



An incorporated club

A0035462V

A friendly family social motoring club

Edition 127

April 2009

A Very nice big model Austin-Healey



Ablly fulfilling the promise of the open road, no one can forget those fabulous shots of Pat Moss hurling a *Big Healey* over mountainous passes in the Alpine Rallies of those special years. Brian Skewes has kindly sent in this perfect image of his example. Enjoy!

Your ABCCC News

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual membership subscription for the All British Classics Car Club Inc. is \$35.00. There is a once-only joining fee of \$30.00. Please send membership subscriptions to:

Pat Douglas, PO Box 201, Chirnside Park, VICTORIA, 3116.

Please Note: Membership subscriptions are due by end of December.

THE ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB (VICTORIA) INC., FOUNDED 23rd SEPTEMBER, 1997.

Club Founder – The Late Frank E Douglas

“OWNING AND/OR APPRECIATING THE SPIRIT OF FINE BRITISH CLASSICS”

THE ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB – YOUR COMMITTEE

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The All British Classics Car Club Website Is:

<http://www.abccc.com.au>

IMPORTANT CLUB INFORMATION

The All British Classics Car Club (Victoria) Inc, (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: A00035462V.

The Official Club Magazine – *Your ABCCC News*

The publication, *Your ABCCC News*, is the official magazine of the ABCCC Inc. It is published once a month, with the exception of December each year. 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, event information and photographs are with the 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 acknowledgement be given.

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 at the same time that the printed copy of the magazine is mailed to those who do not have access to the Internet.

Disclaimer

This publication contains general information that should not be relied upon without the specific advice from a suitably qualified professional. The authors and the ABCCC inc. 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. can not be held responsible for any inaccuracies relating to other clubs' events.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor *Your ABCCC News*, 59 Rowson Street, Boronia, Victoria, 3155. Other Editorial contact information is listed above.

It is club policy to have the right to refuse placement of advertising material in *Your ABCCC News*, from those who are not members of the ABCCC Inc.

The Victorian Club Permit Scheme

The ABCCC Inc. is a club that is authorised by VicRoads to operate vehicles under the Victorian Club Permit Scheme (VCPS). On the Committee there are two VCPS Officers and their contact details are listed above.

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

ABCCC EVENTS DIRECTORY 2009

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 organised 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.

April 2009

- 1 Peninsula Meander – An ABCCC Mid-week Event Karen McDonald 0409 028 534
Venue – Meet at Old Cool Store, Cnr Moorooduc Highway and Eramosa Road, Mornington Peninsula.
- 18 – 19 Como Gardens Open Day – An ABCCC Assist Event George Hetrel (03) 9761 1341
Venue – Como Gardens, 79 The Basin – Olinda Road, The Basin, Victoria.

May 2009

- 3 Cream Sponge Tea and Classic Run – An ABCCC Event Geoff & Judy Birkett (03) 9755 1772
Venue – Meet at Sassafras CFA Station (Melways Map 75, Ref. D1), Ferny Creek, Victoria.
- 17 RACV Classic Showcase – An ABCCC Supported Event Mike Allfrey (03) 9729 1480
Venue – Members' Car Park Lawns, Flemington Racecourse, enter from Epsom Road.
- 17 AHMF Motoring Heritage Day – The Australian Historic Motoring Federation
This is a get out and about in your classic motor car for a day.

June 2009

- 7 A Sunday Run – An ABCCC Event Frank Sawyer 0408 633 778
Venue – Meet at TBA.

July 2009

- 5 Wool Museum and Ford Centre Visit – An ABCCC Event Anne Tootell 0412 549 906
Venue – Geelong, Victoria.
- 18 The Great ABCCC Trivia Challenge – An ABCCC Saturday Event Geoff Birkett (03) 9755 1772
Venue – Lilydale International Club, Nelson Road, Lilydale, Victoria.
- 26 Christmas In July Luncheon – An ABCCC Event Colin Brown (03) 5964 9291
This is our club's Annual 'Dinner', an event not to be missed. Mobile 0408 343 176
Venue – TBA.

August 2009

- 2 Anne's Big Day Out – An ABCCC Event Anne Tootell 0412 549 906
Venue – TBA.
- 14 – 21 ABCCC Holiday – An ABCCC Overseas Event Marjorie Pepper (03) 9439 7875
Destination – Burnt Pine Township, Norfolk Island, Pacific Ocean.

September 2009

- 2 Maxine's Picnic Day – An ABCCC Mid-week Event Maxine Pettigrew (03) 9739 1146
Note: An event not to be missed.
Venue – TBA.
- 13 A Special Club Run – An ABCCC Event Pat Douglas (03) 9739 4829
Venue – Tynong North, Victoria.
- 27 Diesel-hauled Out Of Nyora – An ABCCC Event Heather Cannon (03) 5659 0624
South Gippsland Tourist Railway and Lunch Trip.
Venue – Meet at 13 Hatch's Road, Nyora, Victoria.

October 2009

- 2 – 4 **Indulgence '09** – An ABCCC Event Peter McKiernan (03) 9787 6003
Venue Destination is Secret, but it will be exceptional.
- 17 – 18 Como Gardens Open Day – An ABCCC Assist Event George Hetrel (03) 9761 1341
Venue – Como Gardens, 79 The Basin – Olinda Road, The Basin, Victoria.
- 25 RACV City To Cape Run – AOMC Inc. Iain Ross (03) 9890 0524
Start – Melbourne. Finish – RACV Cape Schanck Resort, Victoria.

November 2009

- 2 Yarra Glen Races – An ABCCC Cup Day Display Event Colin Brown (03) 5964 9291
Venue – Yarra Glen Racecourse, Yarra Glen, Victoria. Mobile 0408 343 176
- 14 – 15 Bendigo National Swap Meet – FVV & CVC Inc, Booking Officer 0427 446 660
Venue – Prince of Wales Showgrounds, Bendigo, Victoria.
- 15 ABCCC Members' Grandchildren's Picnic – An ABCCC Event Marjorie Pepper (03) 9439 0264
Venue – Werribee Open Range Zoo, Werribee, Victoria.

20 Visit To Heronswood Diggers Café – An ABCCC Event Heather & Tom Cannon (03) 5659 0264
Venue – Heronswood, 105 Latrobe Parade, Dromana, Victoria.

December 2009

13 Christmas Luncheon – An ABCCC Event Tony Pettigrew (03) 9739 1146
Venue – Mornington Golf Club, Mornington, Victoria.

June 2010

6 – 8 A Special Weekend Away – An ABCCC Event Frank Sawyer 0408 633 778
Venue – Tocumwal, New South Wales.

?????? 2010

? - ? Two Clubs Reunion – An ABCCC Event Frank Sawyer 0408 633 778
Meet with the ABCCC Queensland Group.
Venue – Historic Richmond, New South Wales.

THE VICTORIAN CLUB PERMIT SCHEME AND THIS DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT, BE AWARE OF: All ABCCC 'noted events' in the Events Directory above are VCPS authorised. To qualify for the VCPS, under the auspices of the All British Classics Car Club Inc., your VCPS permitted motor car must attend a minimum of three (3) club-run events per year, from the date of the motor car's permit issue.

VICTORIAN CLUB PERMIT SCHEME RENEWALS

For your Victorian Club Permit Scheme (VCPS) renewal, please forward your completed renewal form to Colin Brown, 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 VicRoads for you.

NEW VCPS APPLICATIONS

For members wanting to place a motor 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 able 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.

EDITORIAL NOTES

No doubt, most of us are preparing for our most popular event, the RACV Fly The Flag Tour. It is, very likely, the biggest classic motoring event in Victoria, if not in this great nation of ours. It would be interesting to know how many cars are being serviced and fettled for the big Tour, it probably has an impact on the repair and servicing trade too. The editorial Rover has a brand new set of *black-wall* Bridgestone B249 tyres fitted. The tyre fitter made the interesting comment that the old tyres were very hard – they had aged to the extent where they were useless in the wet, but still had road-worthy complying treads. Peace of mind here in case our Tour really breaks the drought! It was while the tyres were being fitted, that a slightly loose steering ball joint was discovered. Using the special tool from Rover made the task of link removal an easy one. Both joints on the link were reconditioned and had grease nipples fitted – to make our hobby more enjoyable. Then a non-working speedometer was tackled and its little gearbox reassembled after a plug had fallen out, letting the gear wind itself out. Sound Rover engineering ensured that the disassembled parts lay on a shelf under the instrument cluster awaiting retrieval, nice one Spen! The speedometer is now rock-steady and we should be reasonably able to minimise Brumby-taxes.

In addition to those repairs there has been a full service of all fluids and filters being changed, air-conditioning tested and the power steering system checked and tested. Thus, the trade is benefitting in these hard times.

This month, close study of the Events Directory will reveal a number of changes. Once it has all settled, a revised calendar will be sent to Chris Newell so that the changes can be posted on the World Wide Web – where ever that may be. However, we hope that sufficient steps have been taken to minimise confusion.

While on the subject of confusion, because this issue of *Your ABCCC News* has been completely re-typed, a new look has been given to various aspects. There is now an introductory note, that advises that *anyone* is welcome to write an event report, for the 'Past And Future Events' segment. This is particularly so since I can not get to as many events as I would like to.

It is also time to thank some wonderfully helpful people who, since I have given up driving temporarily, have kindly driven us to meetings and events. Bill Allen, Tony Pettigrew, Colin Brown, Bill Ballard, George Hetrel and Frank Sawyer. A very special thank you all, your help has been greatly appreciated.

Mike Allfrey.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ **YUMMY CREAM SPONGES! SUNDAY 3rd MAY.** ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome to the well-oiled machine that is the All British Classics Car Club. Our club is one of the fastest growing motoring interest clubs in this country. We hope to be able to welcome you and, in actual fact, your British classic motor car, at one of our events soon. Our club aims to have two motoring events each month, so there are plenty of fabulous events for you to select from. Welcome, each of you!

Name	Make Of Car	Model	Year
Bruce & Lana* Moran	Rolls Royce	20/25	1935

* Last month, Lana's name somehow became Helen – it was an editorial error, probably due to increasing use of a magnifying glass to read submitted material. Apologies are due for any inconvenience or confusion that may have resulted from this error – *Editor*.

Pat Douglas – Membership Secretary.

BELITTLING REMARKS

There was an incident recently, which we will not go into here, where, within a tirade of abusive writing, the famous and much-loved Austin marque was belittled. To quote the writer:

“Obviously you must own an Austin Seven (or an A40) as that seems to be your limit of intellect . . . “

This from a gentleman who claimed to have contact with, and to be involved with such clubs as Sunbeam, Pre-war MG, Riley, Vauxhall, the Sunbeam-Talbot-Darracq Register, the RMCQ and the VCCQ is extremely shocking. Obviously, this man has a very low level of understanding the heritage motor vehicle club scene. Such a comment is highly offensive to the vast majority of us.

To even suggest that being an owner of an Austin 7 (or an Austin A40) in the context that a person referred to has a low level of intellect, is extremely disparaging to the exceptional Austin marque. In our club, as in the majority of other motor car clubs, all makes and models are equal. That is right in line with the unwritten club rule that a make and model should not be belittled in front of other club members, and – in this instance the entire Committee of our club had been copied in!

Most of us have the greatest respect for the Austin 7 and, through the historic race meetings at Winton each year, much pleasure has been provided by members of the Austin 7 Club. That club is crammed full of enthusiasts who are highly intelligent and worship an example of distinguished British motor vehicle engineering intellect.

To also include the celebrated Austin A40 in such disparaging remarks of abuse, is just not at all applicable. The Austin A40 models, including the later Farina styled model, gave sterling service to many thousands of motorists around the world. The fact that there is a sound and very capable Austin A40 Car Club speaks volumes for that model.

It is sincerely hoped that we see no more such disparaging comment, comparing a person's intellect with the type of car he/she owns or drives.

Mike Allfrey – Editor.

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

A section devoted to reporting on what has happened, or is about to happen within our club. All club members, not just those who have organised events, are encouraged to submit reports for inclusion here in Your ABCCC News. Event reports will be accepted in hand-written form, typed or via the E-mail system.

PENINSULA MEANDER – Wednesday 1st April, 2009

Your Last Chance!

This is the run that replaces Nello and Di's midweek run and it now becomes a Peninsula Meander. Come along and join us as we sample some of the area's finest wines and food. We will meet at the now defunct Cool Stores site on the corner of Moorooduc Highway and Eramosa Road, Melways Map 106, Reference A9, at 9:30 am for a 10:00 am departure. Morning tea and wine tasting will be available at the born-again Merricks General Store. Here there will be great food, hot coffee and local wines and produce. We can personally vouch for this one! Go to: www.merricksgeneralstore.com.au

Before lunch we will head to renowned Montalto Vineyard and to Olive Grove for some wine tasting and a stroll through the sculpture exhibition. Go to: www.montalto.com.au

Then we move on to the neighbouring winery, Tuck's Ridge. See www.tucksridge.com.au The lunch venue is still under negotiation, but the latter is worth it for the venue and view alone. Be sure not to miss this one!

Please contact Karen on 0409 028 534 before **14th March** to confirm numbers. This is essential as we will be away on the RACV Fly The Flag Tour just prior to this event.

Karen McDonald.

COMO GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND – Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April, 2009

We Need Your Help

This year's autumn opening of our gardens is going to be a bigger event than previous times. We have added the attraction of a horse-drawn coach ride that should be a favourite for all ages. There is something about the acceleration of a horse-drawn vehicle that can not be matched by many cars on our roads, 0 – walking pace instantly! So come along experience it.

There will also be scale model boats on the lake, steam-hauled train rides around the gardens, superbly guided tours around the motor car museum and some very special live music to relax to. So, with the carriage rides added, it will be a very full weekend. It should also be remembered that there will be plenty of those very special 'Devonshire' Teas that Como Gardens is becoming renowned for. We need help with running the whole show, so if you can provide some help, please let me know on (03) 9761 1341 and we will be pleased to have you with us.

Negotiations are taking place to ensure that all proceeds are sent to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal – a most commendable cause indeed. Your help with this special cause will be greatly appreciated.

Como Gardens are located at 79 The Basin – Olinda Road, The basin, Victoria. Melways Map 65, Reference K7.

George & Pat Hetrel.

THE CREAM SPONGE RUN – Sunday 3rd May, 2009

The Most Sumptuous Cream Sponges In The World!

We will be meeting again at the Sassafras/Ferny Creek CFA, Melways Map 75, Reference D1 at 10:00 am for a Cream Sponge morning tea. Your donation for morning tea will be, as usual, gratefully received by the brigade. We will then take a scenic route to the Paradise Hotel in Clematis for lunch. Melways Map 127, Reference A3.

There will be the usual running sheet with questions to answer on the way, and a prize for the winners. We have booked the balcony room at the hotel, and have been advised that your car can be seen in the park, so you may wish to take your "special" motor for pleasant day out. We don't think snow will be a problem in May!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Please phone and let us know to assist with catering **GEOFFREY and JUDY BIRKETT (03) 9755 1772.**

Geoff & Judy Birkett.

RACV CLASSIC SHOWCASE – Sunday 17th May, 2009

A Major ABCCC Attend Event & AHMF National Motoring Heritage Day

Please note that this eminent event has been re-scheduled to this 17th May date. It has also been re-located back to the Members; Car Park lawns at Flemington Racecourse. It is our intention to make this a big showing of our fine motor cars, so we are looking forward to a significant display of British classics at this event.

Arrangements are already in hand to secure a large reserved area for our display.

We have the capability to be able to mount a large display, therefore, please let me know if you intend to join in on the ABCCC Show site. Please contact me for your indication to join our display on Telephone Number (03) 9729 1480 or, you can E-mail to: michael.allfrey@bigpond.com

Because this day is also the *AHMF National Motoring Heritage Day*, a day when the general public should see a sizeable number of heritage vehicles on our roads, maybe it would be an idea to take a different and longer route home to gain maximum exposure for our movement. It is vitally important that the *AHMF National Motoring Heritage Day* and the RACV Classic Showcase be well supported by our club, In addition to that, we desperately need to outnumber the *American Motoring Show* participants.

Mike Allfrey.

THE GREAT ABCCC TRIVIA CHALLENGE – Saturday 18th July, 2009

Make Up A Team And Join The Challenge!

Please note the new date for this event

We will be having a buffet dinner with two courses featuring an Italian theme, at a very reasonable \$20.00 per person. Questions to make you smile and test your knowledge. What could be nicer than a glass of red and lasagne with friends on a winter's night. Please arrive sharply at 6:30 pm for a 7:00 pm start.

The Great ABCCC Trivia Challenge will be held at the Lilydale International Club, Nelson Road, Lilydale, Melways Map 38, Reference H3.

Phone please to assist with numbers for catering **GEOFFREY AND JUDY BIRKETT 9755 1772.**

Geoff & Judy Birkett.

COMO GARDENS OPEN WEEKEND – 18th & 19th APRIL, 2009. YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH OUR CHARITY FUND-RAISER WILL BE MOST WELCOME. TEL. (03) 9761 1341

INDULGENCE '09 – Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th October, 2009

The Renowned ABCCC Indulgence Weekend

If you enjoyed Nagambie, Bright or Metung you will certainly not be disappointed with this year's venue. A full tour of pure indulgence is set, and, it is proposed that we will leave Yarra Glen on Friday 2nd October at 8:30 am. This time, we will proceed in a northerly direction. After approximately 1½ hours drive we will stop for morning tea, which is included and comprises a cup of tea or coffee and a cookie.

After morning tea we will proceed to our luncheon venue, an internationally renowned country brewery and pub where we will have a BBQ lunch and a sample of their manufactured product. We will then proceed to our destination venue (secret location). After we unpack we hope to enjoy pre-dinner drinks and nibbles. Dinner on Friday evening is in an old bluestone winery (walking or staggering distance from our 4-star motel) where we will enjoy a three course a la carte dinner with a bottle of wine per couple.

Saturday morning, following a cooked or continental breakfast in our rooms, we will assemble at 10:00 am and board a coach, for a tour of local wineries including lunch at a boutique delicatessen operated by "The Pickled Sisters", where we will sample local foods and again, a bottle of wine per couple. After our tour we will return to our accommodation at approximately 4:30 pm. Pre-dinner drinks will be held by the pool (bring your bikinis or togs), dinner on Saturday evening will be a BBQ with salads and fruit salad and ice-cream and again, by the pool.

On Sunday after a sleep-in, we will walk to our brunch venue where we will enjoy a cooked or continental meal after which we will make our way back home for the recommencement of our diets! Our venue is such that you will not need to drive your car from the time of arrival until you wish to return home.

The cost for all this 2½ days of indulgence is \$600 per couple.

We are restricted to a limited number so early bookings are necessary. Full payment will be required by early September. To make your booking for this fabulous weekend of *Indulgence*, contact Peter or Rosalie McKiernan on 0407 876 023 or (03) 9787 6003.

Peter and Rosalie McKiernan.

HELPFUL GENTLEMEN, PLEASE STEP FORWARD

In our March issue of *Your ABCCC News* we welcomed Jane Attard into our club. Jane has a MG 'B', a restoration project that is nearly finished. Tasks such as fitting the hood, door latches and handles, front grille and other bright-work. Also requiring some experienced attention is the electrical system and engine tuning.

Jane's late father was helping with the restoration of the 'B', but now she needs a little help to finish it all off. Is there someone in our club, who is knowledgeable about the MG 'B' model and can point Jane in the right direction? Then, can they please contact her on (03) 9761 4683 (AH), (03) 9735 5644 (BH) or, E-mail to mjane@dodo.com.au

Any help and/or advice will be greatly appreciated by Jane. Besides it will be nice to see Jane and her finished MG at some of our events soon.

Tony Pettigrew.

THE 2009 RACV GREAT AUSTRALIAN RALLY

This year we had absolutely perfect weather for both the Rally and the Display. This being one of our major events, there were three start points and all were successful. The start, for the first time at Stud Park Shopping Centre, was convenient for a large number of entrants, and despite being a new location, all went very smoothly. This year, we took the Invictabus, using our Sunday Free Travel Pass. From Boronia to Stud Park, with the driver commenting, "That's a real car!" as a dark green sports car drove past us on its way to our start point. We soon



had a bite of breakfast and then it was time to get some pictures of the cars being flagged off. This was not at all easy, with the bright, rising sun being right behind the cars being flagged off. Once most had departed on their run, it was time to join Maxine and Tony our Chauffeurs for the drive to Mornington. We stopped at a Shell station for a feed of petrol for that hungry V8. With Tony wearing one of our RACV safety vests, the petrol sales cashier must have found it strange – a RACV Patrol in a gleaming Rolls Royce!

Left: A Morgan of the correct colour departs from Stud Park.

We arrived in Mornington in very good time, making grateful note that the infamous Bungower Road is now good bitumen along its entire length. Most convenient. As soon as we arrived we took up our allotted tasks and got on with the task of making sure the spectating public were parked in the right places and had their entry tickets, It was not until the prizes were being handed out, that I managed to

have a bit of a walk around and get some pictures of what was still on display. Don Kinsey's display of transport through the ages was most interesting. It was a pleasant surprise to see some historic racing cars included in the display, and even though it was a bit late in the day, there was significant interest in them. Thanks Don, it was a splendid display.

However, my usual late viewing of the display was a great deal better this time, as a souvenir metal plaque had been introduced. The plaque was only collectible from head office at a late time to keep vehicles on display longer. This year, the public entry was down a little. But by making some cost cutting measures, we still raised a large amount for the Peter Mac Cancer Institute. A sizeable cheque of similar value to last year will be presented to Peter Mac staff in a ceremony at the RACV City Club on 16th March. We will present \$30,000.00 to Peter Mac and \$13,000.00 to Clare Oliver Fund.

Prizes were awarded for the following categories:

Name	Year	Make of Vehicle	Award Category
Hugh & Rayna Guthrie	1916	Stutz Bearcat	Best Veteran
Graham Tiplady	1924	Vauxhall 30/98	Best Vintage
Tom & Lorraine Hickey	1934	Singer Le Mans	Best Early Classic
Patrick Devine	1956	Mercedes-Benz 300 SL	Best Classic Car
David McLennan	1981	Lamborghini Countach – S	Best Modern Classic
John Watson	1952	Ford Courier	Best Military or Commercial Vehicle
Denis Shepherd	1947	Harley Davidson	Best Motorcycle
Don Hailes	1958	Chevrolet Corvette	Best Muscle Car
Bill Dineen	1962	Cadillac	Dr Max Lay Trophy

There was a fantastic array of heritage vehicles, 680 in total, and the competition for the above awards must have been very close. Our judges were not to be envied. Our congratulations to all of the winners and thank you for taking part in the RACV Great Australian Rally. Our thanks also go to all the others who took part, it was a splendid display. Thanks are also due to the Rally marshals who put in so much enthusiasm that made the Rally the safe event that it was – thank you all.

Having worked in the public car parking area for the first time, it was interesting to observe how many heritage vehicles drove in and parked. Our display could well have been bigger.

Mike Allfrey.

A PLEA FROM YOUR EDITOR

This has been a rather traumatic month from the editorial aspect. The evil gremlins of the computer world managed to really get into *Your ABCCC News*. This was so serious that the document, as far as it had got, had to be printed and, from that a completely new document sifted out and re-typed, after the original had been deleted. This meant typing virtually a whole new newsletter, Mary's piece excepted, instead of simply saving the last issue as the coming issue and deleting material that is obsolete for the new month.

What happened was that some text was copied directly in from an E-mail message. At present it is not known which message actually caused the problem, which introduced "Tracking Changes" into the Issue 127 document. Usually (read – at all times) the 'Tracking Changes' facility on this computer is not used. This time the document became a sea of red, struck-through text that could not be reversed, accepted or deleted. Most time consuming and frustrating. An E-mail was sent to Microsoft asking how to get out of the situation and whether 'Tracking Changes' could be deleted from Word 2003. As is the norm these days, there was no response.

Thus, after all of that preamble, *please* do not send any text that has been anywhere near the 'Tracking Changes' facility. It is understood that the dreaded facility is much loved by many and that is probably where the problem lies. Fortunately, self-created text requires very little in the way of changing and is OK without any changes being tracked. Nice clean, unadulterated documents please!

Mike Allfrey – Editor.

New Zealand South Island Tour (Robert & Mary Nolan) – 1st to 20th Feb, 2009

After some discussions with friends, browsing thru brochures and internet, we worked out our touring route around New Zealand, based around 1 week in Wanaka, and of course car collections that we knew of. With 3 weeks in mind, we realized we could not visit the North Island, so that will be another trip in the future!

After squeezing the luggage into the Ferrari near Christchurch Airport (we heard the roads are that good), we excitedly started our holidays going south along the coast to Dunedin for 2 nights. The first car collection visit was the Vintage Car and Tractor Museum in Geraldine, just off the main highway. We couldn't work out why all the museum people came out to greet us! just joking, to tell the truth, we only had a Diahatsu Sirion, so we could get around inconspicuously. We spent a good 1.5 hours marveling at the massive collections (especially tractors) and talking to one of the local wealthy car owners.

Coming into Geraldine is The Tin Shed which has some lovely souvenirs of wool and possum fur (its surprising what possum fur can be made into! It can cover all parts of your body!) Pan fried Possum, sautéed in French butter, is also quite tasty !



Above: Another restoration project nestled beside a neat rusted building at The Tin Shed



Geraldine Vintage Car & Tractor Museum
 Above clockwise: Huge variety of tractors; Early Harley Davidson Coffin carrier; 1907 De Dion Bouton and 1937 Morris Eight

Whilst in Dunedin, we had to find the “World’s Steepest Street – Baldwin St”, which was quite steep. Our rental Daihatsu Sirion (OK – Don’t laugh!) roared to the top! We also came across (which we think was) the steepest driveway in Dundedin! Even though the house may have fantastic views of Dunedin, we don’t know how they use the driveway – very Dangerous! Larnach Castle, a privately owned house, open to the public, is a must see as the home is well restored and the gardens are beautifully laid out and the views from the top of the castle are fabulous. Note: **A lot of things in NZ are “Massive”. Mountains, lakes, even speeding fines. (No we didn’t get any!)**



Next was a scenic drive (they’re all scenic) along the coast of the Otago Peninsula towards Portobello. A worthwhile ½ day trip is going on the old restored Taieri Gorge Railway train inland towards Queenstown, crossing many historic bridges and tunnels. The Dunedin Railway station itself is a marvelous, pristine bluestone building.

Right: Taieri Gorge Railway Station; Baldwin St, Dunedin. Steepest Street in the world.



Te Anau is a pretty town by the massive Te Anau lake. Here we took a day tour of the massive Milford Sound in the Fjords. The Seals and Dolphins gave us some entertainment along side the boat. Ivan Wilson Gardens is a beautifully preserved garden with a variety of trees with Lake Henry to stroll around and take in the scenery.

Do you want to know where the Morris Minors go to retire? They retire to Manapouri Motels & Holiday Park! Manapouri has an amazing Hydro Power Station on the massive Doubtful Sound Fjords.



Left: Morris Minor Rest Area. Other retirees included Hillman Hunter, Imp, & Morris 1100.

A worthwhile visit is to the massive underground power station where a bus takes you down a 2km winding road tunnel.

Queenstown is a lovely touristy harbour town where we boarded the TSS Earnslaw for an hour sail on the 100 year old Steam driven ship to Walter Peak High Country Farm for a sumptuous buffet lunch and tour of the farm. We thought we found Ray Higginsons' half brother! An almost spitting image of Ray's charm and character! This guy manages the farm almost single handedly, sheep & wife included ☺.

In Wanaka, there is a wonderfully presented Warbirds Museum at Wanaka Airport. Every two years around Easter, there is the "Warbirds over Wanaka" event which runs for 3 days. The next event due is April 2010. Next door is the Transport & Toy Museum (owned by Millionaire Gerald Rhodes) where we spent 2 ½ hours ogling at the amount of vehicles (cars, bikes, fire engines, road maintenance vehicles, planes, wheel chairs, etc) and memorabilia (toys like dolls, Barbie dolls, cars, trains, Star Wars, McDonalds toys – Smurfs.....) of this massive collection spread over several massive Aircraft hangars. Quite an impressive, massive and definitely a must see visit. Had a friendly good chat with the curator, Jason Rhodes. Of course, we had to add to our model collection and brought a 1952 Citroen 15CV 6 Cyl and a 1939 Lincoln Zephyr from the museum.

Right: A fraction of the fabulous collection in the Wanaka Transport & Toy Museum.



Above: Yes !.. they even have a "Swinchatt" Nash Metropolitan

Below: During the week, there was a Rolls Royce tour around NZ. Here are some parked at Edgewater Resort where we stayed in Wanaka. Glorious 1930's Rollers looked so majestic.



Wanaka is a beautiful, relaxing resort town beside the massive Lake Wanaka, with spectacular views everywhere you look. It's busy all year around & close to 3 major Ski resorts for winter. Plenty of walking tracks, fine restaurants and attractions in and nearby. Close-by are the towns of Cromwell with its replica of its old town (before the river was dammed) now used as art galleries, and Arrowtown (near Queenstown) is set in a lovely green valley which previously was a bustling gold mining area. It is now a touristy town full of small shops, restaurants and a replica of the 1870's Chinese Village. The museum in Arrowtown is another must see, well setup and educational.

Along the scenic road to Fox Glacier, we could view the top part of the massive Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea. Haast is a unique small town and seems to be a popular spot for fishing, motorists, campervans and touring motorbikers come from as far away as UK to experience the wonderful scenic roads. Below, is a bit of trivia for you about the Nolan family in the Haast area (small fish but big business in those days):

From water, forest and mountains

Before the Nolan family established their canning factory at Okuru in 1928 there was no way of getting the whitebait from this isolated part of the country to market without it spoiling.

The Nolans' factory reputedly became the largest whitebait cannery in the country. The best year of production at the Okuru factory was 1944 when around 60 tons of whitebait was canned there. In that year there was so much whitebait it was dumped by the dray load.

The Nolan's also established a sawmill at Okuru about 1947, which was rebuilt in 1961, taken over in 1964 and closed in 1968. In 1962 Carters Mill was also established near Okuru. Destroyed by fire in 1969 but rebuilt on the same site, this mill operated until 1978.

Deer hunting has been another important industry in the development of the Haast region. Government culling of deer began in 1930. The late 1950s saw the beginnings of a short-lived commercial meat-hunting era, which became a multi-million dollar export industry in the 1960s and early 1970s, and was replaced by live capture for deer farming in the late 1970s.



We walked upon the massive blue ice at Fox Glacier for ½ a day. A few steep bits & plenty of steps going up through the rain forest (kept the heart rate going) before we got onto the ice. With the horrific bush fires from Victoria, most of the smoke and ashes flew all the way to New Zealand and deposited onto the glacier! That is the fallout from burnt Victoria that you see on the ice!

The longest drive of this trip was from Fox Glacier to Hanmer Springs. Passing through gold mining towns of Ross, Reefton (1st town that had electricity on the South Island) & the coal mining town of Brunner where we had a quick look around.

Just after Greymouth, we drove past a retired Garage proudly showing off their collection of retired cars?????





Left: Another club tour around NZ, this time early Jaguars.
This sporting XK presented very well outside the bohemian Paradiso picture theatre .in Wanaka

Below:
Talking about Jaguars, they are that common in NZ that they even use them as great driveway pillars!
These cars were totally complete and intact, just rusting away underneath!
I suppose some New Zealanders do this because they can!



We spent a couple of nights at Hanmer Springs, soaking up the mineral sulphur spas and more trekking (tramping they call it!). We replenished (stuffed) ourselves in a local pub with a serve of massive "Flinstone Pork Ribs" and Salmon steak. Great value & plentiful.

On the way back to Christchurch, we meandered somewhere between Hawarden and Waikari, following a Yellow sign that said "Dutch Golf", as it got our curiosity. It eventually led us down a dirt track road to a B&B "The Dutch Station" and its "golf" course. We found out that it's a mixture of normal golf and croquet and originated from Netherlands, of course! The golf course has 10-16 holes, varying from 50 to 250 metres in length. The golf club has a wooden clog attached to it and the ball is just as big. This is their website

<http://www.thedutchstation.co.nz/dutch-golf.php> . An ABCCC midweek event perhaps ???

Near Amberley, we came across a lovely lady who owns this beautiful Trike and is taking it to the US to tour around Sturges (largest motorbike rally in the world) later this year. She had it converted to a Trike after her husband passed away. With her hip replacements, she couldn't get her leg over anymore. (I think we know a few blokes with that problem)



Something different near Christchurch is a place called Marshland Arts & Crafts Hitching Post, where you can get a silhouette of your favourite car, dog, anything, done in metal.



Another must visit in Christchurch is Fazazz, the motorist shop of classic cars, in the town centre. www.fazazz.co.nz . If you are looking for a particular book, art work or memorabilia, I'm sure Fazazz will stock it! While we were there, they had an immaculate white Scimitar for sale (we had to tell Frank Sawyer) Jags, Rollers, Bentleys, Ferrari's, a splendid Allard, and a lovely steam boat, as well as other vehicles on display. Another place to note is Watsons Auctions www.watsonsauctions.com where on 19th April, they will auction collectors cars, motorcycles and memorabilia. Seems that motorcycles fetch very good prices over in NZ.



Above: Fazazz cars on their showroom floor. Below: "Janice" the steam boat.



Our last car collection venue on our trip was at Yaldhurst Museum, near Christchurch airport. He has a wonderful collection of automobiles, fire engine trucks, printing machines and horse drawn carriages. The owner has plenty of projects on the go, restoring his collections in the massive shed on his family property.
www.yaldhurstmuseum.co.nz



Above & Right: Yaldhurst Museum

Overall, we had a great time. New Zealand is a fantastic place to visit. We have about 400 digital pictures taken of our trip. Our future visit to New Zealand will have to include north part of South Island (there is a Car Museum at Nelson) & the North Island itself. Wish we had some of their incredible "Car Club" scenic lake drives in Victoria. Next trip we will hire this '57 Maserati "replica one off". It is available to hire in Hokitika.



Anyone care to join us on our next "Massive" trip?

Robert & Mary Nolan.

HUMOROUS TAILPIECE



A caption in good humour: Lyn is emphatically telling Ray how to behave during the imminent Annual General Meeting, but Ray's total attention is on that delicious dessert and he does not need such advice, next, Tony is also showing a degree of concentration on his dessert, but is really wondering why that beer disappeared so quickly, Heather is giving Pat all the latest gen on keeping white-walls whiter than white, and meanwhile, Craig is waiting patiently to get just one word in!