road, Lilydale, Victoria.	Colin Brown (03) 5964 9291
30	Mystery Bus Tour – An ABCCC Event Provided By The Higginson Charabanc Tour Company. Meet – Alexandra Avenue, Adjacent To Anderson Street Intersection	Ray Higginson (03)9336 7306
Decemb	per 2008	
14	Christmas Luncheon Function – An ABCCC Event Venue – TBA	Tony Pettigrew (03) 9739 1146
lt sl	hould be noted that telephone numbers provided above	are 'At Home' numbers.
Note: A	All ABCCC 'Noted Events' are Victorian Club Permit Sch	eme (VCPS) Authorized. To

qualify for the VCPS, under the auspices of the ABCCC Inc., your VCPS permitted motor car must attend a minimum of three (3) club-run events per year, from the date of the vehicle's permit issue.

Note: The above listed events may require confirmation.

EDITORIAL NOTES – ISSUE 118

Not too much to comment on this month, due to being involved with the RACV Fly The Flag Tour. While all that was going on, a number of tasks were put off, 'until after the big event'. Now the main task is remembering what those put-off tasks were! One of them is a certainty, our Jupiter's water pump needs an overhaul after spitting out its grease on the way to the RACV Classic Showcase (AOMC British Motoring Show to some of us). Without getting too technical, the pump's demise was very timely – a good source of original style mechanical seals had just been discovered. As our cars get older, the so-called march of progress tends to overtake them. That was the case with the pump's seals. In this case, the modern style seal just does not work – even though it is supposed to be a direct substitute. There are a number of seals, supposedly of same specification, but with vastly differing characteristics. It is wise to be very careful when choosing a new seal. Thankfully, India is still producing the Hindustan Ambassador (1956 Morris Oxford to us) and, fortunately, the march of progress has not caught up with that corner of our global village! The demise of the pump meant that the Editorial Rover took on the RACV Fly The Flag Tour.

It was interesting to find that, while having a chat with the RACV Service Patrol lads, on the leg from Horsham to Hamilton, there were four punctures, several flat batteries and, most surprisingly, a number of failed alternators. Note 'alternators', not dynamos – is this another episode of the 'march of progress'? The RACV Service Patrol men were quite surprised at that morning's work! Even more surprising, was the fact that it was a very mild night in Horsham and we have to wonder how much busier they would have been had there been a severe frost?

This year there were a few significant breakdowns on the Tour, is metal fatigue setting in? Older cars have crankshafts, connecting rods and other major components that after, say sixty years, may be about to cry "ENOUGH!" in a big way. Another point to consider, this year's route was carefully planned to have a minimum of long steep climbs, in an effort to attract older vehicles, not necessarily to preserve the mechanical components. In addition to all of that, the Rover's speedometer ceased to operate without even a warning gasp. I wonder how many speed camera pictures it attracted?

We can't unwind for too long after the big event and we need to start thinking about coming events. Coming up soon is the Rusty Springs weekend – if you haven't booked yet, do so now. Details are in the April issue of *Your ABCCC News*, and there is updated information in this issue. Then there is another big one, the AHMF Heritage Motoring Day. We are off to Point Cook Homestead as a part of that important event. Then there is the Echuca weekend, a session at the Nyora Speedway and then the Great ABCCC Trivia Challenge. By Jove! Have we got a year for you!

Don't forget, if you have one of the club's safety vests tucked away somewhere - dig it out and return it, now!

Mike Allfrey.

PRESIDENT'S COMMUNIQUÉ



I would like to give my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped prepare the breakfast at the Fox Museum for the RACV Fly the Flag Tour, especially those who were not participants who made the trip into the Fox Museum specifically to help, your efforts raised approximately \$2,500 into club funds.

After reading over one-hundred survey forms, there was one recurring theme I would like to share with members, and that was the overwhelming praise for our marshals. For that I would like to give them my personal thanks. They were a credit to the club. Other points of interest from the survey were that participants found the route directions easy to follow (thanks Mike), they liked the old homesteads, shorter distances and getting off the main highways.

On the bad side the caterers in Portland let me down and the music was too loud one night, but for my first time being completely at the helm, I got about a 98% pass, which was very gratifying because I know with four-hundred people, I will never please them all. I'll try harder next time.

Tony Pettigrew – President.

PAST AND FUTURE EVENT REPORTS THE 7th RACV FLY THE FLAG TOUR – 5th to 11th April, 2008

Our club, has yet again, conducted an extremely successful seventh running of the RACV Fly The Flag Tour. This time the Tour made a comprehensive visit to Victoria's famed Western Districts. A great amount of planning went into the Tour's route through such interesting places as Ballarat, Horsham, Hamilton, Portland, Port Fairy and Geelong. This time we used lesser known roads and a traffic-free week of historic motoring was enjoyed.

Day 1. – Melbourne To Ballarat

It was still very dark as those who were marshalling and preparing breakfast arrived at the start venue at the Fox Car Collection. The well-oiled machine that is the ABCCC swung quickly into action with a minimum of delay – but, even with that, we could not beat some early rising Flaggers! Those Tour participants who arrived early had only a short time to wait for the Higginson Charabanc Tour Company's super-hot barbecues and hot water urns that heated so energetically that they could have kept a Great Western Railway locomotive in steam on the Lickey In-



cline! The ABCCC Catering Trailer also played an important part in the preparation of over four-hundred breakfasts. What a splendid effort and our collective thanks to all of those who chipped in to help.

Left: Full production of One Eyed Gipsy Sandwiches. It has to be asked – what happened to all the bread discs?

It was nearly a case of confiscating some of the breakfast eggs to pour into the leaking radiator on Ian Hankey's Austin. The leak was quite impressive for the start of a week's solid touring! No matter, Geoff Birkett soon had it fixed up with a generous dollop of plastic metal, and, amazingly, it held for the entire Tour.

Very soon, it was time for RACV President and Chairman, John

Isaacs, to welcome participants in this our seventh Tour and to wish them a successful week's touring in the Western Districts. The pipe band was playing as they marched to the gate in time for the first cars to be flagged off. The older cars were flagged-off first and then there was a real mixture of makes and models that contribute to our wonderful motoring heritage. It was still very overcast and fairly dark as denser clouds came over.

The Tour Route Notes called for a left turn at the gate, but the majority turned right. This caused a degree of congestion at the gate, but the enthusiastically played bagpipes kept the waiting Flaggers entertained! Our route took us along the Western Freeway to Pikes Creek Reservoir, where we turned north to Blackwood and Trentham, where most stopped for a refreshment break. From Trentham it was on to Jubilee Lake Park in Daylesford for a barbecue lunch provided by members of the Muckleford Cricket Club. Pictures of the barbecue will be on their Website: <u>http://muckleford.cricketvictoria.com.au/</u> They were a really friendly group and were generous with the barbecued food. There were a few spots of rain, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm for touring. It was here that we all found out that large gate posts in Nyora have a habit of leaping out and assaulting Rover bumpers. It certainly looked as if the post came off best!

From Daylesford it was straight into Ballarat. This was were the Editorial Rover was seen in two of the four Learmonth Street/Roads before the well concealed motel was found. Later, when heading out to dinner at the trotting track, errors were discovered in the VicRoads Country Street Directory. Oh Dear! The cars were soon parked and a nice dinner was enjoyed. The Mayor of Ballarat gave us a warm welcome and, next morning, he was seen enthusiastically flagging-off the cars.

Day 2. – Ballarat To Horsham

There was no water in Lake Wendouree, and there was not a river nearby – but there was a good fog, nonetheless, when we arrived early in Victoria Park. We naively assumed that we would have the park's roadway all to ourselves that early in the morning – not so, there was a horse riding event happening in the park and many large horse floats were entering from the southern end, and all of us, bar one, came in from the north. This meant that there was a slight conflict of interests and a spot of car shuffling sorted it all out.

Being Sunday morning, we attracted quite a number of spectators who had come for a look at our cars. The vast number of them were there after a hasty ring around the night before. No one knew the Tour was coming through Ballarat! It was pure chance that one of the local car club members had spoken to the Mayor the evening before our flag-off. This was in two shifts as Mooramong Homestead, our morning tea stop, could only handle a limited number at a time. After morning tea, it was on to Beaufort, Ararat and Hall's Gap to finish with a night's stop in Horsham.

Dinner was at the Town Hall, not the Civic Centre as stated in the Route Notes. Just how this error crept in, the writer of those notes has no idea. We were going to use the Civic Centre, but a change was made and, to the best of my knowledge, the correction was made at some point. It may seem easy to blame Microsoft Word, but this time it is certainly justified! The Lady Mayor of Horsham gave a warm and very modest welcome speech. It was so modest and truthful that we came away convinced that Horsham was the best place to be! During the dinner we were very well entertained by Kevin Walsh who knows exactly which kind of music Flaggers enjoy. It was a wonderful evening of dancing, jiving and twisting and shaking. On top of all that, we were encouraged to sing along to the old favourites. We all looked forward keenly for a repeat performance in Geelong.

On this day, we consumed 419 packets of Western Star butter. (Not counting those consumed in motels)

Day 3. – Horsham To Hamilton

The big one! Pynsent Street was closed off for our flag-off ceremony and, after a bountiful breakfast in the Town Hall, we were ready for the start to a day of super-perfect touring. The actual flag-off was arranged so that ten cars at a time entered the roundabout in Firebrace Street where the police obligingly assisted a very smooth flow of Tour cars towards the primary school where the youngsters enthusiastically waved flags to friendly toots from many car horns. It was a perfect sunny morning as we headed along the Wimmera Highway towards Natimuk. We soon spotted the Tour Direction Sign at the turn-off for Balmoral. We had the lonely roads to ourselves. The drive to Harrow was just magic. The roads were good and we were soon there for a pleasant morning tea. The wonderful ladies from the Harrow Bush Nursing Home ably sold us good refreshment in aid of their Home.



Above: Harrow, filled with heritage cars and trucks.

It was while we were in Harrow that a couple, from Castlemaine, informed us that they were on holiday and, having seen the Tour near Ballarat, they decided to follow our route. Their original holiday plans were set aside and their 'tour' commenced. Quite a compliment!

After a look through the Harrow Transport Museum and a stroll along the main street which was packed with Tour cars and trucks, it was time to set off along the Glenelg River course to Warrock Station. The run into Harrow and on to Warrock was a highlight of the Tour. Lunch was waiting for us at Warrock and we all enjoyed the picnic atmosphere. It was here that we met Jim Kent, the renowned Casterton truck restorer, who had brought along 'Old Jock', his early 1930s Albion truck. It was great to have a chat with Jim in the pleasantly warm afternoon sunshine.

From Warrock we motored on to Hamilton, pausing briefly at the Wannon Falls. There we had to use our vivid imagination, as the falls rock face was completely dry. Dinner in Hamilton was at the Monivae College and a very good meal was served by the students. Our entertainment was a simple Noggin & Natter. It had been a thirsty day and the drinks and conversation flowed well We were warmly welcomed into the very heart of the Western Districts by the Mayor of the Southern Grampians Shire.

This leg of the RACV Fly The Flag Tour which, quite frankly was a bit of a worry, was a great success. It was the new signs that had been deployed that reduced our worries to an extremely pleasant day's Touring.

Who was seen flying straight through a STOP sign in Douglas? Well; there is a P and a 5 in the car's registration number!

On this day, we consumed 1,257 packets of Western Star butter.

Day 4. - Hamilton To Portland

On marshal duty just after sunrise, outside the gateway into the showgrounds, it was amusing to see a group of seven magpies having an early committee meeting around the base of the gate post. As soon as the cars started arriving the magpies flew up onto the wire above and set up a chorus of chortling as each car passed under the, What a welcome. This was one of the easier days, it was a simple run down the highway to Portland. Breakfast and the flag-off ceremony were held in the showgrounds. The Hamilton Car Club put on a splendid breakfast for us and, after a few preliminaries, it was time to flag-off. This time the cars set off one row at a time and the departure was easily carried out.

Most of the Flaggers stopped at Heywood for their morning cuppa. Quite a number indulged in the bakery's tempting products and, thus fortified, we set off for Portland, The welcome was quite astounding with free tickets for the car museum, Maritime Centre and the lookout tower. Our lanyard name tags entitled us to free rides on the cable tram powered by its own diesel engine.. Lunch here was 'own arrangements' and the afternoon was free to explore the historic town. Many spent time in the Ops Shops purchasing items of clothing for the fancy dress 'Do' that evening.

What an hilarious night it was too. In the middle of the frivolities, Bill Wellwood conducted an auction of odd pieces in aid of the RACV Foundation. Bill was his usual entertaining self and the bidding was brisk. The RACV matched all the selling prices two to one, so a healthy sum was raised for the Foundation. Geoff Clarke was looking very satisfied. Overall, during the Tour, there were items for sale to boost the Foundation's funds. Some of the costumes were most ingenious, the 'Double Chest Of Drawers' being notable. One couple, who were actually celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary on the day, came as blushing bride and handsome groom. A true re-enactment!

Our club took part in the costume lark, with Ray Higginson making a good Wizard of OZ. And, who else could Brian Kelly be but his namesake Ned. There were pirates, country girls of varied national dress and how about the cricketing duo – Warne and Boon?

Right: Radiant ABCCC aristocracy, Diane Mafodda and Connie Pannuzzo.

One point was sure, Joy and Fiona had a very tough time with the judging. Prizes were handed out to the worthy winners to great applause from the floor.

The Mayor of Portland's representative gave us a

warm welcome and he was presented with a plaque by Clive Hall, representing the RACV.

On this day, we consumed 1,439 packets of Western Star butter. (Extras consumed in Heywood)

Day 5. – Portland To Port Fairy And Return



We didn't have to pack and load our bags, nor be on marshalling duty on this morning. It was another beautiful day as we set out to explore Victoria's first European settlement. Port Fairy Lions Club made us very welcome by guiding us to our parking places and then providing an excellent barbecue lunch for us in the park that used to be the railway terminus in days gone. Now there is virtually no fishing fleet and the town seems to thrive on tourism.

Quite a number of people from the area came to look at our display, including the couple from Castlemaine! All of this was a bit much for one Tour participant as he was discovered fast asleep in the driving seat of his classic car, a fine Dodge Brougham Saloon.

That night, after our dinner, there was some home grown entertainment with Colin Brown leading a sing-along. Prior to this, we had been entertained by a group of young ladies, the Taragal Band, who

had kept the volume control well up and conversation was impossible. There was a suspicion that the volume was only at mid point, which to the Taragal Band would be remarkably quiet! They were good, but just too loud. Colin had decided to take songs at random from the nicely presented song book. After a few songs, accompanied by the Taragals, song choices became quite difficult, but we got along quite well with some old favourites.

The evening meals at Portland call for an explanation of what happened. Very close to the start of the Tour, the original caterer literally absconded without notice, apparently to go mining in Western Australia. This left us in a fair sort of quandary, because of the two dinners situation. Portland is not all that large as a town and still has a strong country feel about it – there is only one supermarket, with only a convenience store for competition. One of the town's cafés stepped in and offered to help us out. The dinners were cooked in the café, taken to the civic centre to be kept warm and then served. For such short notice and the limited resources available to feed four-hundred and nineteen ravenous Flaggers twice, was a splendid achievement!



On this day, we consumed 1,257 packets of Western Star butter.

Day 6. – Portland To Geelong

The local Council was generous in closing Bentinck Street off for our morning flag-off ceremony and display. We had plenty of room and the two-hundred-plus vehicles made an impressive display outside the Civic Centre. This was the long-haul day, with a drive ahead of the waiting cars and trucks of just on three-hundred kilometres. After flag-off, our cavalcade of many makes and colours drove past an old folks home and then proceeded along the coast road towards Tyrendarra where the route took us north for a short distance. We then turned right for Woolsthorpe and then on to Caramut for a welcome pause before cruising into Mortlake for lunch. The roads were very narrow in places, but were very quiet.

It was then a short drive to Lismore where quite a number stopped to have a good look at the Dorothy Nichol Collection of clothing worn by the ladies in the area over the years. When we called in, Dorothy was addressing an enthralled audience, which included Fiona Lane who is a period costume enthusiast. While in Portland, Fiona displayed a very impressive dancing dress that she had found in an ops shop.

The drive into Geelong was easy, if smoky and dusty. At dinner in the Belmont Civic Centre, we were entertained again by the popular Kevin Walsh. It was either the huge dance floor or Flaggers' Fatigue that left the floor almost deserted for quite a while. Not for too long though, Kevin soon had a good number of us up and dancing to superb 1950s and 1960s music. Ian Hankey gave us a fair rendition of *New York, New York.* One of the smokers came in and reported some hoon doing 'wheelies' amongst our parked cars and the on-duty marshals crossed the dance floor *en masse*, we were too late, as all was quiet in the car park.

On this day, we consumed 1,336 packets of Western Star butter.

Day 7. – Geelong To Melbourne

Breakfast was at the Belmont Civic Centre and the flag-off was at Ritchie Boulevard, Eastern Beach. There was a good two-row display along where the Sprints used to be. The fleet was flagged off and they headed for Melbourne via Ballan. We headed straight up Geelong Road to get ahead in case we were needed for marshalling at the Ultima Reception Centre. This was our undoing suffice to say that we missed the Keilor Park Drive exit and so missed lunch and the awards presentation.

On this day, we consumed 869 packets of Western Star butter. (Note: Not known if packets were used at lunch)

Awards Presentation

At the conclusion of the tour, awards were presented to the following participants and their vehicles:

Best Vintage Car	Ray & Joan Parker	1932 Chevrolet Confederate
Best Early Classic Car	David & Ellen Bailie	1937 Rolls Royce 25/30
Best Classic Car	Harry & Ann De Groot	1958 Mercedes Benz 220 S
Best Modern Classic Car	Victor & Niki Pace	1974 Mercury Marquis Brougham
Best Open Sports Car	Robyn & Robert Joiner	1962 Mercedes Benz 190 SL Roadster
Best Family Car	Adrian & Claudine Ryan	1965 Ford Squire Wagon
Best Overall Car	Peter & Sandra Hibbert	1950 Mercury Sports Sedan
President's Prize	Ken O'Connor & Craig Rickards	1957 Austin A30
Frank E Douglas Perpetual Award	Peter & Lynda Ninnis	1956 Ford Thunderbird (Popular Choice)

Our compliments to all of the winners.

Conclusions

It was a very successful RACV Fly The Flag Tour, and there were some very special segments. Highlights were the run from Ararat to Hall's Gap, the run from Horsham to Hamilton and the spell in Port Fairy. It was also pleasant to be in the Caramut and Mortlake area again.

This year, there were for the first time, no Armstrong Siddeleys, no Jowetts, no Wolseleys and nothing representing those famous makes – Lanchester, proper Daimlers (sorry Harry) and Lea Francis. Again the question, where were the Standard Vanguards?

Firstly, grateful thanks are collectively due to the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria for assisting with much needed sponsorship and expertise. We have a very special event, here's hoping we can keep it going for years to come.

Special thanks must go to Maxine and Tony Pettigrew for the enormous amount of work and time, put into organising the Tour. Special thanks are also due to Nello Mafodda for keeping the marshals to a rigorous schedule. Thanks are also due to Pat Douglas who handled entries and regalia sales, Thanks also to those hardy souls who helped with the breakfast at the Fox Museum, you did a splendid job. Further thanks go to all of you who helped with all of those marshalling duties – that was certainly appreciated by the Tour participants. The Tour is a major ABCCC-run event and we achieved a very high standard of organisation and Tour management.

It was fabulous to see that Jim Spence had lent his Jaguar XJ-6 to our overseas members, Peter and Joanne Schneider. Other cars on loan were George Hetrel's Vauxhall 30/98 and Ray Higginson's Jaguar 'Jo Jo'. Wonderful gestures and no doubt greatly appreciated.

Your ABCCC News – May, 2008.

Fellowship, Friendship = All British Classics Car Club

Page 9 of 14

In addition to all of those thankyous, let's raise three cheers to Joy Brown and Fiona Lane for the sterling effort in judging the fancy dress costumes.

However, there is an apology, and that is to those who did exactly as the Route Sheets stated – and went to the Horsham Civic Centre for dinner, instead of the Town Hall. Steps are already in motion to ensure that such an error will not happen again.

As a fairly conservative estimate, those on this year's RACV Fly The Flag Tour consumed a total of 6,996 packets of Western Star butter. That should add centimetres to some waistlines.

Thankyou to all! It is, at last, time to unwind a little.

RUSTY SPRINGS WEEKEND – 3rd to 4th May, 2008

This weekend away is preferably a 2 night stay. All people coming Fri night so far are: Rob & Mary, Colin & Joy, Phil & Glenda, Ross & Elinor, Brian & Marj and Don & Marlene.

Note" If any one else has told us we have forgotten you, sorry!, so please let us know asap.

Still room for others yet, so don't miss out. Last W/end away before Winter sets in !

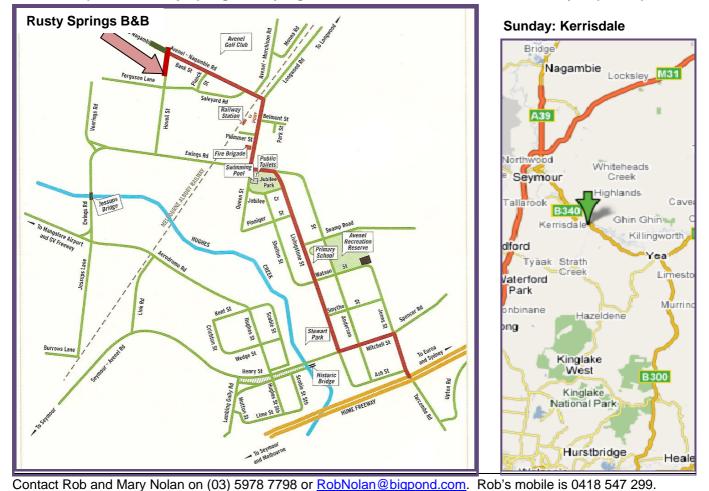
Friday night, hot soup & crusty bread supper, tea and coffee etc awaits you. (**BYO drinks**) This will be a great, fun filled & unique w/end for those making the effort to come. **Refer previous month's newsletter details.**

Sat pre-lunch at Longleat Winery, Wine & Cheese tasting at \$5 p/p & you get to keep the wine glass. Picnic lunch is just \$6 p/p. Home cooked **Dinner** is just \$20 p/p for 3 courses. Amazing but True ! Please RSVP ASAP, otherwise you will miss out. Accommodation is limited.

Sunday morning 10.15am will be at Kerrisdale Mountain Scenic Model Railway & Museum, 7523 Goulburn Valley Highway, Kerrisdale, near Trawool where morning tea is provided & cost including entry is \$16. Lunch is whatever you want at "Flying Tarts" at your own cost. Duckett's Memorabillia is only a Gold coin donation, both at Kinglake. <u>Members are welcome to come up Sunday only for a day trip.</u> Let us know if you are coming on Sunday for catering purposes.

Note: Bring warm clothes if the weather is cold on Sunday, for the unique experience ! CASH ONLY required for payment at all venues.

Following is a map of Avenel (turn off approx 16 Kms past Seymour) with directions to Rusty Springs B&B. Use this Map to Find Rusty Springs Friday night. Follow the red line from the Hume Hwy as per map,



Mike Allfrey.

Rob Nolan.

POINT COOK HOMESTEAD VISIT – Sunday 18th May, 2008

Each year, the Australian Historic Motoring Federation (AHMF) sets aside a day in May to celebrate the heritage motoring movement and its activities. The idea is to have as many heritage vehicles out on the roads, on the one day, as possible. This year the date for this significant event is 18th May, and our club is participating in the AHMF Motoring Heritage Day by having a day out to Point Cook Homestead. The run will incorporate lunch at the café and a visit to the homestead. A two-choice lunch has been booked, alternately served will be chicken *Vol-au-vent* and quiche – both served with salad. After that there will be scones, jam and cream, followed by tea and coffee. All of this for just \$12.00 per person. Bookings are essential. Please note that the Café is licensed, therefore no BYO.

We will meet at our usual 'Westside' meeting place, the Todd Road Service Area on the Westgate Freeway, heading west, and parking near the KFC facility, Meet here in good time for a 10:00 am departure for Point Cook.

Before lunch we will be able to view the homestead, its garden and outhouses at our leisure. After lunch we can visit an Observation Park close to Point Cook Homestead, or we can visit the RAAF Museum a short distance further along the road.

Our chosen venue will provide maximum exposure to the public, with our cars arriving at the Todd Road Service Area from all directions, preferably not using the freeway/tollway systems until close to our meet-up point. There will also be good exposure at Point Cook. We would like to have as many older cars on this run as possible.

We will need to know numbers for the luncheon arrangements, so, if you wish to participate in our event, please call Pat Douglas on (03) 9739 4829. Important – Be There – in your classic!

Pat Douglas.

THE ECHUCA STEAM RALLY – Saturday 7th to Monday 9th June, 2008

The Steam Rally weekend in June is going to be a completely casual affair. We do not have anything specific organized. You can make it a four day weekend or a three day weekend. We have rooms reserved at the Motel from Friday night until Monday morning. If you wish to attend this weekend please contact the Cadell Motel in Moama (Phone 5482 4500). The price quoted was three nights \$285, two nights \$240 this is on a twin share basis.

We are booked into the Rich River Country Club for an evening meal on the Friday night, and will be picked up by the courtesy bus at about 5.30 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday nights we will have our meals at the Motel, possibly a BBQ one night and Chickens and Salads the next night and will work out a price per head when we have our big shop, so the happy hour will start sometime in the afternoon. No worries about booze buses or driving.

We will be leaving early on the Sunday morning to put our cars on display and the rest of the day is yours to explore the many events at the rally. Saturday is a free day for you to go wherever you wish in Echuca, there are many different events here so I decided that you can do your own thing here as some might wish to do a river cruise, some may wish to visit friends and or family, some may wish to shop, or some may even wish to have a completely lazy day.

Regarding the actual rally please go on the Internet and look up <u>www.echucasteamrally.com.au</u> and then click on Program. There is a heading near the top of the page 'New .. download exhibitor form', click on this. The entry form is for 2007 but the person that I spoke to regarding this said to change it to 2008 and fill out the form. We are entering as a Classic Car Display. Send the form off with entry fee to the Steam Horse & Vintage Rally Inc, P.O. Box 199, Echuca, Victoria, 3564, with a short covering note stating that you are unable to download the 2008 entry form and if fees are more could they please contact you.

Referring to the map on the previous page, we will be entering the display area from Crossen Street. The entrance gate for display cars is adjacent to the main entrance gate. Our cars will be ranged alongside the driveway into the Steam Rally site, As last time, we will need to get a display number from the Rally Office. These numbers are necessary if we take part in the Grand Parade.

On Monday morning we will be leaving Echuca and will have lunch at a hotel in Bendigo and then say a fond farewell to all our companions for the weekend.

When you have booked the Motel could you please email me on <u>Ihigginson@kangan.edu.au</u> and let me know that you will be attending. I have reserved about 20 rooms at the Motel so when I can see that it is getting close to being full I will see if I can have some more rooms (if available). So as you can see the booking of the Motel and the entry into the Steam Rally is completely up to you as I have found in the past that this is the best way to organize this type of weekend. Please come along and have a really good time laughing and joking with your friends and having a relaxing time.

Lyn Higginson.

THE GREAT ABCCC TRIVIA CHALLENGE – Saturday 28th June, 2008

The venue has been booked since October 2007 and, have we got an evening planned for livening up those brain cells. Yes, it is once again time for the Great ABCCC Trivia Challenge. We will be commencing our proceedings at 6:45 pm for a Challenge start at 7:00pm. This is a mid-winter fun night not to be missed there will be plenty of finger food to enjoy between sessions. At just \$15.00 per person and our club supplying all of the trivia needs, it will be a wonderful Challenge.

Teams will be six to a table and the usual rules will apply. If you can come along, please let me know well in advance, so that catering can be organised. Call me on (03) 9842 5449.

Phil Cook.

McCLELLAND GALLERY LUNCH – Wednesday 2nd July, 2008

An Artistic Adventure on Wed 2nd. July. Meeting point 10:00 am at Manyung Gallery, Nepean Highway, Mt. Eliza. Manyung Gallery is located south of Mt Eliza, on the left hand side of the highway. Travelling south, look out for Boxmoor Court, then Peninsula Place. If you reach Conway Street, you have driven too far.

Browse the current exhibitions and eclectic outdoor sculptures whilst enjoying a coffee from the Boyz@Manyung who will be ready for you. Then one and a half kilometres on to Richard Linton's amazing and incredibly detailed artwork at his Maritime Art Gallery at Morning Star Estate where Richard will talk to us and possibly show us his current project. Some of his works have been forty years in the making!. Both Manyung and Richard Linton's gallery have an exclusive range of jewellery on display. For \$5 The Morning Star gardens can also be browsed, weather permitting. Entry via the café. Then a short drive to the McClelland Gallery in Langwarrin for a well priced lunch in the light filled café overlooking the amazing sculpture park. After lunch browse the current gallery exhibitions and, weather permitting, explore the amazing outdoor sculpture exhibition. Entry to the McClelland Gallery is by donation.

Websites are: manyunggallery.com.au, lintonmaritimeart.com, mcclelland gallery.com.

We look forward to enjoying your company on the day. Lunch numbers are required at least a week in advance so please contact us by June 24th. If you are going to participate in this event. Please phone Ken on 0419 395 452 or Karen on 0409 028 534.

Karen McDonald.

THE YOU YANGS RUN – Sunday 13th July, 2008

After meeting at the Todd Road Service Area (adjacent to KFC) at 8:57 am, we will drive to the You Yangs for morning which will be a BYO arrangement. After our refreshment break and a look around the park we will proceed to the 2007 Pub Of The Year, the Fyansford Hotel, Hyland Street, Fyansford.

Bookings are essential. Please call Anne Tootell on 0412 549 906 prior to 3rd July to reserve your place.

Anne Tootell .

THE WONDERFUL ABCCC INDULGENCE WEEKEND – 29°' to 31" August, 2008

It's on again – the justly famous "All British Indulgent Weekend", This year we are heading east, meeting at Berwick on Friday 29th and departing in an easterly direction

Accommodation is at a famous 4½ star location with indulgent meals and surprise entertainment to keep you occupied all the weekend, returning home on Sunday afternoon.

All this for just \$585.00 per couple (excluding morning tea and pre-dinner nibbles). Spaces are limited. To ensure your place contact Rosalie or Peter McKiernan on (03) 9787 6003, or on mobile 0407 876 023.

See you in August.

Peter McKiernan.

CLUB HOLIDAY TO THE LIMESTONE COAST – 31st October to 4th November, 2008

Due to restricted motel accommodation at this period, the group will be limited to 12 couples(or 12 rooms), so first in best dressed and be prepared to be placed on an emergency list.

- Day 1. Travel via Ballarat to Casterton.
- Day 2, To Penola, with wine tastings in the Coonawarra region.
- Day 3. To Robe, to sample the best crayfish on the Mainland.
- Day 4. To Mt Gambier to visit the "Blue Lakes"
- Day 5. To Hamilton, via Limestone Caves and Nelson.
- Day 6. To Melbourne, with lunch at Inverleigh before making our way back to the big smoke.

If you may be interested in participating please contact- Bryan Tootell on mobile 0412 549 906

Bryan Tootell.

A WARM WELCOME FOR NEW MEMBERS

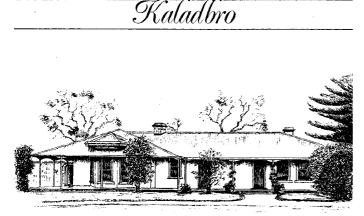
The All British Classics Car Club extends a warm welcome to our new members, and their cars, who have joined our club since the last issue of *Your ABCCC News*. We look forward to meeting you and your motor cars at one of our events very soon.

New Members	Motor Car	Model	Year
Andrew & Pat Swann	MG	'B'	1964
Brent Gazzaniga & Yvette Black	Jaguar Jaguar	XJ-6 XK-E	1985 1972
Peter & Lorraine Lester	Singer Singer Singer	Junior Le Mans 4A Roadster	1928 1934 1950
Vour ADCCC Nous May 2000	Collourship Eriondohim	All Dritich Classics Car Club	

Fellowship, Friendship = All British Classics Car Club

Pat Douglas – Membership.

ANOTHER GREAT RECIPE



Run A Mile Pudding

Ingredients

¼ Cup Sugar
2 Tablespoons Butter
2 Tablespoons Cocoa
½ Cup Milk
1 Cup Self Raising Flour
½ Teaspoon Vanilla
For The Topping:
1 Cup Cold Water
1 Cup Brown Sugar
1¼ Tablespoons Cocoa

Continuing our series of wonderful recipes from Victoria's famed Western Districts, here is one from Kaladbro to tempt your palates with a splendid Run A mile Pudding.

Donald Mackinnon of Skye, Scotland purchased Kaladbro, a station of 28,000 acres, in 1854. He later bought Mingbool in partnership with his brother, Malcolm, who also owned land in Queensland. Malcolm married Margaret McCallum of Ardno and they had five children.

Baron von Mueller landscaped the gardens of Kaladbro in the late 1860s. The property is now run by Malcolm and Hannah Mackinnon. Recipe prepared by Mrs Charles Mackinnon.

Method

Pudding:

Sift flour, sugar and cocoa. Add melted butter, milk and vanilla, mix well. Pour into a buttered pie dish (9 inches x 9 inches).

Topping:

Scatter brown sugar, then cocoa and pour cold water gently over the top of the pudding mixture. Bake for 40 minutes at 163 $^{\circ}$ C (325 $^{\circ}$ F) and allow to stand for half an hour before eating.

Serve with lots of whipped cream. Enjoy!

With thanks to the National Trnst.

WHAT TO DO WITH HOTEL SOAP

The following letters are taken from an actual incident between a London hotel and one of its American guests.

Dear Maid,

Please do not leave any more of those little bars of soap in my bathroom since I have brought my own bath-sized Dial. Please remove the six unopened little bars from the shelf under the medicine chest and another three in the shower soap dish. They are in my way.

Thank you,

S. Berman

Dear Room 635,

I am not your usual maid. She will be back tomorrow, Thursday, from her day off. I took the three hotel soaps out of the shower soap dish as you requested. The six bars on your shelf I took out of your way and put on top of your hand tissue dispenser in case you should change your mind. This leaves only the three bars I left today which my instructions from the management is to leave three soaps daily. I hope this is satisfactory. Kathy, Relief Maid

Dear Maid – I hope you are my usual maid.

Apparently Kathy did not tell you about my note to her concerning the little bars of soap. When I got back to my room this evening I found you had added three little Camays to the shelf under my medicine cabinet. I am going to be here in the hotel for two weeks and have brought my own bath-size Dial so I won't need those six little Camays which are on the shelf. They are in my way when shaving, brushing teeth, etc. Please remove them. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

My day off was last Wed. so the relief maid left three hotel soaps, which we are instructed by the management to do. I took the six soaps which were in your way on the shelf and put them in the soap dish where your Dial was. I

Your ABCCC News – May, 2008.

put the Dial in the medicine cabinet for your convenience. I didn't remove the three complimentary soaps which are always placed inside the medicine cabinet for all new check-ins and which you did not object to when you checked in last Monday. Please let me know if I can of further assistance. Your usual maid,

Dotty

Dear Mr. Berman,

The assistant manager, Mr. Kensedder, informed me this morning that you called him yesterday evening and said you were unhappy with your maid service. I have assigned a new girl to your room. I hope you will accept my apologies for any past inconvenience. If you have any future complaints please contact me so I can give it my personal attention. Call extension 1108 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Thank you. Elaine Carmen. Housekeeper

Dear Miss Carmen,

It is impossible to contact you by phone since I leave the hotel for business at 7:45 am and don't get back before 5:30 or 6:00 pm. That's the reason I called Mr. Kensedder last night. You were already off duty. I only asked Mr. Kensedder if he could do anything about those little bars of soap. The new maid you assigned me must have thought I was a new check-in today, since she left another three bars of hotel soap in my medicine cabinet along with her regular delivery of three bars on the bath-room shelf. In just five days here I have accumulated twenty-four little bars of soap. Why are you doing this to me?

S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

Your maid, Kathy, has been instructed to stop delivering soap to your room and remove the extra soaps. If I can be of further assistance, please call extension 1108 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Thank you, Elaine Carmen, Housekeeper

Dear Mr. Kensedder,

My bath-size Dial is missing. Every bar of soap was taken from my room including my own bath-size Dial. I came in late last night and had to call the bellhop to bring me four little Cashmere Bouquets. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman,

I have informed our housekeeper, Elaine Carmen, of your soap problem. I cannot understand why there was no soap in your room since our maids are instructed to leave three bars of soap each time they service a room. The situation will be rectified immediately. Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience. Martin Kensedder. Assistant Manager

Dear Mrs. Carmen,

Who the hell left fifty-four little bars of Camay in my room? I came in last night and found fifty-four little bars of soap. I don't want fifty-four little bars of Camay. I want my one damn bar of bath-size Dial. Do you realize I have fifty-four bars of soap in here. All I want is my bath size Dial. Please give me back my bath-size Dial. S. Berman

Dear Mr. Berman.

You complained of too much soap in your room so I had them removed. Then you complained to Mr. Kensedder that all your soap was missing so I personally returned them. The twenty-four Camays which had been taken and the three Camays you are supposed to receive daily. I don't know anything about the four Cashmere Bouquets. Obviously your maid, Kathy, did not know I had returned your soaps so she also brought twenty-four Camays plus the three daily Camays. I don't know where you got the idea this hotel issues bath-size Dial. I was able to locate some bath-size lvory which I left in your room.

Elaine Carmen. Housekeeper

Dear Mrs. Carmen,

Just a short note to bring you up-to-date on my latest soap inventory. As of today I possess:

On the shelf under medicine cabinet - eighteen Camay in four stacks of four and one stack of two.

On the hand tissue dispenser – eleven Camay in two stacks of four and one stack of three.

On the bedroom dresser – one stack of three Cashmere Bouquet – one stack of four hotel-size Ivory, and eight Camay in twp stacks of four.

Inside the medicine cabinet - fourteen Camay in three stacks of four and one stack of two.

In the shower soap dish – six Camay, very moist.

On the northeast corner of tub – one Cashmere Bouquet, slightly used.

On the northwest corner of tub – six Camays in two stacks of three.

Please ask Kathy when she services my room to make sure the stacks are neatly piled and dusted. Also, please advise her that stacks of more than four have a tendency to tip. May I suggest that my bedroom window sill is not in use and will make an excellent spot for future soap deliveries. One more item, I have purchased another bar of bath-sized Dial which I am keeping in the hotel vault in order to avoid further misunderstandings. S. Berman

From The Ether – With Thanks.

THE DARWIN AWARD WINNER

Two local men were injured when their pickup truck left the road and struck a tree near Cotton Patch on State Highway 38 early Monday. Woodruff County deputy Dovey Snyder reported the accident shortly after midnight Monday. Thurston Poole, 33, of Des Arc, and Billy Ray Wallis, 38, of Little Rock, were returning to Des Arc after a frog catching trip. On an overcast Sunday night, Poole's pickup truck headlights malfunctioned. The two men concluded that the headlight fuse on the older-model truck had burned out. As a replacement fuse was not available, Wallis noticed that the .22 calibre bullets from his pistol fit perfectly into the fuse box next to the steering-wheel column. Upon inserting the bullet the headlights again began to operate properly, and the two men proceeded on eastbound toward the White River Bridge. After travelling approximately twenty miles, and just before crossing the river, the bullet apparently overheated, discharged, and struck Poole in the testicles. The vehicle swerved sharply right, exiting the pavement, and striking a tree Poole suffered only minor cuts and abrasions from the accident but will require extensive surgery to repair the damage to his testicles, which will never operate as intended. Wallis sustained a broken clavicle and was treated and released. "Thank God we weren't on that bridge when Thurston shot his balls off, or we might both be dead," stated Wallis. "I've been a trooper for ten years in this part of the world, but this is a first for me. I can't believe that those two would admit how this accident happened," said Snyder. Upon being notified of the wreck, Lavinia (Poole's wife) asked how many frogs the boys had caught and did anyone get them from the truck?

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

(Comment: Though Poole and Wallis did not die as a result of their misadventure, as normally required by Darwin Award Official Rules, it can be argued that Poole did, in fact, effectively remove himself from the gene pool.)

HIGH DRAMA IN EXHIBITION STREET

Once a month, throughout the year, the RACV Great Australian Rally Advisory Committee meets at the RACV in the City. For the April meeting, it was decided to include a cheque presentation ceremony to representatives from the Peter Mac Cancer Institute. It was also decided that a suitable classic motor car should be used in a photo shoot session prior to the meeting of the Advisory Committee. All of that went well. It was on the journey home that things started to happen. Tony and Colin had successfully extracted the magnificent white Lagonda from the tortuous rally course that is the underground car park at the RACV City Club. Upon reaching Exhibition Street, for some inexplicable reason, the Lagonda's engine simply stopped – without even a cough and splutter. At the point where acute embarrassment started to set in, the car came to life quite unexpectedly and the journey through the rush hour traffic re-commenced, only for the car to come to a complete and mystifying stop, at the next set of traffic lights.

It was time to call 13 11 11 and get some worthwhile assistance. While the Yellow Angel of Mercy wove its way through the traffic, Tony and Colin established that the battery connections were loose – late night oil and all that after curing a couple of persistent oil leakage points. The battery, due to poor connections was in a discharged state and the banked up traffic was showing signs of impatience! Fortunately, along came a vehicle with some strong souls, who helped push the stricken Lagonda to the kerbside. The RACV Service Patrol arrived and umbilical cord jumper leads were connected between the two vehicles. A switched-on young lady became most interested in what was going on. It seemed that she had eyes only for the beautiful Lagonda, Tony and Colin were not in her sphere of observance. The RACV van was left with its engine running, to give the Lagonda's starter motor a bit of a sound kick-start. All of a sudden the young lady yelled out that the RACV van was in the throes of being stolen. The patrol man leapt into action and sent a clenched fist through the open driver's door window and, fortunately dazed the would-be patrol van driver. He was soon hauled out and stretched out on the roadway over the tramlines. Our young lady heroine called the police, and this galvanised Colin into action, furiously filling in an Authorised to Use Club Permit Voucher! Great presence of mind, has our Colin!

The police advised on the telephone that the apprehended vehicle stealer should not, under any circumstances, be moved. They even advised that the trams could be banked up until they arrived on the scene. Fortunately, the police multitudes were not long in arriving on the scene of the attempted theft and soon had the thief under control. Tony and the patrol man, had been holding him down on the tram tracks, and they were rather alarmed to see the police remove a knife from the offender. The Lagonda was soon started and the rest of the trip home was uneventful.

There is a question begging to be asked here – why would someone with only seven-pence-three-farthings worth, try to steal a bright yellow, sign-written, RACV Patrol Van in the middle of Melbourne's virtually static city rush hour?

Yon Know Who.

THE VERITABLE BRITISH CLASSIC MOTOR CAR

No one has bothered to put a justification together this month. Oh dear!

IMPORTANT! A NUMBER OF OUR MARSHALS' ORANGE SAFETY VESTS ARE MISSING AFTER THE RACV GREAT AUSTRALIAN RALLY. IF YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. PLEASE CALL MAXINE PETTIGREW ON (03) 9739 1146.