

# THE EDWARDIAN

APRIL 2020

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## MEETINGS & MEMBERSHIP

**HELD EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30PM.**

The Club meets in the meeting room of Shannons Insurance at Unit 20/2 Yallourn St, Fyshwick. The building can be accessed from either Yallourn St, or the Canberra Ave Service Rd. (access between Bristol Paints and Classic Car Wash – next to United Petrol) Meetings are usually followed by a talk on some interesting theme, a film or other entertainment and then by supper. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings. Membership fees are \$50 per year.

**Life Members – Ian Irwin O.A.M, Alan Higginson (D'csd), Garth Fisher (D'csd), Alan Pickup (D'csd)**

*Like our Front Cover? The radiator badges and scripts shown have been specifically chosen as each depicts a marque of which a veteran and/or vintage example has been represented in our Club over the years. At last count there were 116.*

## OUR CLUB

The Veteran and Vintage Car Club of Australia ACT (Inc) was formed in 1963. Its Objectives are;

- To sponsor and encourage the preservation, restoration and use of Veteran and Vintage vehicles
- To engage in rallies, exhibitions and other events suitable for Veteran and Vintage vehicles
- To encourage the retention of Veteran and Vintage vehicles in Australia
- To collect and disseminate technical and historical information as shall be of interest to the members
- To offer the services of the Club, its members and vehicles to such charitable organisations as may be decided upon from time to time
- To engage in such other activities associated or allied with all or any of these Objectives which are intended to promote a better and wider knowledge and understanding of Veteran and Vintage vehicles among club members and the public generally

## SAVE THE DATE

Due to current government regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic all club events are currently suspended until further notice.

**RETREADS**—‘Re-tyred’ members of many ACT Car Clubs meet informally for a light lunch at the Southern Cross Club Woden, at noon on the 1st Friday of each month. The group is known as “The Retreads”. Outings in their old cars are often arranged. The VVCCA (ACT) recognises these outings as legitimate events for any of its members who wish to participate

### COVID-19 IMPACTS ON CLUB EVENTS

Darrell and Rob Woolley have discussed our Club’s immediate future and it has been decided that with the Government regulations around COVID-19 and the potential risk it poses to members and the Community that all Club meetings and activities are suspended until further notice.

If you were planning on attending other rallies or “old “ vehicle events, please check their websites or Facebook to see if they are still going ahead. Most upcoming events have been postponed or cancelled.

## EDITORIAL

So firstly, apologies this issue is a little late. Work commitments and adapting to the new normal of having our son home full time haven't left as much time as I'd like for The Edwardian.

Secondly, I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe. Since our last issue, the COVID-19 pandemic has pretty much turned the world upside down for a while. Personally, it means my wife and I are both working from home full time while trying to entertain our 18 month old, which certainly makes things interesting!

Of course the regulations around the COVID-19 pandemic have had a big impact on both our wonderful club and the motoring world in general. Most upcoming events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice including Club meetings and Club runs (if you haven't already please see the notice on Page 3).

I'm trying to make the most of this extra time to get the Model T back on the road, but am spending most of my spare time instead trying to finish off our never ending house renovations.

This issue is huge, we've had some amazing contributions from members, particularly Ian who has written us two fascinating articles (make yourself a cuppa and sit down for a read they are excellent). Please keep the contributions coming!

### Some Highlights of This Issue

From the Archives

Video of the Issue

Automobile Notes

Shannon's Wheels

Canberra Day Weekend Tour

RACV 2020 Veteran Vehicle Rally

Ford Plant Souvenir Postcards

Free Digital Copies of Wheels Magazine

Some anecdotes of motoring in Melbourne in the Edwardian era

February Run—BBQ at the Cotter

The First Car to Summit Mount Kosciusko

Motoring Around Canberra

February Meeting Minutes

March Meeting Minutes

Classifieds

### Have anything to share?

Taken the old car out? Been to a swap meet? Done a bit of maintenance? Something to sell? If you have a spare moment, please grab a couple of photos and jot down a couple of notes and send it through. All contributions to The Edwardian are welcome. Just e-mail [mathew.spackman@outlook.com](mailto:mathew.spackman@outlook.com)

## VIDEO OF THE ISSUE

Something a little different this issue. The video of the issue is from the 1967 ANZAC day March in Tallimba.

Sadly, this year we can't commemorate ANZAC day as we usually would. So I thought it would be nice to look back on an ANZAC day past.

You can watch the video at:

<https://youtu.be/4e9NgXzIXak>



## FROM THE 1970 ARCHIVES

Something a little different this month. April marked the 50th Anniversary of the 1970 Bicentenary International Veteran and Vintage rally for cars and motor cycles.

To celebrate the rally, The Canberra Time published a 16 page supplement compiled by it's motoring editor at the time Lenard Ward. It's a bit big to include in its entirety in The Edwardian so you can find it as an attachment in the Edwardian e-mail. There is even a small section about our club!

Enjoy!



## AUTOMOTIVE NOTES

### News from the Council

- Due to COVID-19 regulations, the AGM has delayed from April 4th, 2020 to October 24, 2020. Due to the delay council officer reports were circulated to all clubs.
- There has been a number of enquiries to the council relating to second and third hand report of incidents where people transporting vehicles on trailers have attracted the attention of the police. This appears to be result of Fair Trading regulation requiring transport of vehicle using a trailer fitted with a fixed or removable winch, or carrying a vehicle which cannot drive onto the trailer under its own power, to comply with Tow Truck Industry requirements. The issue is complex and CHMC has published the result of their investigations in the latest The Dinkum Oil. They request that should any club have first hand experience of difficulty relating to towing of a car trailer on public roads, it is requested to relate that experience to Councils RMS Liaison Officer, Peter Wright.
- The Committee is keen to reinforce the importance of the traditional CHMC Annual Rally and encourages clubs to consider hosting the 2021 Rally. Committee members are willing to assist any club which may have suitable facilities, but may need background assistance in hosting the Rally.
- The Pie Cart picked up a bit of damage in the hailstorm (some minor damage to the bonnet and fender). Repairs were covered by insurance. Questions were asked why the Pie Cart hadn't been moved to Googong and a direction given that it should be moved immediately
- The ANU Kambri Show and Shine was considered a great success and the council encourages clubs to look at it as a venue for future events.
- The CHMC will have been operating for 50 years in October 2020. Plans are to celebrate this milestone at Raymond Terrace Saturday 24th—Sunday 25th of April. This will include the postponed AGM.

## THE NATIONAL CALENDAR

7 – 13 April, 2021 (To Be Confirmed) 1 & 2 Cyl National Rally – Charleville, QLD in 2020 Hosted by the Veteran Car Club of Australia (QLD) Inc. For more information contact the 2020 National 1 & 2 Cylinder Rally Directors Graham Donges 0417 718 617 • Irene Donges 0419 751 324

10—16 October, 2021 RACV National Veteran Car Rally - Based in Swan Hill on the Murray River, the rally will celebrate Rural Edwardian Australiana. Suitable for both large and small veterans, 1&2's will easily cope with the terrain and the runs. The rally starts on Sunday afternoon (October 10th) and finishes on Saturday morning (October 16th). Rally Directors Michael & Claudia Holding 0407 008 895 or email [mholding@netspace.net.au](mailto:mholding@netspace.net.au) for the spiel: [claudia\\_holding@hotmail.com](mailto:claudia_holding@hotmail.com) for the facts!



## SHANNON'S WHEELS

By Nick Nowak

Several Club members went to Wheels on March 1st . We were located in a side area along with the Model "A" Ford Club. The location turned out quite well as it was a hot day and we had plenty of shade trees to sit under.

All up there must have been quite a few hundred cars and I think everyone found the day interesting.

From our Club we had Tony Watson in the '25 Dodge, Greg (and Saman passenger) in the '23 Talbot Darracq, John Cadona in the '28 Chev, Ross, Kate, Kiera and (Bill de Graaf passenger) in the '24 Sunbeam, Nick & Carol in the '12 Overland and Nick's friends Rob and Danny in Nick's '25 Armstrong Siddeley. The Siddeley struggled on the way to Queanbeyan but with a new set of plugs flew home.

Other members I saw at Wheels included Geoff Nicholas with his Model "A" Ford (Geoff had his car with the Model A Club), Bob Courtney, Rob Woolley and Terry Davis. A very pleasant day.





## SHANNON'S WHEELS



## CANBERRA DAY WEEKEND TOUR MARCH 7TH–9TH, 2020

By Rob and Beth Woolley

The annual weekend away was organised to visit Junee as a possible location for the National Veteran Rally which was to be held in 2022 and now rescheduled for 2023 due to the Coronavirus.

Those attending were:

David and Deidre Robinson – 1915 Model T Ford  
Gerard and Maree Frawley – 1915 Model T Ford  
Scott Harris, Denise Cherry, Mathew Spackman – 1917 Model T Ford  
Kingsley and Cynthia Southwell 1920 - Model T Ford  
Rob and Beth Woolley – 1910 Renault  
Geoff and Lyn Nicholas – 1939 BSA motorcycle  
Bob Courtney – 1927 Triumph motorcycle  
Don and Bev Doering – modern  
John Cadona and Vilay – modern

The weekend started with a coffee break at the Jugiong Bakery the coffee was excellent and some enjoyed cakes and breakfast. The next stop was Junee via Cootamundra. It was agreed to book into our accommodation and then meet at 2.00pm for an afternoon run.

At 2pm we were met by Col and Bobbie Macaulay of the Outback Model T Ford Club in their 1923 Model T. Col had organised our runs and activities for the weekend and welcomed us to Junee. The afternoon run was through undulating country to the village of Illabo. Illabo has a sports ground with a Community Hall where music festivals and many other community events are held. They gave us a guided tour of the facilities and said they could cater for 300 people for a final rally dinner if required. The village has a pub and other sporting facilities. The return journey was via some great country roads with very little traffic.





## CANBERRA DAY WEEKEND TOUR MARCH 7TH–9TH, 2020

Sundays run was to one of the Macaulay's family farms about 30kms out of Junee, again we were off major roads and a great run through farming country. The Macaulay's have approximately 8,500 hectares over several properties growing crops and raising sheep and cattle. We spent a couple of very interesting hours at the farm learning all about cropping, machinery used and farming methods. Col arranged for us to look inside the header to check out the computer controls. This was followed by an enjoyable morning tea, provided by Col and Bobbie in their contractor's lunch room. We returned to Junee for lunch at the Commercial Hotel. A run was organised for the afternoon but we elected to spend the afternoon at the Car Museum and the Licorice Factory. Happy hour was again held at the Caravan Park before a late Chinese dinner at the Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club.



Monday morning was free to visit the sites of Junee. The Robinson's and Woolley's met up with Col and Roger for a tour of the town in Roger's A Ford bus and attended a meeting with the owner of The Crossing Motel who also coordinates accommodation in Junee to discuss accommodation requirements for the 2023 National Veteran Tour. We then met with the Mayor and senior staff at Council to discuss the 2023 Rally. We had a very productive meeting with Council who are very keen to assist with organising Council related activities relating to the Tour. Following our meeting we returned to the Licorice Factory for an enjoyable lunch before returning home via Gundagai.



## CANBERRA DAY WEEKEND TOUR MARCH 7TH–9TH, 2020





## RACV ~~2020~~ 2021 VETERAN VEHICLE RALLY

In case you missed it, the TAVCCA Delegates met in early April and voted to postpone the National Veteran Vehicle Rally calendar for 12 months. This means that this years RACV Veteran Vehicle 'Rally to Mallee' in Swan Hill, Victoria has been postponed to October 2021. The rally will run between the 10th-16th of October 2021.

All recommended accommodation providers are aware and will initially transfer your bookings. If you aren't booked with one of these providers you need to get in touch with your accommodation provider.

*Rally to the Mallee*

## HENRY FORD'S POSTCARDS

Thanks to Tony Watson for sending us this great image of a Ford Plant Postcard from circa 1917. You can read more about the series of 24 postcards at <http://www.deansgarage.com/2016/1917-ford-plant-postcards-2/>



## PAST WHEELS MAGAZINES

If you find yourself with a bit more time to read. Bauer Motoring Network has made available free digital copies of all Wheels magazines from 1953—2019. Also available are back issues of Unique Cars, Motor, 4x4 and Street Machine (if any of those are of interest). You can access all available issues at <https://bauer-archive.x-cago.net/vw/edition.do>





## SOME ANECDOTES OF MOTORING IN MELBOURNE IN THE EDWARDIAN ERA

*Published with permission and grateful acknowledgement. Photos and story as related by former VCCA ACT member, Achalen Holmes.— Submitted by Ian Irwin*

Some of the earlier members of our club may recall a young lad joining the Veteran Car Club, as it was then, in the early 1970s. Achalen Holmes was a schoolboy at Canberra Grammar. His grandfather, Faris Palfreyman had sold his Queensland property, and moved to Orde St, Forrest. Prior to selling up in Queensland, he had an auction in which some dozen or so vintage Rolls-Royce cars were sold. At the home in Forrest, just off Melbourne Avenue, there were four Edwardian Silver Ghosts garaged, and Achalen arranged permission from his grandfather, for a viewing by club members.

Achalen has maintained his interest in Silver Ghosts, and I have kept in touch with him over the years. Recently I asked him if a Victorian car registered [Vic] 5740 in the name of A. Palfreyman, was a family car. He confirmed that it was, that this person was Achalen Palfreyman, after whom he was named, and that the car was a Metallurgique, of Belgian manufacture. Achalen Holmes then sent me the photo depicted below. It was fitted with superb Vanden Plas single-seater sporting coachwork, with rear mother-in-law seat.



Achalen then related some interesting anecdotes on the car. His grandmother used to attend Toorak College, and from the time she was about 13 years old, until the end of her school years, she drove this car from the family home in Garden St, South Yarra to her school nearby. After school, she often drove down Toorak Road, and into the city to George's Café in Collins Street, taking several friends with her, for a nice spread of afternoon tea. With the car being limited in seating capacity, it was necessary on occasions for some girls to ride on the running boards.

On departing from there, as she was petite and could not crank the car, she would roll-start the car down Collins Street, and if it had failed to start by then, the policeman on point duty at Swanston Street would be called upon to crank start the car. His grandmother told Achalen H., that as the paving of the streets was of wooden blocks back then, and saturated with horse urine, it often became very slippery, and that on one occasion she lost control and did a 360 around the policeman on point duty, without collecting him. She knew all the policemen, as quite often she needed a crank start.

## SOME ANECDOTES OF MOTORING IN MELBOURNE IN THE EDWARDIAN ERA

Driving home from school she would also roll the car down a gentle slope at Toorak College, with the school gardener called upon if it failed to start.

Every summer or so, she took the car to a paint shop in Collins Street to have it repainted to match the colour of her favourite hair ribbons, usually an emerald green, which on the car, faded quickly in those years. It was later painted black.

Achalen relates also that AWP as he knew him, had an early electric car, which may have been a Detroit Electric, and that he understood that this car had a small electric interior lamp that lit when the door was opened. He also had another early car, with landaulette body, but the make is unknown.



Can anyone throw any light on the identity of this car? Achalen Palfreyman, its owner, is seen resting on the rear guard.

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## FEBRUARY CLUB RUN BREAKFAST AT COTTER RESERVE 24TH FEBRUARY 2020

By Rob Woolley

- Nick and Carol Nowak – 1912 Overland
- Tony and Trudy Watson 1925 Dodge.
- Greg Spackman and Mary Brown – 1923 Talbot Darracq.
- Darren and Debbie Beauchamp – 1917 Model T Ford
- Wayne Young and Silvia Schneider 1930 – Model A Ford
- Wayne and Sandra Smith – 1954 Austin Healey
- Rick and Shirley McDonough – 1982 Fiat

**Modern cars** - Mal Smith, Sam Samaraweera, Don Doering, Gerard Frawley, Chris, Simone, Nicholas, Madeline and Cameron Hogan, Bob Courtney, John and Doreen Ahearn, Terry and Glenda Davies, Rob and Beth Woolley.

The weather was excellent and a great time was enjoyed by all.





**FEBRUARY CLUB RUN  
BREAKFAST AT COTTER RESERVE  
24TH FEBRUARY 2020**



# THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

**Motoring Adventures on a Happy Easter Long Weekend of Long Ago.**

Ian Irwin, April, 2020

## 1906

We have looked at a couple of historic motoring events, and local cars of the Canberra, Queanbeyan, Yass and district, our immediate area, over time. But one very significant event that we have not taken the time to review, is the question of who was first to reach the summit of Mt Kosciusko in a motor car. Some early Australian magazine articles featured journeys to the top of Australia, as did some press reports, pre 1910. But who was first to achieve this goal, when, and in what make of car?

In an April 1906 copy of *Evening News*<sup>1</sup>, Mr J. Pearson of the Cyclists' Touring Union responded to an earlier article that stated: *'Recently a trip was made to the summit of Mt Kosciusko by motor car; but it is not generally known that the ascent had been previously made on a bicycle.'* Pearson continued: "Now I wish to make a correction. The trip to the top of Mt Kosciusko has *never* been made by motor car, nor is it possible at the present time to do so, and secondly a bicycle has been to the summit, but it had to be conveyed on horseback. The first cyclist to reach that eminence with his 'bike' was Mr Gainford, who undertook the journey about six years ago.

Some 25 miles from the summit, Gainford could not ride due to the conditions.' Pearson wanted to warn fellow cyclists not to contemplate such a ride at Easter, as it 'would be positively dangerous, as fogs and snow are plentiful about that time.'

*(The cycling exploits of Joseph Pearson (1849-1939) are documented on the Australian Dictionary of Biography website.)*

## 1907

In December 1907, it was possible to drive on the newly created Kosciusko Road, to within 4 miles of the summit. From there, it was only possible to walk to the summit<sup>2</sup>. The NSW Government had invested a great deal of effort to open up tourist destinations, especially the Blue Mountains, and the Kosciusko alpine region was planned to be opened before 1909.

Construction of the Kosciusko Hotel had commenced in 1906, designed to cater to for an ever growing demand for high quality accommodation in the high country. It was opened in June 1909, in the midst of a snowstorm that heralded the late arrival of the winter.

The Government Architect, Mr Vernon, said the improved road from Jindabyne to the summit should be completed and hopefully would be ready for use by the end of February 1908<sup>3</sup>.



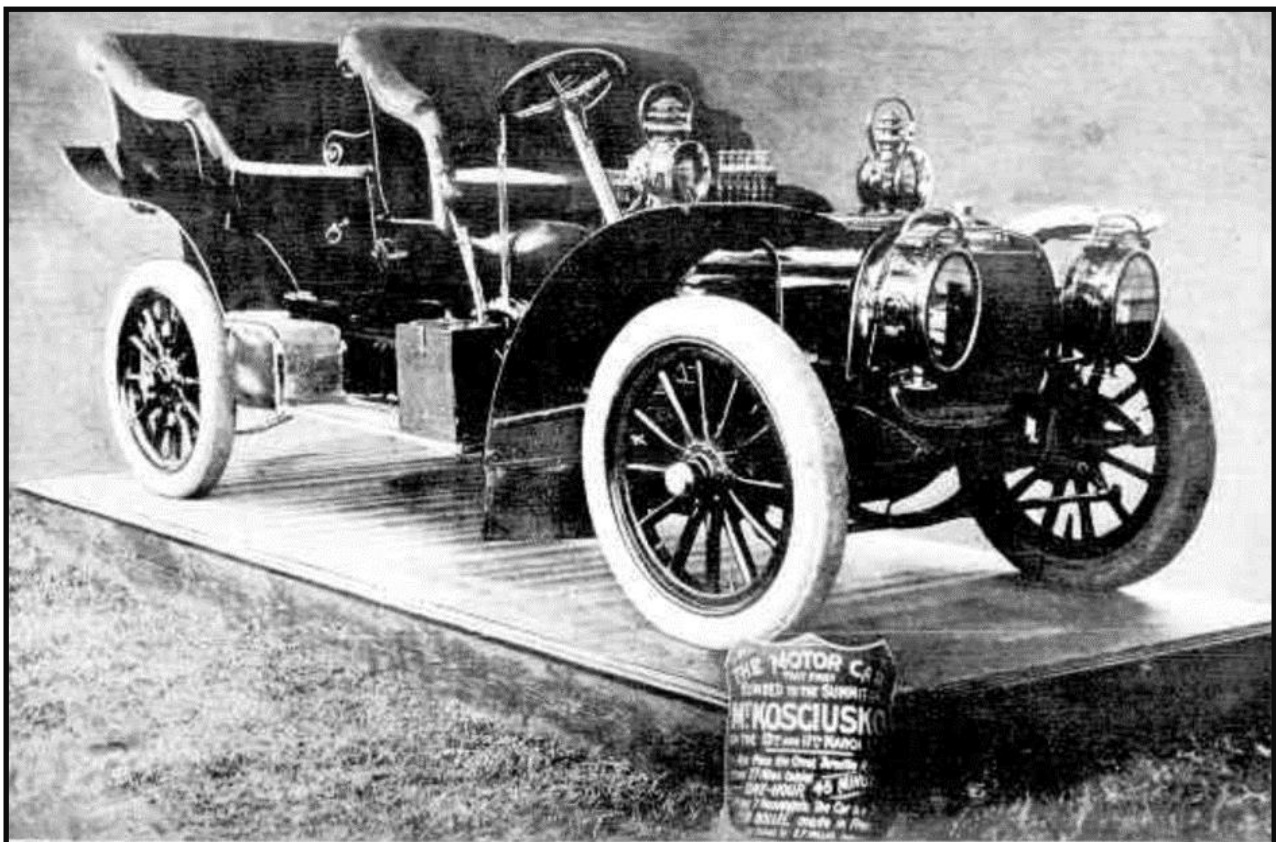
## THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

### 1908

According to a January report in *The Daily Telegraph*<sup>4</sup> the 'roads' of the alpine region had been improved and plans were under way for comfortable accommodation facilities. It was intended a more comfortable route to the summit would be achieved in the foreseeable future. In January 1908, Mr C.W. Oakes, M.P. reached Mt Kosciusko in 'a comparatively small powered' De Dion Bouton. His progress however, was halted 3 miles from the summit, and from there Oakes resorted to horseback to reach the summit and then continue on around the ridges to the Blue Lake. So the scene had been set for adventurous motorists with cars of appropriate capacity, to contemplate an assault on the mountain.

The mystery as to who would be first to conquer the mountain can now be answered, subject to an appeal of course, as more information may come to hand.

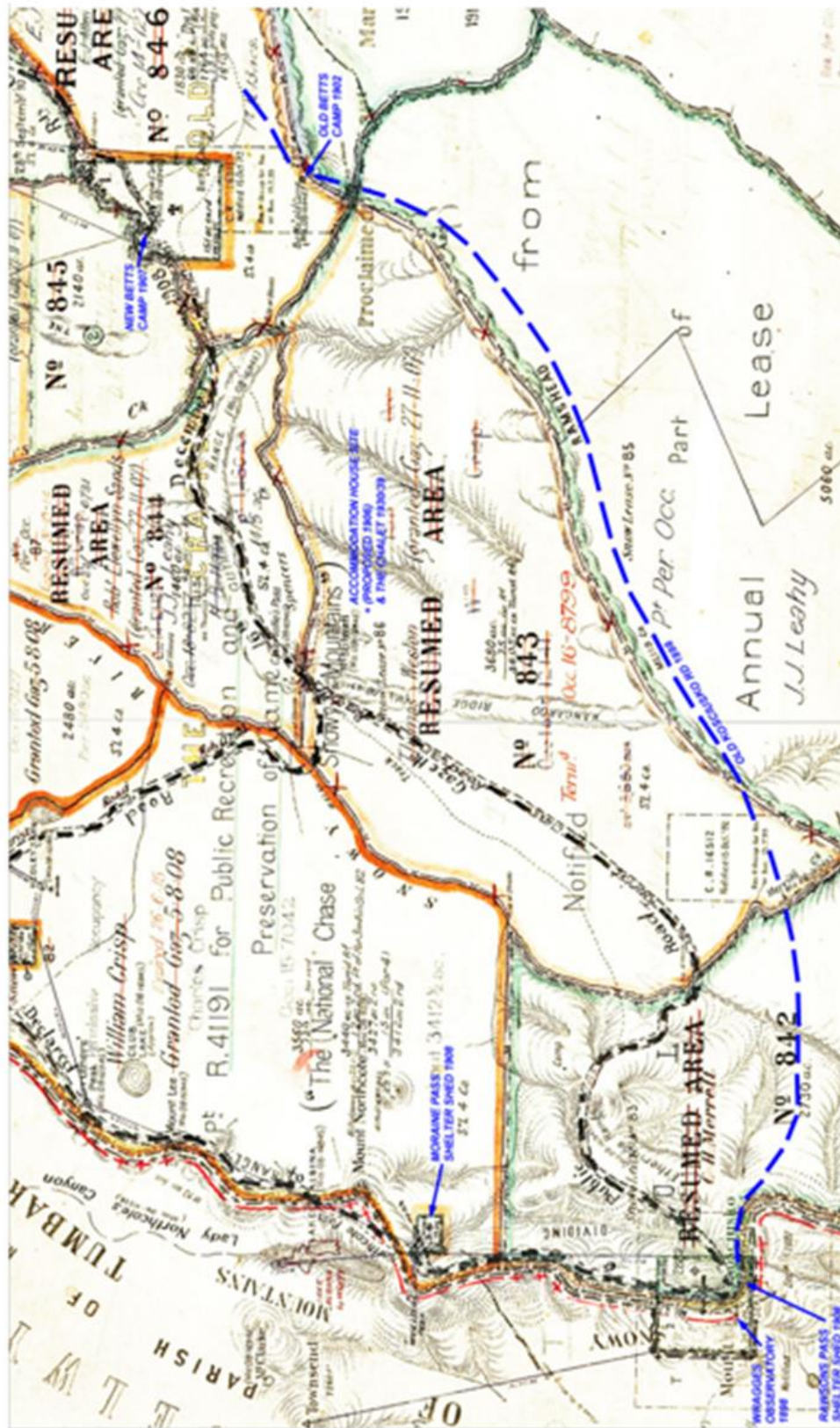
From *The Sydney Mail*<sup>5</sup> we learn of the claim made by Mr E.F. Miller of Melbourne, which is very strong indeed. On both Monday 13 and Good Friday, 17 March, 1908, Miller drove his car from The Creel, at the Thredbo River, to the summit, a distance of 27 miles, with seven on board, in one hour and 45 minutes. His car was a 30 HP Leon Bollee supplied by Dalgety & Co, of Melbourne. We may presume that Miller's journey from Melbourne was by road, as there was no direct rail link to the region to make his life that bit easier.



*E.F. Miller's 1906/7 30 HP Leon Bollee on display at the 1908 Royal Easter Show.*



# THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO



Department of Lands NSW map 1897-1923. Courtesy Tourists on the Summit. D.Scott 2011.

## THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

Some four weeks later, Miller's car was a prime exhibit at Sydney's Royal Easter Show, on Dalgety's Stand, adjacent to their feature rural exhibit of cream separators and milking equipment.



'The Referee', of the same date<sup>6</sup>, a much respected and motoring- oriented Sydney paper of the period, applauded Miller's achievement, and said that the car attracted a great deal of attention. It also provided a very brief description, that enables us, in the mind's eye, to visualise this car in its enamelled green finish, with its magnificent brightly polished, Italian-manufactured, 'Regina' brand, brass headlamps and other accessories. Note, however, that the car was not fitted with a hood, at least not while on display at the Dalgety exhibit stand.

On the face of things, the Leon Bollee's success in mid-March, eclipsed another attempt by only a matter of days, or did it?

From the *Daily Telegraph* of 1 April, we read the following:

**SIR HARRY RAWSON'S TOUR.**

**FIRST CAR TO REACH THE SUMMIT OF KOSCIUSKO.**  
 Sir Harry Rawson and suite recently visited Kosciusko and district per motor-car. Two cars were employed, Mr. Herbert Garratt being at the wheel of an 18 horse-power Clement-Bayard, while the other car was a De Dion of 10 horse-power. The cars were shipped by train to Cooma, where the motor trip started. The stages were easy, owing to the many receptions given to the popular State Governor.

On the first day Berridale and Dalgety were visited, also Mr. Crisp's station, where some splendid shooting was had. Only 40 miles were covered. The second day was spent in visiting the surrounding districts. On the third day a start was made for Jindabyne, and thence on to Thredbo at the foot of Kosciusko. The fourth day out the cars climbed to the summit of Mount Kosciusko, where the party lunched.



## THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

Although a Melbourne motorist claims to be the first to reach the summit of Kosciusko, the road engineer of the district states that Mr. Garratt's Bayard really enjoys that honor. A culvert which had only been finished the day prior to the Governor's visit prevented any other car reaching the summit. There being practically no doubt as to Mr. Garratt's car being the first to reach the summit, it was christened "Kosciusko" by Sir Harry Rawson, and the car now bears a plate upon which is inscribed: "'Kosciusko,' christened by his Excellency Sir Harry Rawson, on Mount Kosciusko, March 20, 1908, being the first car to reach the summit."

The fourth day of the trip was spent in trout fishing on the Snowy, and the sixth being Sunday was spent in rest. On the seventh day the return journey was made to Cooma, and the trip completed to Sydney per train. The trip was a most pleasant one. The roads were dusty, and the surface on the whole not too good. The surface of the road up Kosciusko was soft, but quite safe, if taken with care, and can be mounted by any reasonably powerful car.

Mr. Garratt states that a service of motor-cars will shortly be running from Cooma right to the summit of Kosciusko. It will shortly be possible to leave Sydney at 9.30 one night, and be at the top of Kosciusko the next afternoon. The trip is becoming a very popular one with motorists.



*The Referee* also backed the claim by Garratt, the chauffeur of the State Governor, on 8 April<sup>7</sup>.

But by then, the proverbial cat was well and truly out of the bag, and the hounds were running.

Sometimes, things aren't all plain sailing. Just when all looks well, something comes along to 'rain on the parade'.

Sir Harry Rawson (cf. Rawson's Pass and Rawson's Hut), pictured, was the State Governor of NSW, coming from a distinguished naval career. It was claimed that 'his' car, an 18 HP Clement-Bayard driven by Herbert Garratt, was the first to conquer Mount Kosciusko.

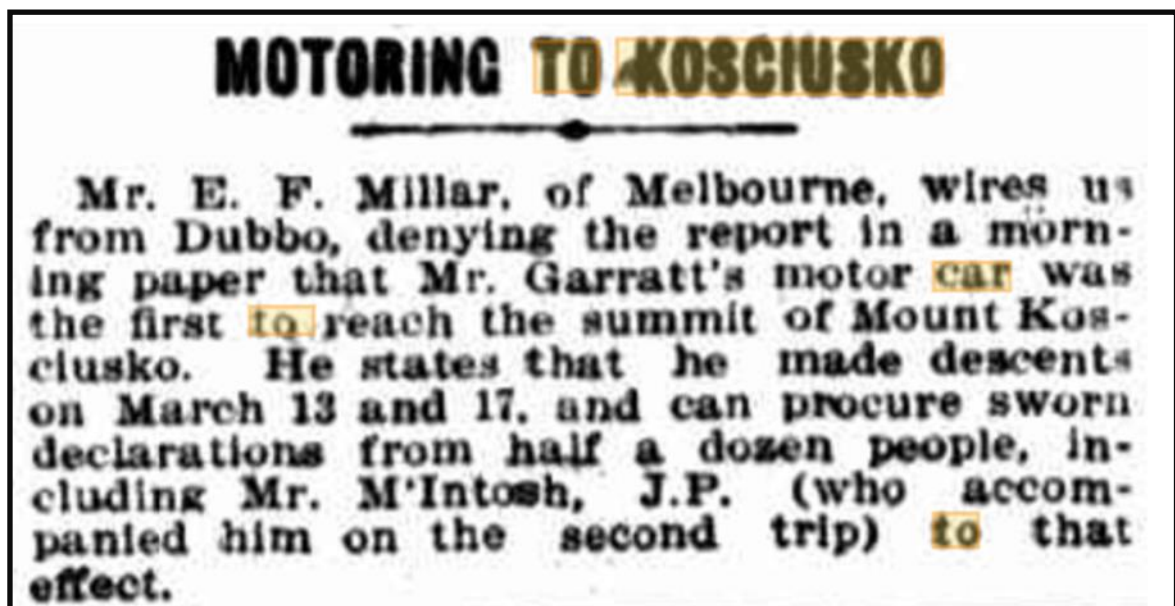


## THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

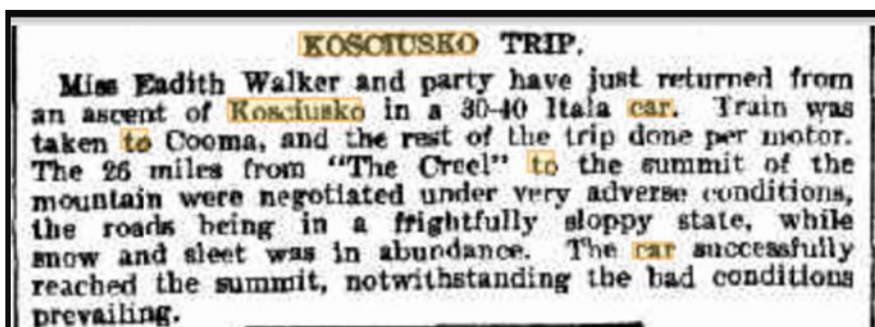
There followed a battle between the *Referee* and the *Daily Telegraph*, with both papers desperately trying to prove the integrity of their reporting.

*The Australian Star*<sup>8</sup> also entered into the fray on the day immediately following the claim by Herbert Garratt's Clement-Bayard. E.F. Miller was clearly very annoyed and indignant that his claim had been refuted. It sounds like he was hot under the collar.

The *Star* paper of 2 April published the following:



Around this same time, another motorist, the wealthy Dame Eadith Walker had headed south with the intent of also driving to the Kosciusko summit.



We see from the *Daily Telegraph*<sup>9</sup> report (left) that Dame Eadith Walker's 30-40 HP Itala car reached the summit in April, 1908, when the weather had somewhat deteriorated with the approach of the winter season.

So whose car was it that was the first to the top of Mount Kosciusko?

Was it the Leon Bollee of the Victorian motorist E.F. Miller? Or one of the NSW cars, the Itala of Dame Eadith Walke, or the Clement-Bayard of Herbert Garratt? Not a British car amongst them. Two cars of French manufacture, and one of Italian.

The writer is of the opinion that none of the owners of these cars set out to achieve fame in being the first to the summit. It was very likely that, for each, it was never to be anything more than a pleasure trip to take in the delights of the region, including rare alpine flowering species, and the refreshing mountain air.

## THE SAGA OF THE FIRST CAR TO THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT KOSCIUSKO

So, let's say they all deserve our recognition for their exceptional achievements. After all there was only a matter of days between their historic ascents of Australia's mountain.

Whatever the outcome of the debate, we can be confident that these honeymooners of 1897 beat them all, in their hired 2 HP coach.



### **Acknowledgements:**

1. *Evening News*, Sydney, 3 April, 1906; 2. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 December, 1907. P. 14.; 3. *Daily Telegraph*, 26 Dec 1907, p.4; 4. *The Daily Telegraph*, 18 January 18, p.12; 5. *The Sydney Mail*, 22 April, 1908, p.1067; 6. *The Referee*, 22 April, 1908, p.6; 7. *The Daily Telegraph*, 24 April, 1908; 8. *The Australian Star*, 2 April, 1928, p.2; 9. *The Referee*, 8 April, 1908, p.6. and Francis Ransley of Wynyard Tasmania, for identifying the make of headlamps on the Leon Bollee. The writer knew that similar lights were fitted to Francis' 1904 2 cylinder 12 HP Darracq. D. Scott: *Tourists of the Summit* website, including the 1897 NSW Department of Lands Regional Map, with 1923 amendments following early grazing land lease resumptions.

### **ADDENDUM:**

The accompanying photo of a 1904 Darracq, in Europe, with similar 'Regina' headlamps was sent to me by Francis Ransley to append to this article. These lamps today are exceptionally scarce.



## MOTORING AROUND CANBERRA

Unfortunately most events have had to be postponed or cancelled. However, that doesn't mean you can't get your motoring fix while staying safe at home.

Several car museums are now offering free virtual tours. You can find more details at the following link —<https://www.ozbargain.com.au/node/532934>. A link to a virtual tour of our own Australian National Motor Museum in Birdwood even appears in the comments section.



I'm sure you'll find it as amusing as I did that the Audi tour, while both virtual and free still requires a booking, however you are actually led around by a real person.

### Did you know?

Australia is the only continent where driving to the summit of the tallest mountain could even be contemplated. By global standards, our tallest peak is tiny at 2,228 metres above sea level (approximately 1/4 the size of Mount Everest).

The mountain has a fascinating history, which includes being discovered twice due to a cartography error and is subject of a debate about whether it is actually Australia's highest mountain. Depending on how you want to count external territories, Mawson Peak in the Heard and Macdonald Islands, which has been Australian territory since 1947 is approximately 500 metres taller than Kosciuszko.

You probably not going to get a car up Mawson Peak, but unfortunately, if you wanted to repeat the feats of those early Australian motorists, it's also no longer possible to drive up Mount Kosciuszko either. The road to the summit was closed in 1977 due to environmental concerns.



Summit of Mt Kosciuszko

### Upcoming Swap Meets and Shows

Due to Government regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic currently upcoming swap meets have either been cancelled or postponed to later in the year. I'll update once everything starts opening back up again.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF MEETING</b> <b>VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)</b> <b>19TH FEBRUARY 2020</b></p>
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**Meeting Opened:** 7:32pm by President Darrell Leemhuis

**Attendance:** Members: 21, Apologies: 6, Guests: 1 (Janette Cadona)

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Accepted – Moved: Rob Woolley, Seconded: John Cadona. .

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Correspondence In:**

- Letter from the Council of Heritage Motor Clubs (Kathy Booby) offering a guide to members who have been effected by the recent bushfires.
- Brochure from Kathy Booby re a Show & Shine at Kurri Kurri on March 28th & 29th March 2020 tabled.
- Several magazines tabled.
- Ian Irwin forwarded Nick (Secretary) his "Preliminary Assessment of Dating of Motor Vehicle" to assist with the January minutes.
- Email from Chris Hogan re drive to Manuka on Monday 6 to 7pm for ice creams. Members asked to join Chris if they wish. Entered in "day book"
- Email from Kathy Booby re Agenda & Meeting notice for Council of Heritage Motor Clubs NSW plus info for the Temora Rally 4th to 7th April. Info re Temora Rally tabled.
- 15th Feb – email to members re February/March events.
- Members informed about "Classics at Kambri" on Sunday 16th March
- Tax Invoice for postage for the 2020 Veteran Car Register - \$48.
- Bill for Club PO Box (Manuka) - \$134 if paid by the end of March (\$139 otherwise).
- Advice from Lawrie Nock (STHARC) that our Club will be located near the front entrance for Wheels.
- Email from Ian Irwin about a car and bike auction at Robertson Sunday 23rd Feb. Info passed on to members.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF MEETING</b> <b>VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)</b> <b>19TH FEBRUARY 2020</b></p>
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**Correspondence Out:**

- Details sent to members re the Pre '31 Autumn Tour at Dubbo on 1st, 2nd, 3rd May 2020 (Friday to Sunday).
- Info to members re the Club "Canberra Day Weekend Tour 2020" (Sat. to Monday). Contact Rob Woolley, Chris Hogan or David Robinson for further details.
- January minutes sent to Club Editor.
- Request for details re Wheels sent to Lawrie Nock, organizer for Wheels. Lawrie is Secretary for "The Southern Tablelands Heritage Automobile Restorers Club" in Queanbeyan.
- Details re future Club events sent to members.

Secretary's report accepted - Moved: Chris Hogan. Seconded: Darrell Leemhuis

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Account balance: Balance tabled.

**Expenditure:**

- \$48 to "The Association of Veteran Car Clubs in Australia" for postage for the new Veteran Car Register.
- \$18 to Roy Bendall for cost of library storage boxes.

**Claims:**

- Secretary Nick claimed \$175-81 he paid for with Visa for 12 months Club subscription to "The Automobile" magazine. Cheque received.
- Account for Club mailbox renewal (12 months) given to Treasurer - \$134 (to be paid by 31st March or \$139 after that date).

**Money in:**

- Carol Nowak, Membership Secretary, gave Treasurer \$25 fees received from Terry Davis for membership to 31st July 2020.

Treasurer's report accepted - Moved: Gerard Frawley, Seconded: Tony Watson

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

### 19TH FEBRUARY 2020

#### EDITOR'S REPORT

- Editor was unable to attend the meeting. Nil to report.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Carol reported 59 members. She had also located the original 1964 membership form for Terry Davis who has recently re-joined the Club. A copy of the original application for membership will be given to Terry.

#### DATING OFFICER'S REPORT

- Ian Irwin had nothing to report this month.

#### EVENTS REPORT

- Terry Davis said that he was recently reading a book "The Heart of the South" by Ruth Park (which is about the large numbers of and mixture of cars and horse drawn vehicles in the early 1900's). He was particularly amused at her comment about the Model "T" Fords being "reliable but nothing to look at". Got a couple of comments from our "T" owners.
- Chris Hogan said the "ice-cream" run to Manuka on Monday evening 27th January was enjoyable. Chris had his Chev tourer, John Cadona in his Ferrari, Wayne & Silvia in the Model "A" Ford and Bob Courtney in his newly restored Morgan 3 wheeler. Bob missed meeting the other members and drove home.
- Rob Woolley reminded members about next Sunday's BBQ breakfast run to the Cotter picnic area – 8-30am start.
- Nick mentioned Shannons Wheels Show at Queanbeyan on Sunday 1st March. Several members indicated that they would attend. The Club has been given a prominent display spot near the entrance to Wheels. Nick to send out a reminder early next week.
- Rob Woolley mentioned the Canberra Day weekend away to Junee in March. Those going have already sorted out accommodation etc.
- On Sunday 23rd March there is a BBQ and viewing of Bob Courtney's car and bike collection. Members to arrive at Bob's home in Garran at midday. Geoff Nicholas will notify Nick as to a coffee stop/meeting place before proceeding to Bobs. Nick will send out details.
- Sunday 19th April – Motor Skills/Edwardian Day at Kingsley and Cynthia Southwell's "Brooklands" property via Hall. Organiser Geoff Nicholas will arrange a meeting place for coffee before heading to the Southwell's for a BBQ lunch and challenging driving. Details nearer the time.
- Darrell Leemhuis to arrange a coffee morning in May.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF MEETING</b> <b>VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)</b> <b>19TH FEBRUARY 2020</b></p>
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- Don & Beverley Doering would like to hold a soup lunch at their place in Watson on Sunday 19th July. Chris Hogan will arrange a run prior to lunch.
- Rob Woolley handed out a brochure about the Goulburn Swap Meet on Sunday 5th April.
- Geoff Nicholas asked if there was a member available, going to Shannons Wheels with a Veteran or Vintage four seater car, who could pick up and take the Queanbeyan Mayor to Wheels. No one was available.

#### **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

- Librarian Roy Bendall has been given a video tape by David Wheeler (son of the late Club member Roy Wheeler) which may be of the 1970 National Veteran Car Rally held in Canberra. Roy will talk to the National Film and Sound Archives to see if they can "play" the tape and if it is of the Rally possibly transfer it to a USB stick. If it is of the Rally Greg Hill in Sydney would like a copy to show it at the 2020 National One and Two Cylinder Rally at Charleville Qld. later this year.

#### **REGISTRARS' REPORT**

Registrars Rob Woolley and Nick Nowak said that business was steady.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Our guest tonight is Janette Cadona (John Cadona's cousin). Janette has inherited her father's 1954 Dodge sedan and would like to join our Club. A vote was held and Janette is now a member (Congratulations Janette).
- John Cadona mentioned that he recently met Steve Campbell-Wright from Melbourne who has veteran Daimler's. Steve works in Canberra during the week and John will ask him if he would like to talk to members about Veteran Daimlers at a future Club meeting? Ian Irwin knows Steve.
- Rob Woolley asked Nick if he could send a copy of the Goulburn Swap Meet to the ACT Car Council to notify other car clubs in the ACT?
- Rob had a plastic bowl left at the recent BBQ at his place. Contact Rob if it's yours.

**Meeting Closed: 8:10pm**

#### **AFTER MEETING ACTIVITY**

- Rob Woolley showed us a 20 minute video of the recent Model "T" Ford Rally in Maryborough Qld.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF MEETING</b> <b>VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)</b> <b>18TH MARCH 2020</b></p>
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**Meeting Opened:** 7:30pm

**Attendance:** Members:17, Apologies:5, Guests: Nil .

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

Accepted – Moved: Rob Woolley, Seconded: Bob Courtney

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Correspondence In:**

- Invoice from Shannons for Club trailer insurance (\$197-38). Insurance due 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Passed on to Treasurer for payment.
- Info from CHMC regarding a flyer from "Operating Heritage Australia" regarding moveable heritage vehicles in Australia. Sent out to all members.
- CHMC magazine "Dinkum Oil" about the towing of vehicles on trailers in NSW. Sent to all members.
- Vet. Rally newsletter No. 2 for Swan Hill sent to members.
- Various magazines - tabled.

**Correspondence Out:**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Members sent details re Shannons Wheels display in Queanbeyan.
- 5<sup>th</sup> March. Email to Geoff Nicholas to see if he is arranging coffee before we go to Bob Courtney's for a BBQ and viewing of Bob's cars and bikes on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 – Invitation to Club event at Bob Courtney's sent to members.

Secretary's report accepted - Moved: Nick Nowak. Seconded: Rick McDonough.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Account balance: Amount tabled.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MINUTES OF MEETING</b> <b>VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)</b> <b>18TH MARCH 2020</b></p>
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**Expenditure:**

- Treasurer (John Cadona) paid \$197-38 for Shannons trailer insurance.
- John also advised that at the recent Club run to Junee the Club purchased a gift for Junee Model "T" Ford members, Colin, Bobbie, Roger & Jenny for assistance to our Club with the planning of the 2022 National Veteran Vehicle Rally.

Treasurer's report accepted - Moved: John Cadona, Seconded: Rob Woolley. . . .

**EDITOR'S REPORT**

- The Editor could not make the meeting. Nil to report.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Carol Nowak reported that the Club had 59 members.

**DATING OFFICER'S REPORT**

- The Dating Officer could not make the meeting. Nil to report.

**EVENTS REPORT**

- Rob Woolley spoke briefly about the Club run to Junee. 5 cars and 2 Motorcycles. A great weekend. A lot of ground work was carried out for the 2022 National Veteran Vehicle Tour to be run by our Club. Rob will prepare a report for the next Edwardian magazine.
- Bob confirmed that the Club visit to his garage and BBQ was still on next Sunday ie: 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Details have been distributed to members. A show of hands indicated that around 20 plus members would attend.
- Nick said that Shannons Wheels attracted 6 Club vehicles and that it was a nice day. He will provide a report for the next magazine.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April is Motor Skills day at Kingsley and Cynthia's property. At this point in time it is still on.
- 24<sup>th</sup> May – Darrell is arranging a coffee morning at Fyshwick.
- 21<sup>st</sup> June – nothing planned so far?
- 19<sup>th</sup> July – Club run followed by a soup lunch at Don and Beverley Doering's place in Watson.

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (ACT)

### 18TH MARCH 2020

#### LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

- Librarian, Roy Bendall, advised that the tape of the 1970 International Veteran & Vintage Vehicle Rally recently given to the Club had been sent to Sydney to see if the pictures can be copied onto a disc/USB. The tape has been returned and Roy is hoping to arrange for the contents to be downloaded on to a USB stick so that we can view it.

#### REGISTRARS' REPORT

- Rob Woolley has carried out several registrations. Nick no rego's last month.
- Rob also talked about a recent dispute between a Club Registrar and a member. When the Registrar was checking the member's Vintage car for registration a dispute arose about an item that didn't work and the Registrar informed the member that he couldn't sign off on registration. This resulted in an argument and the member subsequently resigning from the Club. The member (and the vehicle) has not joined in any Club events for several years and the Registrar felt it prudent to closely check out the vehicle. Rob, as Senior Registrar, and the Club President both strongly supported the Registrars decision. Rob also read out the relevant sections from the ACT Council of Car Clubs By-Laws reminding members that it is their responsibility to ensure that their vehicle is roadworthy before asking a Registrar to issue them an "Application for Concessional Registration of a Motor Vehicle". This matter is finaliaed.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

- President Darrell informed members that no further meetings will be held in the Shannons meeting rooms until the Coronavirus pandemic is over. If we are to hold meetings both Darrell and John Cadona have space at their business premises that we could meet at. Our Club will make a decision about holding the next meeting a bit nearer the due date.
- The Goulburn Swap for Sunday 5th April has been cancelled. Nick to notify members.
- The National One & Two Cylinder Rally at Charleville Qld. next month has been postponed.
- Auto Italia (Canberra) has been cancelled.
- Terry Davis said that the RTA/Police in NSW were very strict with the rules for towing our old cars. This might be a topic that Club members look at closely before towing their cars to rallies.

**Meeting Closed:** 8:15 pm

#### AFTER MEETING ACTIVITY

It was Rob Woolley's suggestion that members might like to bring along unusual items to the meeting to show members and briefly talk about. About half a dozen members brought items along and spoke about them. It was a particularly interesting and successful half hour or so and it was decided that we would do it again at a future date.

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