

RIVERINA SPORTS CAR



ASSOCIATION INC.

OPEN TOPICS



The Summer Edition No. 257
January-February
2026





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**Deadline for the next
issue:**

26th February 2026



Photography By:

Peter Dunham, Alan Brink, Lesley Lashbrook, Kim McConchie, Adrian Meredith, Wayne Tonkin and no doubt a couple I've missed!

Edition No. 257, and another year begins! There's a lot to go through as we plan what can be achieved before its Christmas again - car projects to finish, other ones to start; drives to far off places and drives that, by comparison, are just around the block but just as entertaining. We all will have family events, happy or sad as they may be, which is the way of the world and we will rejoice or remember as suits the occasions. Stay safe over summer, events will planned with an eye on conditions to minimize risks.





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LIFE MEMBERS

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† Roy Hartles, † David Fraser, † Ross Jones

Warwick Jones Peter Cooper

Gordon Nicholls Lesley Frede Bryan Liersch

Malcolm McEachern OAM

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**Contacts for Victorian registration renewals and permits
are -**

Gordon Nicholls

Bryan Liersch

NOTE: Club plate holders are required to fill in log books for every journey before you leave home.

In Memorium: sadly we have had two members lost to us recently. John Edmonds passed earlier this year, our condolences to his wife Marysia. They joined the RSCA in 2013; John drove a 1979 Kingswood SL.

Ray Jones passed away shortly after his 90th birthday, early in December - our condolences to Tina and all the family . A tribute to Ray by Malcom McEachern is included in this edition.





Coming Events

JANUARY

NOTE: NO GENERAL MEETING

- Wednesday 14th. MID WEEK RUN, possibly Bonegilla Migrant village & Bethanga Pub.
- Sunday 18th. CARS & COFFEE 10.00am Ripe Tomato, Borella Rd., Albury, and/ or go to the Twin City Show 'n Shine—see page 18

FEBRUARY

- Monday 9th. GENERAL MEETING. 7.45pm Commercial Club Albury.
- Wednesday 11th. MID WEEK RUN. Details to follow.
- Sunday 15th. British & European Motoring show **Yarra Glen Racecourse**. 9:00 am 3:09 pm
Own arrangements
- Sunday 15th. CARS & COFFEE 10.00am Ripe Tomato, Borella Rd., Albury
- Friday 27th-March 1st **Chryslers On The Murray** - see Page 18 own arrangements

MARCH

- Monday 9th. GENERAL MEETING. 7.45pm Commercial Club Albury.
- Wednesday 11th. MID WEEK RUN. Details to follow.
- Saturday 14th. Temora Museum (run all the Museum machinery day)
- Sunday 15nd. CARS & COFFEE 10.00am Ripe Tomato, Borella Rd., Albury

APRIL

- Sunday 12th. Chiltern Cancer Cruise, 9am-2pm. See Page 20
- Monday 13th. GENERAL MEETING. 7.45pm Commercial Club Albury.
- Wednesday 15th. MID WEEK RUN. Details to follow.
- Sunday 19nd. CARS & COFFEE 10.00am Ripe Tomato, Borella Rd., Albury

More on Coming Events on Page 18



Please remember to wear your name badge to all club events. It is also important for current members to make yourself known to our newer members.





The Prez sez.....

By the time you read this Father Christmas has been and gone, and a new year awaits us all. I hope he was good to you all, whether you were naughty or nice!

The new year will hopefully bring lots of fun and comradery with the many motoring events as we progress though the year. I look forward to seeing what the Drive Team committee have instore for us, I'm sure it will be to their usual high standard of organisation.

With a club membership of a little over 200 and a participation rate of about 50 regular members to our events, it would be wonderful to see a few more new faces participating, as well as some more suggestions on other events you would like to see.

Two new events that are being organised and coming up soon into the new year will be a Track Day, most likely to be at the Logic Center circuit, and a trip away to Echuca for one or two nights over a weekend to sample the local delights, along with a cruise on a paddle steamer on the mighty Murray, ideal for those of you that have a young family. The details should be worked out by the February or March meeting, so stay tuned.

A warm welcome to our newest members, Chris Wood, Ruth and Lindon Forrest, Tom Flanagan, and Wayne Tonkin, I look forward to your participation within the club.

Happy and Safe Motoring to all,

Peter Thompson

President, 2026

SITUATION VACANT! (or maybe even.....HELP!!)

While President Pete has been doing a sterling job managing the RSCA web site, we need someone who is computer literate to take over the custodianship of the site, and to bring it up to date on a regular basis with events and photos. If you have the skills to do so, and the time - which should be in the order of three or four hours over a month - please let Peter know. Your contribution to the Club will be greatly appreciated!





From the Hotseat! - the Editors ramble for this edition.

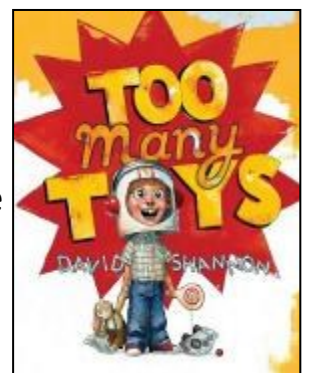
Wow!

Another year and the Hot Seat is ready for another round of keeping the club members, and the World at Large, up to date with what's happening! The events, comings, goings, great ideas and terrible outcomes, cars bought and sold, projects started, finished, or just pushed into the corner of a shed and hidden under a dust cover until the necessary motivation/budget/time available gets them out again.

If you have a project on the go, be it a restoration, a resurrection, just a bit of a clean up or even 'I started with 2 wheel nuts and a sump plug, and have gone from there' please send a few words and a couple of pics of progress - it could be a classic sports car like an MGA, (hint G. Nicholls!) a great Aussie icon like a Bolwell Nagari, even a lesser icon like an Austin Tasman, a grey Fergie or an old Mack truck—all good! And also if you're looking for parts, pieces, panels or just someone who can come around and help with a bit of welding, good chance somebody in the club knows a bloke who knows a bloke who might be able to help!

Speaking of what's in the shed, yours truly is guilty of once more not knowing when to stop, and having moved 2 cars on then bought 3. In my defense, one was a necessity to replace our lovely old Sigma High Roof Wagon, which had been the transporter of dogs and done a sterling job of it until the dogs outgrew it - we don't do small dogs - so it was an upgrade to a 20 year old Commodore wagon. The dogs think it's rather palatial, I think it's too damn new and will have to endure full rego for another 5 years. The other car gone is the VF Commodore SSV/R, which I said we would keep for 8 years and then sell. Yep at 8 years and 1 day, it was on a car trailer and bound for South Australia. It had just passed 17,000km, so I also met my target of not exceeding 20000km in it. The replacement for this car is actually the VS Commodore I mentioned last edition, the future Tarmac Rally Tour car, so far so good, 2 for 2. However there was always another car pending, and it's now made it's way from Shepparton to Yack to join the fun and frivolity - a 1989 Mercedes 300CE which my friend and fellow RSCA member Terry Jones needed to move as the car comings and goings in his shed are on par with mine. And now, once more, the number of vehicles exceeds the shed's capacity, and sometime in 2026 there will have to be another reckoning.... I'm told.

This might be my next book to review!





November Mid-week run. Destination: Woomargama



DRIVE TEAM REPORT

The November Mid week run was held on a fine 21 degree Spring day, and a 9am start ensured we would arrive at the lunch destination on time, after travelling through Jindera, Walla, Walla , morning tea at Culcairn, Henty , and so to Woomargama.

In a effort to miss school zones the route through Albury was delayed by the amount of traffic lights encountered, maybe going over Gap Road through Glenroy would have been a better choice.

We arrived at Culcairn bakery about 15





minutes later than anticipated, and caught up with the Howlong crew there. However the staff pushed through the orders with 2 coffee makers, and someone each on the till, serving, and delivering coffees to the tables.

From Culcairn we travelled through Henty and across to Cookardinia, then by passed Holbrook to get to the Woomargama Pub. Some runners with local knowledge took the Morven Rd from Culcairn to Woomaragama, arriving ahead of the game. We met up with 4 more runners and gathered a total of 55 people.





The pub was well prepared for our onslaught - the deck was set out for us and the sun shining. With a bit of a breeze around some runners elected to take an inside or sunny position for the meal.

By all accounts the food, service, and company was great. After the meal there was time





for mingling, and checking out some of the cars on the run, whilst the last members departed for home about 2pm.

Thanks to all members and the venues for making this another memorable club run

Greg & Lyn Harris



The November Runners

Driver	With	Vehicle
Greg Harris	Lyn	MGB '65
Peter Thompson	Kerrie	Ford Capri '91
Jim Grice	Cheryl Grice	FJ Holden
Peter Durnham	Sally-Anne	Porsche Boxter
David Polsen		Holden Monaro 2003
Bryan Liersch	June	Ford Territory
Jeff Seidel	Lorraine	Mustang 2020
Stuart McMurray		Mustang
Darryl Baxter	Ellis Tompson	Saab 9001
Alan Black	Lyn	Saab Carlsons
Alan Champion		Mustang '66
Terry Jones		Mercedes CLS500
Gordon Nichols	Janine	Ford FPV
Kim McConchie	Chantelle	Commodore & Alfa
Ross Edwards	Petra	Jeep Grand Cherokee

Driver	With	Vehicle
Alan Brink	Lyn	Alfa Giulia
Ian Lattimore	Deb	Cobra
Harley Knot		Mustang 2025
Hans Probst	Ida	Mercedes E25
Peter Spasojevic	Carolyn	Jaguar XK 2008
John Carthew	Eileen	Ford Territory
Jeff Lacey		Lexus
Ian Bruce	Valerie	MX5 '90
Ian McDonald	Annie	BMW 23
Ray Jones	Tina	MG TC 1954
Malcom McEachern	Robin	Jaguar S Type '2006
Neil Kilby	Gwen	Mercedes
Trevor Lashbrook	Lesley	Ford XB coupe
Bruce Standish		Jaguar XK
John McGuinness	Denise	SS Commodore
Peter Taylor	Ronnie	As above



The November Mid week run was, unknown to us all, to be last run where our long time member, Ray Jones, was to join us. It was a memorable occasion as it was the first run he and Tina were to enjoy in his freshly restored MG TF, and it is some solace that he was able to have this drive of a car he had worked so hard to restore.

Our condolences go out to his family -Tina, Stephen, Gregory, Allison, and Ray Jnr; his grandchildren, and his many friends. Malcolm has kindly penned a tribute to his long time friend, club member, and a man who we can say had a life well lived.

RAYMOND JONES, VALUED MEMBER OF THE “RIVERINA SPORTS CAR ASSOCIATION”

BORN IN RICHMOND VICTORIA SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 1935

COMMENCED HIS WORKING LIFE AT AN ENGINEERING WORKSHOP AND ONE DAY SAW AN MG TC SPORTS CAR AND NOT LONG AFTER CHOSE TO WORK FOR HIS FATHER (A BUTCHER) FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE POUNDS A WEEK TO SATISFY HIS DESIRE TO PURCHASE A 1949 MG.TC IT DID NOT HAPPEN.

HOWEVER AFTER A MK9 JAGUAR RESTORATION , A CHEVROLET, SEVERAL BOATS & A DAIMLER 250 SPORTS SALOON THE MG WAS STILL A DREAM.

FROM BUYING STOCK AT NEWMARKET FOR THE FAMILY BUTCHERING BUSINESS & FLYING HIS CESSNA TO REMOTE PLACES, DRIVING THE SEMI TRAILER LOADED WITH STOCK UP AND DOWN “PRETTY SALLY” AND A STINT AT PUCKAPUNYAL WITH THE RESERVE ARMY CORE HE MARRIED AND HAD THREE CHILDREN STEPHEN, GREGORY & ALLISON

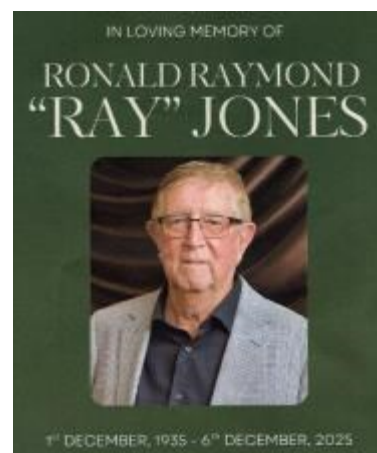
LIFE CHANGED WHEN HE MET “TINA” & THEY MOVED TO A FARMING PROPERTY AT WAKOOL NEAR DENILQUIN N.S.W. NOW AS A FARMER , A NEW WIFE AND HIS SON STEPHEN, RAYMOND LEARNED WHAT HARD WORK WAS.

AFTER SELLING THE FARM THE FAMILY MOVED BACK TO MELBOURNE AND VERY SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED A SANDWICH BAR IN ST KILDA RD.

YOUNG “RAY” ARRIVED AND SO THE FAMILY HAD GROWN.

IN SEPTEMBER 1981 RAYMOND AND TINA PURCHASED THE “SIESTA MOTEL” IN LAVINGTON N.S.W. WHICH THEY OPERATED FOR 42 YEARS WITH STEPHEN & NOELENE TRANSFORMING A MODEST MOTEL INTO A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED “SIESTA RESORT” WITH 88 ROOMS , SUITES, POOLS AND RESTAURANTS OF ACCLAIM.

I FIRST MET RAYMOND DURING THE EARLY 1980’S IN ASSOCIATION WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS KNOWN AS “THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE” WE WERE OFTEN PARTYING AND DINING



AT THE "BULL RING RESTAURANT"

RAYMOND THEN DRIVING A BLACK FORD LTD .. REGISTERED "SIESTA"

MY NEXT ASSOCIATION WAS WHEN RAYMOND REQUESTED SERVICE TO HIS 1973 V12 E TYPE JAGUAR AT "TOP CATS MOTOR GARAGE" IN WODONGA, WHICH I OWNED.

IT WAS ALSO AT THIS TIME THAT RAYMOND INTRODUCED TO ME HIS BOYHOOD DREAM THE BEAUTIFUL MG TC ...CALLED "EMMA"

SINCE THAT TIME BOTH ROBYN, TINA, RAYMOND AND I HAVE ENJOYED TOO MANY TRIPS AWAY TO RECOUNT, SHARED COMPANY AT THEIR GOLD COAST APPARTMENT AND THEIR BEAUTIFUL HOME IN WODONGA.

RAYMOND HAD A PASSION FOR BEAUTIFUL CARS, KEPT IN HIS MAGNIFICENT SHOW-ROOM UNDER HIS AND TINA'S HOME .

IN RECENT YEARS RAYMOND PURCHASED, FROM THE ESTATE OF A DECEASED FRIEND, AN MG.TF OF WHICH HE WAS VERY CAREFUL TO BRING BACK TO NEW CONDITION. THIS INCLUDED ENGINE REFURBISHMENT IN MELBOURNE, A NEW FIVE SPEED GEARBOX FROM THE UK WITH ACCESSORIES FROM THE USA, ALL CAREFULLY INSTALLED BY OUR OWN KARL RICHARDSON.

ONE OF RAYMONDS MOTORING JOYS WAS THE NOVEMBER MIDWEEK RUN TO LUNCH WITH THE CLUB MEMBERS AT THE WOOMARGAMA HOTEL.

THIS WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME HE DROVE HIS RESTORED MG.TF ON A CLUB RUN.

THIS IS A LITTLE OF WHAT I KNOW OF MY FRIEND "RAYMOND JONES"

IT IS NO WONDER THAT HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN THE ACCOMODATION AND RESTAURANT BUSINESS.

GENEROUS TO A FAULT, A MEMORY LIKE AN ELEPHANT (OFTEN ABOUT MANY ODD THINGS) AND ALWAYS WILLING TO GO THE EXTRA MILE TO ASSIST .

HIS INVESTMENT IN THE "WANGARATTA GATEWAY HOTEL" WAS PROBABLY THE CLIMAX OF HIS BUSINESS CAREER.

WITH WENDY AND PETER LESTER OPERATING THE ESTABLISHMENT IT HAS BECOME KNOWN AS THE PLACE TO BE WHEN VISITING THE "NORTH EAST OF VICTORIA", TO STAY AND TO FINE DINE. THIS BUSINESS HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

RAYMOND CELEBRATED HIS 90th BIRTHDAY MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2025 AND PASSED AWAY THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2025.

A QUIET UNASSUMING MAN WITH A PASSION FOR BEAUTIFUL CARS AND RESPECT FOR



THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

HE WAS A VERY HAPPY MEMBER OF THE "RIVERINA SPORTS CAR ASSOCIATION" AND HIS PASSING SHOULD BE MOURNED BY US ALL.

RAYMOND IT HAS BEEN AN HONOUR TO BE YOUR FRIEND.

" YOU WERE A TRUE GENTLEMAN "

MALCOLM J McEACHERN O.A.M.



The magnificent MG TF, at the Woomargama Pub.

The service for Ray was held at St. Matthew's Church, Albury on the 19th of December. It was a true commemoration of the man, with his family taking it in turn to share their many fond memories of Ray, reflecting on his dedication to his family, his willingness to give things a go and of course his beloved Carlton Football Club.

Many of our members were in attendance and I think we all learned some more about Ray than we previously knew, and gained even more respect for how he had lived his life and cared and nurtured his family. The send off was fitting - the church bells did not toll mournfully, but rung out the Wedding March as a sound of joy; and then two of Ray's cars, driven by his sons, provided a further song of joy as they led the hearse away.

Beautifully done, and entirely appropriate.



Another Sunday Drive!

TRIP TO MUSEUM OF VEHICLE EVOLUTION, (MOVE), SHEPPARTON

SUNDAY 16/11/25.

It was a fine morning when 12 cars greeted the starter at Gateway for the trip to Shepparton. The run down the freeway to Benalla was uneventful, where we chose to have coffee at the local Mitre 10 with local cars enjoying cars'n coffee. Perhaps not the best coffee or venue but we saw some vehicles not seen before.

The group then proceeded to Shepp., taking the bypass road around to Kialla.

MOVE (MUSEUM OF VEHICLE EVOLUTION) did not disappoint. Presentation and range of exhibits was great. I was a little surprised there weren't more cars on display....the one's that were, were great, and there is a great display of 2 wheelers on the mezzanine as well as a huge range of trucks in the rear section.

I particularly enjoyed reading the information on the local families who had been very successful carting the fruit to market all over Australia.

There were some amazing trucking dynasty's established in that area.

The girls especially were amazed with the costumes in the Lorrell Thompson collection. I think most of the blokes were like me and walked through the door, looked around and went back out to the cars!

The cafe provided great coffee and meals.

So about 3pm most started to head back to the border.

Yours truly chose to take a different route home which may not have been the best decision. A little lapse in memory (who needs sat nav!) saw me find dirt road I didn't need, then a header had fallen off a truck near Dookie; so we had to go on a dirt detour anyway, only to go a fair way near Thoona on single width bitumen. Luckily only a couple cars going





MOVE - its not just cars and trucks you know!



in the opposite direction.

Well we made it back to Wang after an enjoyable squirt over the Warby's. Apologies to Phil who followed! The sensible members went back up the freeway. *Gordon Nicholls*

Those MOVING:

Harley Knott & Peter Thompson - Mustang

David Polsen - Monaro,

Brian Giersch - BMW

Trevor & Lesley Lashbrook - Kia

Peter Trescowthick & Vince Ryan - Porsche

Phil Harrison - MGB

Peter Dunham - Porsche

Malcolm & Robyn McEachern - Jaguar

Bruce Standish - Corvette

Anthony Saltalamachia & Vanessa - Fiat

Stuart McMurray - Mustang

Gordon & Janene Nicholls - XR8

Two big events coming up to kick 2026 off - the Twin City's Show N' Shine has to be one of the best displays in the Riviera region, while Chryslers On The Murray has to be one of the best events nationally. Look out for pics and a report in the next edition of Open Topics!

2026 TWIN CITY'S NATIONAL
SHOW 'N' SHINE
AND CONVOY FOR KIDS!



SUNDAY 18TH JANUARY
8AM TO 2PM | ALBURY SHOWGROUNDS

ENTRY \$5 VEHICLE \$15
PREMIUM VEHICLE \$30 TRUCKS \$40

TROPHIES, MAJOR RAFFLE DRAW,
MUSIC AND FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS!



SCAN TO REGISTER

PROUDLY SUPPORTING





country
hope

SANCTION NO 230

ALBURY WOODONGA
CHRYSLER CLUB

Chryslers
ON THE MURRAY

INCORPORATING THE 11TH
RUSTY OLDEN FMC
MEMBER CAR SHOW



27th, 28th FEB
& 1st MARCH 2026

WOODONGA SHOW GROUNDS
VICTORIA

SPOTLIGHT ON THE VALIANT CHARGER



RSCA Drive Team Update



DRIVE TEAM 2026

Greg Harris, Kim McConchie, Alan Brink, Gordon Nicholls , Peter Dunham

So the Drive Team have put their collective heads together, reviewed what worked and what fell off a cliff during 2025, and have some ideas for the coming year, but— much more importantly—also need some input from the members on what they'd enjoy doing ,and places to go to, as a club drive.

First up, the Drive Team comprises Greg Harris, Alan Brink, Gordon Nicholls, Peter Dunham and Kim McConchie, with Greg taking on the Co-ordination of the team this year which is much appreciated by yours truly, and also President Pete is acting as Special Consultant.

Here are the action points coming from the meeting for how we will work for 2026:

The Team will have a meeting at **3 monthly intervals** , general communication within the group will continue as is by email, text , phone call, text where required. **Action ALL**

The group will plan RSCA events **3 months ahead including mid week runs and weekend runs**, all other annual events outside the club will be logged and communicated as per normal
Look at a basic planner to keep track of who, what, where **Action G H**

The attendance form on the web will be modified to include phone numbers of attendees on the day, a new master created and loaded to the web , for use on all runs.

Run reports and communication of coming events will be in the Co Ordinator's own stye and format , standard flyers etc not necessary

Action K Mc , P T

A survey asking for member input into preferred run options will be constructed, circulated to the drive team for approval, then posted in open topics & the facebook page

Action K Mc

The group to consider ideas for **ONE weekend run per ¼** , look at possible drives or activities to follow on after Coffee & Cars to involve more in the day (Gordon's original format)

Action ALL

Greg will assume Drive Team Co-ordinator duties for 2026 , Including Meetings , minutes , RSCA general Meeting reports each month

Note for special runs and MWR's, the run Co-ordinator will report to the RSCA general meeting



So that's the Modus Operandi for the coming year, so let the ideas begin!

Possible runs , events for 2026

Manfield Zoo, possible weekend run /overnight	K Mc
Check out Clubs, Bakery's, Cafes	G N
Thursday bus trip to Melbourne Late Feb	G N
Market run to Rutherglen / caffeine machine	G H
\$20 steak run to the Vine Hotel , Thursdays	G H
Garage Tours	K Mc
Special Interest tours	G H
Picnic Run , Progressive picnic	G H
Europa Gulley Orchid, Apply picking & pub Lunch	G H
Mystery Bus Tour	G H
Presidents Breakfast , Weekend , egg & bacon rolls	G H
Mt Beaty car club or Wangaratta speedway run	G H
Run and BBQ Sumsion Gardens	P D
Winery run & lunch , Morris' , Gapstead	P D
Cumberoona , Lake Mulwala lunch cruise	G H
Echuca Run , Weekend over night or multiple days	A B
Dederang Pub	K Mc PD
Temora Museum 14 th March (run all machinery day)	K Mc
Temora Aviation Fly Days	K Mc
Corowa Car museum	P D
Bonegilla migrant museum / Bethanga pub	PT, KMc, PD

Although there's no general meeting in January , we will have a midweek run - possibly Bonegilla Migrant village & Bethanga Pub 14th Jan **Action PD**

There seems to be a common thought that the Mid week Runs are fantastic and the numbers are always high for the bakery/pub lunch runs , but there is also a hankering for family friendly events that promote the use of our cars but involve something for the family/ladies/partners

Picnics , Markets, & Eatery's are a things that keep popping up. As discussed hopeful the survey may provide some ideas , and even members that have experienced events in other clubs

Certainly coffee and cars already has a great following on the weekend , and the possibility of building on that could incorporate some of our ideas

All agreed that to provide a variety of runs and destinations , there may be a need to look at only an occasional sway from the normal run day , ie midweek run and possible Saturday events .

So that's where the Drive Team is looking for 2026; a survey for member input will be distributed during late January, with results to be shared at the February club meeting. Looking forward to your thoughts, cheers *Kim McConchie*



We have a Flag!!

Looking for where the Club is gathering, where to turn to find them, are they all hiding from me, Hullo! Where are youuuuu...?

Now we can look for the Flag!

A great step forward for organising 'the getting of members into one place on the same day', this should make our attempts to herd cats a little easier!

And speaking of events, don't forget the Chiltern Cancer Cruise coming up on the 12th of April.

Note the new location—and if you're feeling lost, LOOK FOR THE FLAG!



Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre Trust Fund Inc.

Chiltern Cancer Cruise - Car & Bike Show

12TH APRIL 2026
9am - 2pm

Donations Include:
~\$10 per Car or Bike
~Gold Coin for Walk ins.

New Location
Guides Hall



The RSCA Christmas Function

With a lot of 'Ho Ho Ho's' and questions as to who has been good this year and what were they hoping to find under the tree on Christmas Day (no, a Ferrari won't fit down the chimney, apparently), a good turn out of members and partners left a number of exotic and interesting cars parked hither and yon as they arrived to attend our annual Christmas Party.

This was held on Sunday 7th December in the clubhouse dining area of Kensington Gardens Over 50's Village in Thurgoona. With plates and plates of catered finger food to work through, while indulging in the usual Club activity of actively chatting and discussing the finer points of ones motors, by mid afternoon the plates were cleared and waistlines were bulging. And then - the sweets came out!

Such a great spread of home-made delicacies our members had provided, it was a matter of ease the belts off a couple more notches and, knowing no way was dinner going to be needed, enjoy the variety of cakes, trifles, tarts, and everything else a Christmas lunch begs for to finish off!

The fun concluded with another mind bending trivia contest hosted by the inimitable Alan Brink, which tested our ability to figure out what the Christmas carol was based on the opening lines.... It was clear who hadn't spent time in a church choir! A great day, thanks to Alan, Peter T, and all the members who made it a success! Merry Christmas!

Kim McConchie



Sometimes the best days are unplanned.....

Prez Pete picked me up in his shiny red Capri at 9am and we headed to Gateway Village. Not much later Phil Harrison turned up in his pretty green Austin Healy Sprite. It started raining and cover was taken under a tree (see photo 1). A little later Gordon and Janene Nicholls turned up in a German tradies' truck followed by Pete Trescowthick in the finest car marque in the universe, a Porsche.

It was such a miserable morning we all decided to enjoy a coffee at Gurus Cafe Wodonga. As we ate and drank the clouds disappeared and the glorious sun caught our attention. Why not ! Let's drive to the Motor Show at Dederang!

What an excellent turnout it was and the people attending were so friendly. I reckon there were 150 vehicles there. If the weather was better there would have been twice as many. We'll definitely do it again next year.

Pete Dunham





December Mid-week Run.

Wednesday December 10th.



Down the track and back to Yack

DRIVE TEAM REPORT

This report is done from the passengers' seat of "Hot Foot Harley's" fire engine red Mustang GT, a car with so much grunt, I don't know how he keeps to the speed limit. And he does – well - most of the time!

As Lynne had other issues to deal with on this day, I kept the Alfa at home and bravely accompanied Harley and it was a great experience being a passenger for once and enjoying the ride.

As usual, we met at the Gateway in Wodonga, and a big turnout was in evidence, in fact I believe about 50 members and partners attended this run.

Heading south, we went through Wodonga towards Beechworth where we all gathered just south of town to make sure we were all "on the same page" – a good idea as there were few tricky bits between here and our smoko location at the Milawa Bakery. Fortunately, Kim warned them of our large group and were well prepared for our arrival.

Coffees, teas, savoury and sweet things were consumed with the general buzz of conversation being???? – you guessed it – cars!

Once again Kim needed the group to stick together as our journey to Yackandandah had a couple of essential turn-offs. This was great run. It went through Myrtleford and then left into Happy Valley Road to Running Creek. Now this is true driving enthusiasts' country – short straights (so that Harley cannot get too carried away) with lots of twists and turns and very little other traffic on the road. The big Ford seemed to take up most of the road but Harley always sat true to our side of the road – phew!!







Onto the Kiewa Valley Highway, through Dederang and then to the Star Hotel Yack. Now this is a wonderful old pub which has been extended over the years to become a very cosy pub. We sat in the outside “lane” area and as our meals were cleverly pre-ordered, the delivery of our meals was both prompt and accurate – oh, apart from the organisers Kim and Chantelle Mc Conchie who forgot to pre-order theirs!!

Conversations and socialising went on for some time after lunch and the group gradually drifted away to head for home in dribs and drabs by mid-afternoon.

All in all a great day out with our like-minded members – good company, good drive and good food – what more can one ask for?

Reporter

Alan Brink.

Peter & Carolyn Spasojevic - Jag XK

Jim & Cheryl Grice - Prince Skyline

Tony Ward - 370Z Nismo

Terry Jones - Subaru BRZ

Neil & Jillian Butler - Porsche

Trevor & Lesley Lashbrook - KIA Stinger

Harley Knott - Mustang

Bryan & June Liersch - Mazda CX 5 Turbo

Peter & Kerrie Thompson - Ford Capri

Dave Polsen - Monaro CV8

Linden & Ruth Forrest - Triumph Stag

Graham Penton - Mercedes Benz

J. Dutkowski & Stephen - Mazda CX5

Neil & Fay Schliebs - Mini Cooper

Kim McConchie - VS Commodore

Chantelle McConchie - Mercedes CLK500

Dave & Kate Young - 2004 Mini Cooper S

Malcolm & Robyn McEachern - Jag E-Pace

Darryl Baxter & Ellis - SAAB 900S

So we thought that was a a wrap for 2025, but then.....

Peter Dunham had a VERY GOOD IDEA!

Let's do a Thursday run to Dederang Pub, and see what Shane Jackobsen has done to the old joint - has Kenny been flushed with success, or has it all gone down the toilet?





December Mid-week Run #2.

Thursday December 18th.



A short drive day - to the Dederang Pub!

Twelve Mini Run runners turned up for a civilised meeting time of 11am at Gateway Village. We left Gateway at 11:20am, ten minutes earlier than our ETD because it was too hot to stand around. It was roofs up for all convertibles this day. The destination for lunch was the newly renovated Dederang Hotel. Cheryl and Jim Grice were spotted in their FX Holden shaded under a tree just off the Kiewa Valley Highway. They joined the end of the convoy to 'The Ranga'.



Pothole dodging was easy thanks to the bright yellow paint circling the larger holes. It took only forty minutes of driving to arrive and everyone jostled for shade.

The interior of the pub was large, modern and cool. Kenny has done a fine job with his renovations. Chantelle and Kim McConchie arrived not long after us in their replacement dog transporter, a silver Holden Lumina station wagon taking the numbers of attendees to sixteen.

Today's seating arrangement was like a 70s bbq. Sheilas on one table. Blokes on the other. The ladies seemed happy enough talking lady stuff. The fellas spoke of motorised vehicles. Everyone was in their element. We were enjoying ourselves so much that we forgot to check the cricket scores.



The meals were ordered. Fish and chips or calamari seemed the most popular choices.

The food was excellent. The nicely cooked fish wasn't overly battered and the calamari was soft and juicy. As we ate and chatted, the hot wind outside blew dust and grit all over our pride and joys.

After lunch and chinwagging it was time to venture out to the heat and hot leather on the back of naked legs and drive home. The potholes were worse on the way back.

'The Ranga' will definitely be an inclusion in next year's Mid-week Runs.

Peter Dunham

The Ranga Runners

Peter and Kerrie Thompson.
 Kim and Chantelle McConchie.
 Brian Giersch.
 Harley Knott.
 Jim and Cheryl Grice.
 Jeff Lacey.
 Ian Tuttle and Lou his mate.
 John Buckley.
 Alan and Lynne Brink.
 Peter and Sally-Anne Dunham.

MG
 Dog Transporter
 Mazda MX5
 Mustang
 Holden FX
 Lexus SC430
 Mum's car
 Sales rep Falcon wagon
 Alfa Giuliano
 Porsche Boxster Special Mid-life Crisis Edition



As a wine waiter, I made a good village idiot according to the feedback!



The Ranga Pubs sparkling new dunnies, Kenny would have to be chuffed with this! Yes the old buckets and the pit have gone; and never fear, rumors the Blokes and Sheila's toilets are the same are unfounded - this is the ladies, the gents are set a bit higher.

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Happy Snaps from the December Cars & Coffee

What a great finish for the year at the Ripe Tomato this morning. I think the best this year. good coffee, good company, and a marvelous display of our club cars. Thank you all and a very MERRY CHRISTMAS to you all,

Peter Thompson

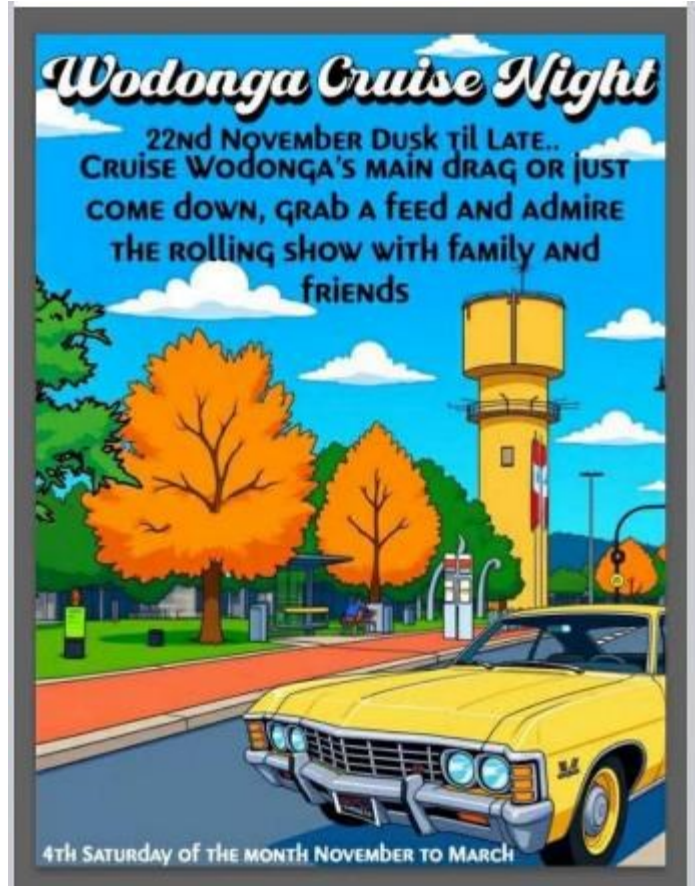


Fancy a Cruise?

The Wodonga Cruise nights are getting quite a few members rocking up to either watch, or get out on the bitumen and strut their stuff in their wheels of choice. Note March is the last month its planned to run.

Keep an eye out on the RSCA Facebook page and if people going can mention it, we might be able to organise a meeting point and go as a group to join in the fun!

Could be a Drive Team job to co-ordinate it, we'll see what we can do.



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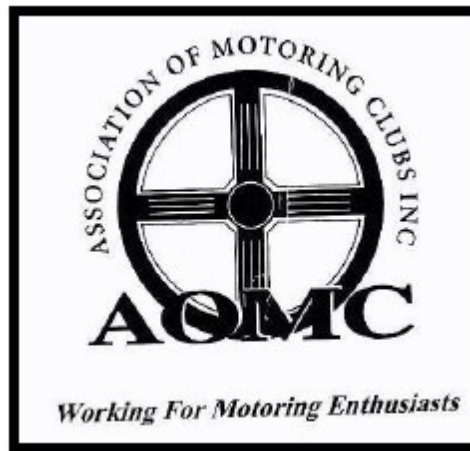
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TONNEAU TALK

We welcome our new member this month -
Welcome back Wayne Tonkin, with the fabulous Triden!
What a blast from the past!

See you on the next run!



Attention NSW members on H and D plates

Log Book entries for NSW vehicles on H or D plates TfNSW now has a permanent NSW Police liaison officer attached to the Historic and Classic Industry Working Group. Recent reports and social media posts have led to that officer providing the following suggested message to clubs.

This is quoted verbatim for your advice:

"When completing a log book entry, the person who is completing the log book entry for the day should ensure that they are recording their "Full Name".

It is important that the log book entry is completed correctly and before first use of the vehicle on that day, abbreviations, initials or "ditto" marks do not fulfill the requirements of the conditions of the log book.

One entry is required in the log book for that day regardless of how many drivers use the vehicle. The instructions are in the front of the log book. Remember, log books allow personal use of vehicles and are an important part of the registration and insurance process, incorrectly entered or log books not completed could result in police action or non-payment of an insurance claim."

Club members are advised to heed the advice of the Police liaison officer.



TONNEAU TALK

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