

Issue 298

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April 2025



All British
Classics Car Club Inc

Your ABCCC Newsletter

Front Cover

Lance Brazier with his 1968 Aston Martin DBS at Kuranga Nursery carpark flying the ABCCC Flag or banner in this case.

Lance has owned the car for 25 Years and as a note of interest a DBS was used on the Bond movie "On His Majesties Secret Service".

It is the last of the 6-cylinder cars and it has a 6 speed gearbox with triple webers and generates 325hp.

Editor's Note

Lance Brazier has done a good job promoting the ABCCC at the Kuranga Nursery with the banner and his classic car in full view.

Mike Alfrey has provided an update on his ongoing saga with his mobility scooter.

Tex Conway has provided some info regarding using mobile phones in old cars, but I ran out of space. So that will be in next month.

I didn't receive any story regarding the Hastings Run but I've placed two photos with a follow up in future.

David Cook

Inside this Issue:

- Editor's Note
- AGM minutes
- Club Information
- **Events Directory new calendar for 2025**
- More information on some of the upcoming 2025 events:
- Federation Minutes
- Sharing other bits of interest: Mike Alfrey's mobility scooter Story Part 2

President's Report

Refer to AGM minutes of 16th March provided below for Tony's Presidents Report for this month.

See photo below for the main men at work during the AGM.



Photo by Peter Hibbert

What We Have Been Doing

Coffee with the Braziers at Paperbark Café, Kuranga Nursery on 12 March 2025

By Jack and Shirley Craven

Attendees: Lance and Adele Brazier, John and Jenny Mason, Peter and Darrel Jones, Peter and Sandy Hibbert, Christopher and Geraldine Constantine, Peter Flavelle, Deborah Beale, Gary Dickinson, Greg and Lily Margetts, Bryan and Anne Tootell, Jack and Shirley Craven, Colin Oberin, Greg and Geraldine Anglin, Phil Cook



Photos courtesy of Shirley Craven

The start time was from 10 am and Lance was getting things organised for parking and the ABCCC banner was well in view. If you did not have your older chariot you had to seek another spot under the trees. Lance did not use a whistle just pointed to another spot in the pleasant parking area.

One of the staff was driving a small tractor moving plants and was quite keen to let us know to be careful seeing he was chuffing past some of us. He was a good bloke with some hand waves and a smile. Who does not like a small tractor? That really told us we were not in the main street of suburbia.

The coffee was very pleasant with enough tables for all of us and a good choice of cakes. Some of the ABCCC bods were moving from table to table and it was hard to talk to everyone.

Thanks Lance and Adele it was well worth a return to Kuranga again.

Annual General Meeting on 16 March 2025

The members of the All British Classics Car Club (VIC) Inc. gathered on Sunday, 16 March 2025 in the Crown Hotel, Lilydale. A great gathering; thanks to those volunteering for the Executive and Committee. The draft minutes are at the end of this newsletter.



CLUB INFORMATION

Visit the club's Website for information about how club matters are conducted. This Website also features information about how the Victorian Club Permit Scheme (VCPS) is operated by the All British Classics Car Club Vic Inc.

Our club does have one explicit rule – for those motor cars operating on the Victorian Club Permit Scheme (VCPS), using the auspices of the All British Classics Car Club Vic Inc., for the ongoing benefit of the VCPS, their owners must continue to be a financial member for the duration of the permit period, and attend a minimum of three club events during the permit's active year. Failure to respect this rule will result in the VCPS renewal being insupportable and void.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Executive Committee	Name	Telephone	E-mail Address
President	Tony Pettigrew	(03) 9739 1146	president@abccc.com.au
Vice President	Colin Brown	(03) 5964 9291	colin.brown@hotmail.net.au
Treasurer (Acting)	Phil Cook		treasurer@abccc.com.au
Secretary	Peter Flavelle	(03) 9870 4450	secretary@abccc.com.au
Committee Positions			
Committee Member	Pat Douglas	0425 712 973	
Committee Member	Greg Anglin	(03) 9876 3293	
Committee Member	Rex Hall	(03) 9795 7669	rex@abccc.com.au
Committee Member	Walter Thompson	0408 507 890	wally@abccc.com.au
Membership Secretary	Ed Bartosh	(03) 9739 1879	membership@abccc.com.au
AOMC Delegate	Mike Allfrey	(03) 9729 1480	michael.allfrey@bigpond.com
FVV & CCC Delegate	Garry & Glenda Prewett	0418 345 499	
VCPS Officer (Applications)	Walter Thompson	0408 507 890	wally@abccc.com.au
VCPS Officer (Renewals)	Colin Brown	(03) 5964 9291	colin.brown@hotmail.net.au
Web Master	Ed Bartosh	0438 508 235	webmaster@abccc.com.au
VCPS Attendance Records	Walter Thompson	0408 507 890	wally@abccc.com.au
Club Regalia Manager	Maxine Pettigrew	(03) 9739 1146	
Newsletter Editor	David Cook	0447 563 859	editor@abccc.com.au
Editor's Assistant	Rick Lloyd	0417384845	
Associations Incorporation Registered Number: A0035462V			
The All British Classics Car Club Vic Inc. Website http://www.abccc.com.au			
The Association of Motoring Clubs Website http://www.aomc.asn.au/			
The Federation of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Car Clubs Website http://www.federation.asn.au/			

CONTACTING THE ABCCC VIC INC.

On The Web <http://www.abccc.com.au>

On Facebook www.facebook.com/AllBritishClassicsCarClub

Postal Address PO Box 190, Coldstream, Victoria, 3770



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual membership subscription for the All British Classics Car Club Vic Inc. is \$45.00 per annum. This subscription fee also includes the club member's partner. In addition to that, there is a once-only \$30.00 Joining Fee. Please address membership enquiries to: Membership Secretary PO Box 190 Coldstream Victoria, 3770. Telephone Number 03 9739 1879.

LIFE MEMBERS

The All British Classics Car Club Vic Inc was founded by the late Frank E Douglas on 19th September 1997. The Club is proud to grant Life Membership to those who provide exceptional service to our club.

Current Life Members are: Pat J Douglas, Mike Allfrey, Tony & Maxine Pettigrew

CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

ABCCC is a VicRoads authorised Club to participate in the VicRoads Club Permit Scheme (CPS)

The ABCCC has set rules & conditions for operating a motor vehicle [twenty-five (25) years old and older on the CPS, for further information about how the CPS is conducted by the All British Classics Car Club please visit the club's Website Link [ABCCC Club Permit Scheme information](#) All the information is available online.

1. **Initial contact** should be made with the club's Vehicle Logbook Club Permit Scheme (VLCPS) Applications Officer, currently Wally Thompson. He will advise the procedure for application with respect to the conditions set by the ABCCC. He must also provide a first inspection of the vehicle.
2. **PERMIT RENEWALS** VicRoads requires that an ABCCC authorised VLCPS Officer's signature is entered on the permit renewal notice. Therefore, your VLCPS renewal should be sent to Colin Brown, PO Box 40, Coldstream, Victoria 3770. Enclose with it a stamped envelope addressed to VicRoads, along with a cheque/money order for the VLCPS fee. Colin will sign on behalf of the ABCCC and then forward the permit renewal on to VicRoads. The form also requires YOUR signature, so be sure to sign it as the permit holder as well.

Both Wally & Colin's position are entirely voluntary, so due consideration should be given when contacting them.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Payment of ABCCC Annual Fees of \$45.00 are due by 1st January each year.

Please post or transfer money to: All British Classics Car Club, Membership Secretary PO Box 190 Coldstream Victoria, 3770. Tel 0438 508 235

Bank details: BSB 063 863, A/c No.1001 3709, please provide your surname as a and "dues" as reference.

Please note that, should you be unfinancial and driving a classic car under the auspices of our club on the Victorian Club Permit Scheme, you are effectively driving an unregistered motor vehicle.

Renewal Form can be downloaded from the ABCCC Website if required to update information.

Thank you, Ed Bartosh

PS: Please note that if you are one of the 17 members who have not paid for 2025, this will probably be your last emailed newsletter.

Website: www.abccc.com.au/calendar

Facebook - don't forget to like ABCCC on facebook



NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome to the well-oiled machine that is the All British Classics Car Club. We hope to be able to welcome you and in actual fact your British Classic motor cars 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!



Name	Year	Car	Model
David and Sharyn Wemyss-Smith	1962	Jaguar	Mark II
	1980	Morgan	4-4
Theo Hendricks	1929	Buick	44X Roadster
	1976	Mercedes	Sedan
	1993	Ford Falcon	Fairmont

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the All British Classics Car Club Inc Vic or its officers. Whilst all care has been taken neither the club nor its officers accept responsibility for the accuracy of information printed and or the quality of any items or services advertised or mentioned in this publication. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions submitted for publication



Hastings Run photos courtesy of Ian Terry

ABCCC EVENTS DIRECTORY

Note: This ABCCC Events Directory lists only those events organised by the ABCCC. Only those events scheduled in this Directory qualify for Victorian Club Permit Scheme requirements. All events are also listed on the club website.

ABCCC Calendar of Events for 2025					
If you are attending any of these events please contact the Organiser, as numbers are often required Further details will be provided closer to the event					
April 2025		May 2025		June 2025	
3 rd to 6 th Apr	The Lakes Tour Tony & Maxine Pettigrew (Wait List)	3 rd May	Big Band Concert John Provis & Dawn Shoppee	6 th to 9 th June	Kings Birthday Hamilton Rally ABCCC Contact only Tony Pettigrew
12 th Apr	Out for Lunch with the Tootells Anne Tootell	12 to 15 th May	Relax on the Mighty Murray at Moama Garry & Glenda Prewett	18 th June	A run to Flinders Peter McKiernan
		18 th May	National Motoring Heritage Rex's Big Day Out Rex Hall	29 th June	Jervis-Read Run Robyn Jervis-Read
July 2025		August 2025		September 2025	
6 th July	ABCCC Annual Club Luncheon Colin Brown	3 rd to 9 th Aug	Federation Open Tour Contact Michelle Goddard Mob 0409 185 906	17 th Sept	Gippsland Run Graham Talmage
13 th to 19 th	Interclub run QLD & VIC (fully booked) (Leigh & Lance)	20 th Aug	Pub Run Greg & Geraldine Anglin	19 th to 22 nd Sept	Sandra's September Tocumwal Air Show
20 th July	The Westburn Lunch Bryan Tootell				
October 2025		November 2025		December 2025	
12 th Oct	Tops Down Phil Cook	14 th to 16 th Nov	The Justly Famous Indulgence Tour Peter McKiernan	14 th Dec	Christmas Lunch Maxine Pettigrew
22 nd Oct	Picnic in the Park Greg & Geraldine Anglin	26 th Nov	Coffee with the Braziers Lance & Adele Brazier		
26 th Oct	Terrys Tour Ian & Lyn Terry				

Look at what events are coming up soon?

ABCCC Events

Thursday 3rd to 6th April 2025 – The Lakes Tour

We will meet at Glengarry for lunch before driving to Lakes Entrance. That night will be a sausage sizzle at the Motel. Next day will be a cruise on the Lakes, may include lunch or morning/afternoon tea. Dinner that night possibly RSL. Next day could be a group visit to Nyerimilang Homestead for a tour and picnic in the park with dinner that night somewhere in Lakes. Sunday morning is the Lakes Foreshore Market before driving home.

Fully booked – Wait list started



Saturday 12th April 2025 – Out to Lunch with the Tootells

We will meet for coffee at Club Ringwood (corner Maroondah Highway and Oban Rd.) and later drive to our lunch venue, Upper Yarra RSL (119 Settlement Rd, Yarra Junction).

If you wish to attend, please respond by 7 April to enable catering to be finalised.

Contact Anne Tootell (0412 549 906)



Upper Yarra RSL

Saturday 3rd May – Big Band Concert

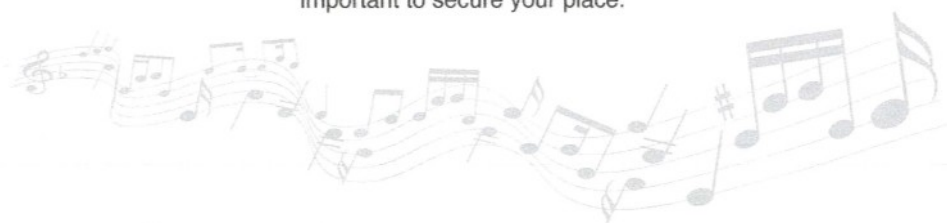


URGENT!
**DO YOU WANT TO COME AND
NOT ALREADY BOOKED?**
SEATS ARE LIMITED SO ACT NOW!
RING JOHN 0418 564 082 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

DAWN & JOHN'S BIG BAND CONCERT

The compliments following our last concert were overwhelming so we decided to organise one more time.

- WHEN:** Saturday 3rd May, 2025
- WHERE:** Emerald Hotel
415 Clarendon St, South Melbourne
- TIME:** Lunch at noon
Band From 1:30 to 5pm
- PROCEDURE:** On arrival, order your drinks at the bar and be seated.
Waitress will take your meal order & collect payment.
- The band will have two breaks so you can move around and chat.
- RSVP:** John on 0418 564 082
- Last year we had a full house, so an early registration is important to secure your place.



Monday 12th to 15th May 2025

Relax & roam on the Mighty Murray Moama

Contact Garry & Glenda Prewett.

Staying right on the riverfront of the Murray at Cadells on the Murray. This will be a peaceful getaway where you can wake up to a view of the Might Murray (it's definitely the best view). We are planning to meet up at Heathcote for lunch! Two things you need to do to join this event:

1. You need to book your room. Please contact Michelle at Cadell on the Murray to secure your room,
Tel: 5482 4500 or 1300 036 035.
2. Once accommodation is booked, please let Glenda know that you are attending on mobile 0418 345 499 or email ggkj@iinet.net.au



Sunday 13th to 19th July ABCCC Inter Club Gathering



QLD & VIC ABCCC clubs are looking to gather around Orange NSW

Lance has advised that this tour is now fully booked with 15 vehicles from Victoria (30 people) and 15 vehicles from Queensland attending.

Victoria ABCCC Contacts are Leigh Wishart 0403 243 700 & Lance Brazier 0403 032 158

Sandra's September Run – 19th to 22nd 2025

This year we are off to Tocumwal for the Air Show, and we only have 17 rooms available. Starting point will be McDonalds on the Hume Highway, Wallan @ 9.45 am for 10.30 am departure.

We will be going through some lovely little towns following the Art Silo Trail and we will be stopping for lunch at Goorambat Railway Hotel where a booking has been made for 12.30 pm.

It's shaping up to be a pretty full weekend with more information to come.

George and Lorraine are working on a couple of interesting things to do on the Saturday and of course the Tocumwal Air Show on the Sunday.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Regards, Leigh Wishart



Events of interest: Calendar dates from Federation and AOMC, All the details of these events are published on AOMC or Federation websites



2025

- 28th to 30th March 2025 AOMC - Florence Thomson Tour – Ladies get ready!
 - 29th & 30th March 2025 Federation – Wunghnu Picnic
 - 30th March 2025 Federation – Mortlake Picnic
 - 27th April 2025 Federation - Scoresby Picnic
 - 17th May 2025 Federation – Delegates Meeting – (Swan Hill)
 - 18th May 2025 National Motoring Heritage Day – Murrabit Picnic
 - 2nd August 2024 Federation – Delegates Meeting – (Woorineen)
 - 3rd to 9th August 2025 Federation - Open Tour **
 - 31st August 2025 Federation - Marong Picnic
 - 18th October 2025 Federation – Delegates Meeting – (Llanelly)
 - 2026 August/September 2026 Golden Oldies Tour <https://www.aomc.asn.au/events>
- ** Open Tour Entry form available from [Federation website](#) 3rd to 9th August 2025



ABCCC members at Kuranga Nursery

Federation Meeting Minutes Date: 8 February 2025

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Location: Rowsley Hosted by Morris Car Club

1. Welcome and Introductions

- **President Neil Athorn** and Hosting club President **Tim Christie** welcomed attendees.
- **Rowley CFA** displayed their new fire truck and members' cars.
- **Pamela Lord (née Manly)** gave a brief history of her family and the area dating back to mid 1800s, including her association with the CFA since 1950s and local schools. She mentioned a family reunion in 1976 with 1000 family members attending, 600 who live in the region.

2. Grant Applications

- **Wangaratta Computer:** Approved.
- **Trophy for Mildura Easter Rally (25th rally):** Approved.

3. New Club Approvals

- **Goldfields Car Club (Bakery Hill):** Rejoining.
- **Auto Vehicle Collectable Club (Birchip):** Approved.

4. Federation news

Federation of Veteran, Vintage & Classic Vehicle Clubs turns 55. New banners for picnic days will be displayed over the next 12 months.

5. Upcoming Events

- **Mortlake:** 30 March (John Kennett).
- **Wyunhnu:** 30 March, celebrating 150 years since settlement (Lloyd Healey).
- **Scoresby:** 27 April at Steampark.
- **Murrabit:** 18 May, Motor Heritage Day (John Goddard).
- **Marong:** 31 August, celebrating 80 years of tractors to be on display.
- **Baw Baw:** 26 October 2025.

6. Fundraising for PMCC

- Tins for collection are available now. Bring them back during the year.
- 23 March at Bendigo Showgrounds Historic Machinery and Vehicle display for Peter Mac Fundraising, planned display. Request Clubs advertise this, great support to Peter Mac

7. Bendigo Swap

- Happy with the last Swap meeting, there was some discussions on sites, food vans & some improvements for 2025.
- Federation has secured booking with the Showgrounds until 2031. Clubs to promote this to all members to squash any rumours that the swap will not be going ahead as that's not true.
- Show n Shine not happening due to construction at the showgrounds. Federation working on how this affects the event. However, don't see any major issues.
- Interesting cars will be on display at next event.

AHMF Report

- AHMF is trying to get the luxury tax abolished on vehicles 25 years old.
- Clubs encouraged to send articles for the AHMF newsletter these should be forwarded to Christine Stephens.
- Last survey done with the Canberra University the results will be available shortly.

Other business

Veteran Centenary Rally Across Australia in 2026

- Centenary rally from Perth to Melbourne and Sydney is planned for November 2026, ending in Melbourne.

Club Permit Scheme

- Discussion on renewals & CPS plates, emphasizing the importance of knowing the person/car that's on your clubs permit scheme.
- If the vehicle has Modifications, like engines, the car can be swapped from H to M easily.
- Permit cars are not allowed to park on nature strips, that's not a new rule or just related to CPS vehicles. Federation has been advised from members that some Councils are booking all cars. Noting that CPS club vehicles are considered unregistered. Shuffling is permitted, understand the log books rules to avoid getting booked.

Federation Rally

- Scheduled for 3rd to 9th August 2025 Open to all vehicles
- Recent fires necessitate support for Horsham. A planned visit to a collection in Palomino area. The rally leaves from Kerang.

New Law on Vehicle Efficiency Standards (NVES)

- New law introduced on 1 January 2025, with compliance requirements starting on 1 July 2025. The NVES is not a tax but an incentive to lower carbon emissions. This will potentially impact the Classic car movement.

Planning Permits

- Reported that Councils are becoming stricter with planning permits for properties used to store more than 200 vehicles and shipping containers.

National Heritage Day

- Reminder: 18th May is National Heritage Day. If your club is running an event, send details to the Federation.

Today's Display of Cars – Committee choice

- Humber was Committee choice. Owner advised that Humber Car Club is celebrating 40 years. The car is equipped with modern conveniences and has been driven to Perth and back. Next trip is planned to Cape York. The owner loves this vehicle.
Photos of some of the vehicles on display & Black Humber – Federation Committee choice.
Report provided by Garry & Glenda Prewett – ABCCC Federation delegates

ALL BRITISH CLASSICS CAR CLUB Vic Inc.

MINUTES - 28th Annual General Meeting

Held at Crown Hotel, Lilydale - 16 March 2025

CALL TO ORDER 2:05pm

PRESENT as per attendance book

APOLOGIES

John Provis, Rex & Deanna Hall, Ed Bartosh & Betty Taylor, Lance & Adele Brazier,
Geoff & Judy Birkett, Robert & Robyn Joiner, John & Jenny Mason, Mike Allfrey and Sue Allfrey.

MINUTES OF THE 27th AGM – 24 MARCH 2024

Matters arising - nil.

Moved: Glenda Prewitt

Seconded: Ian Hodge

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tony spoke about the 2024 club activities, another great year of events - including car runs and coffee/in the park activities. He thanked event organizers for their efforts in the planning of all club activities.

Tony thanked the committee for their support during 2024 with special thanks to Ed Bartosh and Glenda Prewitt for their respective activities, and those members who planned and organized the various car events during 2024.

The Hamilton Rally 2024 was a little disappointing with feedback from the rally committee on improvements for 2025.

Tony mentioned the 2025 Hamilton Rally and rooms have been booked – members attending the rally should contact Tony/Maxine for further details.

During 2024 Bill Allen, Tony Hodges, David Bullard, & Anne Jervis-Read passed on, they will be sadly missed.

As Ed Bartosh was an apology at the AGM - there will be no membership report at the moment. Membership is stable with a few new members, but we have 18 unfinancial members.

A few activities have been subsidized – 2025 AGM plus other club activities and club organizing expenses. Financially the club is in a very good position.

Tony thanked Phil Cook for stepping into the Acting Treasurer's role following Bill's death, and also a great thanks to David Cook for taking on the Newsletter Editor's role.

Tony spoke about Bill Allen's past work as Treasurer and the *tidy up* work he and Maxine undertook with the financial records.

Tony also thanked Maxine for her hard work in managing club events and club merchandise, and the committee members for their committee activities during 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Acting Treasurer Phil Cook presented the finance report and informed members of the bank account balance. A copy of the report will be on the ABCCC website (in the *Members' Area*, password protection).

Tony *moved* that the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Seconded: Leon Cousins.

Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

All committee positions were declared vacant. Other than the Treasurer position there were no nominations for the vacant positions from the floor the former committee has agreed to continue in their respective positions.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President – Tony Pettigrew

Vice President – Colin Brown

Treasurer – Phil Cook (previously *acting Treasurer* for a short period following Bill's passing)

Secretary – Peter Flavelle

COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Committee Members – Rex Hall, Greg Anglin, Pat Douglas, and Wally Thompson.

Webmaster & Membership Secretary appointed by committee – Ed Bartosh

Newsletter Editor appointed by committee – David Cook

Club Regalia Manager appointed by Committee – Maxine Pettigrew

CPS Officer (Applications) appointed by Committee – Wally Thompson

CPS Officer (Renewals) appointed by Committee – Colin Brown

GENERAL BUSINESS

David Cook requested brief details on car runs from members who email pictures for the newsletter. David would prefer *portrait style photos*.

Jack Craven asked how will the club will apply its funds to which Tony replied that about 25 responses were received from the membership. The majority of responses were to apply the funds on member activities. As an example, the club has funded today's AGM expenses.

Terry Conway offered his advice on a practice for members' planning events to consider using *Google Route* to enable drivers on a car run to use their mobile phone showing the *Google Route* (a similar process to using your GPS). This practice may make it easier for a single driver (with no passenger), by not having to look at the run sheet. Members' planning the run would email the *Google Route* (file) to members on the car run. Greg Anglin proposed that Life Membership be awarded to Colin Brown.

Moved: Greg Anglin

Seconded: AGM attendees.

Carried.

Tony advised members that Bryan and Anne Tootell have planned the next club run.

Also, other events: Scoresby Picnic, a Federation Event 27 April 2025.

Club members Peter and Joanne Schneider from the USA will be attending the Lakes Entrance ABCCC event.

CLOSE OF MEETING 2:45pm.

MOBILITY SCOOTER CONCERNS RESOLVED

As stated previously, the kilometre count on the red loaner continued to mount. I had given up writing to the scooter seller, but Sue continued making telephone calls. Most of those calls ended with 'Leave a Message and someone will get back to you'. No one did and eventually I composed another letter to Consumer Affairs Department (Victoria), firmly requesting action. During one telephone call to the seller, contact was actually made. We requested a refund of the full purchase price.

The response was that a request for refund can only be made within 30 days of initial purchase. The fact that the scooter did not operate as written specifications indicated from day one, apparently did not count – the modern way of handling customer concerns!

Then, at the end of February, we received a telephone call advising that my scooter had been repaired and would be delivered that afternoon. It was also explained that the delay in obtaining the replacement motor/transmission was due to a more than month hold up by our Customs folk.

The scooter was delivered and a test drive around the block quickly revealed an amazing improvement – the drive take-up was much smoother; braking was also improved and coming to a halt in reverse no longer concluded with a loud bang. It was a true version of '*chalk and cheese*'.

One point, at the time of a purchase decision, a two or three kilometres test run should be undertaken, not just a lap of the seller's forecourt. For me, it was impossible to know all the characteristics of an electric mobility scooter's operation. Having a new scooter delivered in a condition that did not match specifications was hard to take. Even worse was that it took four months to convince the seller that there was a serious problem. The scooter is due for a service in August – how long will that take?

It is understood that, here in Victoria, there is a mobility scooter speed limit at 9 to 10 kph on roadside footpaths; on bike tracks and private ways it is 14 to 15 kph. That has not been seen written anywhere yet. Yesterday (19/3) I was negotiating Station Street, Bayswater working my way through a bunch of pavement coffee drinkers sitting around tables and a few pedestrians, when I was shouted at from behind by an old impatient sort to, "get a move on!" I pulled over and let him pass to quickly disappear into the distance – I had been scootering at 9 kph, which seemed more than fast enough. Now I had better look out for speed cameras along our footpaths!

A couple of points, mobility scooters require extreme caution at pedestrian crossings and at Stop signs, Boronia traffic is generally less patient than that in Bayswater. In addition, the footpaths in Boronia are much rougher than those in Bayswater.

All I need now is a couple of GT stripes and the 'motoring experience' will be partly replenished. Also, a pair of 80 amp/hr batteries to replace the 55 amp/hr originals, should help with the scooters range capability.

Advice – prior to purchasing a mobility scooter, take one for a lengthy drive.

Mike Allfrey.