

SPIT AND POLISH

Journal of the Veteran Car Club of
Australia (NSW) Inc.

January 2023



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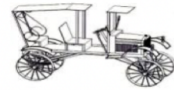
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ON THE COVER:
2022 Newcastle Branch Christmas Party at Westlakes Miners Museum with Catherine Strutt's 1912 F.N.



Club Information

Club Management and Contact Details

OFFICE BEARERS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| President | Phil O'Loan | 0439 223 031 | president@vccansw.org |
| Vice President | Graeme Newman | 0412 138 063 | vicepresident@vccansw.org |
| | Peter Martin | 02 4657 2994 | vicepresident2@vccansw.org |
| Secretary | Louise Yeomans | 0488 082 611 | secretary@vccansw.org |
| Treasurer | Geoff Yeomans | 02 9884 9314 | treasurer@vccansw.org |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Hall Lettings | Robert Fordham | 02 9899 4395 | hall@vccansw.org |
| Registrations Officer | Neil Martin | 0417 236 495 | registrations@vccansw.org |
| Editor | Lauren Newman | | editor@vccansw.org |
| Committee Member | Ian Shinfield | 0411 214 495 | ivselectric@optusnet.com.au |
| Committee Member | Andrea Holden | 0434 680 777 | hall.av@vccansw.org |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Events Co-Ordinator | Graeme Newman | 0412 138 063 | events@vccansw.org |
| Web Co-Ordinator | Abbey Newman | 02 4392 1035 | web@vccansw.org |
| Library Committee | Jenny Fawbert | John Grant | |
| | David McCredie | David Norton | |
| | Louise Yeomans | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| CMC Delegate | | | |
| Investigation & Dating: | John Burke (Chairman) | 0412 821 945 | investigation@vccansw.org |
| | John Brumby | 0414 844 254 | |
| | Neil Martin | 0417 236 495 | |
| | Ian Streatfeild | 0488 238 177 | |

BRANCH CHAIRMEN & SECRETARIES

Newcastle Branch

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Chairman | John Burke | 0412 821 945 | hupmobile@bigpond.com |
| Secretary | Graeme Newman | 0412 138 063 | kazngrae@bigpond.com |
| Legal Advisor | Andrew Aitken | 02 8987 0000 | |

SPIT & POLISH is the journal of the Veteran Car Club of Australia (NSW) Inc. Other Veteran Clubs have permission to copy.

Articles and letters appearing in Spit & Polish reflect the opinion of the Author, which must be listed when submitting to the Editor otherwise it will not be included. They are not necessarily the opinion of the editor or the committee nor are they any indication of club policy.

Minutes

Minutes of Monthly Club Meeting held on 24 November 2022. Conducted at the hall and by Zoom.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: 7 Members at the hall: 15 Members on Zoom: 5 Member's family: 18
Total at hall 38 and total on zoom: 7

MEETING OPENED AT 8:10PM

APOLOGIES: Andrea Holden, Tom Killingback, Melinda Kovacs, Susan, Peter and Harriette Martin, Inez and Norm Mitchell and Phil Virgona

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

The President, Phil O'Loan, welcomed members to the meeting. He apologised for the late start due to technical difficulties with zoom. He thanked members and their families for coming and he was delighted to see so many young people at the Christmas party.

Vale George Gillott - George was remembered as a keen collector of veteran cars, an astute businessman and always a gentleman. George included in his collection of veterans 1908 BSA, 1910 Buick, and 1917 Chevrolet. One minutes' silence was held in memory of George.

MINUTES PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes arising from the minutes: Nil

Proposer: Robert Fordham Seconded: Alexander Yeomans

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Russell Holden – advising that Tom Killingback is the custodian of 1917 Munroe.

Penny Stanbridge – resignation from the club

CHMC- half yearly reports and affiliation form

Graham Weekes – request for dating Buick

Peter Cockbain – request for information on general liability insurance

Bob Shipway – change of address

CHMC Annual Rally at Wagga

TVCCA - Terry Parker of SA awarded Montagu Award

OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

Russell Holden

Penny Stanbridge

Kerry Gillott – flowers

Inez Mitchell - card

Henry Orton – membership list

Paul Barglik, Tom Killingback and Paul Nelson- membership kits

Peter Cockbain – forwarded copy of certificate of currency

January 2023

National Trust – cancellation of Premier Rally 2022

Moved: Graham Weekes Seconded: Lynette Martin

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was tabled. As of 24 November 2022, the balances are:

Moved: Graeme Newman Seconded: Lynette Martin

MAGAZINE

Lauren indicated that the deadline for January Spit and Polish is early December so it can be printed before the Christmas holidays. She requested some photos of veterans for the front cover which can be emailed to her.

EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

28 October - Northern MaSH Coffee Run - no report

11 Nov - Southern MaSH Coffee Run - no report

20 Nov - Newcastle Inspection Day - busy morning with one new vehicle being registered.

COMING EVENTS

25 Nov - MaSH Coffee Run - contact Bill and Robyn Betts for details

4 Dec - Newcastle Branch Christmas Party at Westlakes Mining Museum - notify Graeme Newman or John Burke if you will be attending.

9 Dec - Southern MaSH Coffee Run - contact Bill and Robyn Betts for details

11 Dec - Sydney Inspection Day - Smiley Power, Guildford

2023

26 Jan - Australia Day Night Market

28 Jan - Working Bee at the hall

18 Feb - visit to Neil Heilbrunn's to look at his collection of motorcycles and vehicles - see Graeme Newman or John Burke if interested

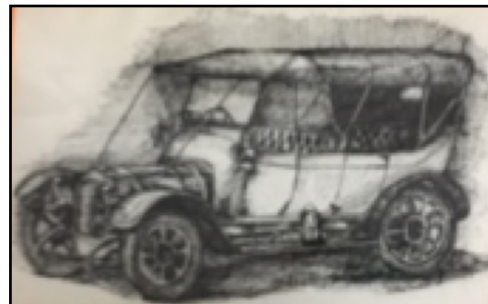
6-10 March - 2023 Premier Rally Orange - more members were urged to participate as it should be a great week of Veteran motoring.

PERMIT TO MOVE/REGISTRATION

Two vehicles were registered. Neil Martin reminded members of the Sydney Registration Day on 11 December and to bring their rego papers and a copy of their insurance.

LIBRARY

On Wednesday 16 November the library committee met and all the pictures have been rehung. The original photographs have been put in the Committee room where the light intensity is lower. Some others have been moved in the main hall to limit sun damage. David McCredie worked hard to complete this task. The Dating Committee filing cabinet is temporarily located in the library. Jenny Fawbert sorted and catalogued a row of books; David Norton compiled a list of the library's holdings of Autocar. Terry Lyness used the library to do some research on Talbots. The sorting of shelves and cataloguing will be continued next year. A \$20 donation has been received. In regard to the conservation of the three receipts of the 1905 Motor Trade documents another donation of \$20 has been received so the fund now has \$250. A picture will be raffled. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and will be drawn at the January meeting. Louise thanked her helpers for all their work this year. It is making a visible difference!



DATING No report was received

MEMBERSHIP No applications were received

CHMC Jenny Fawbert reported that 2023 rally will be in Wagga over the June long weekend and in 2024 the annual rally will be in Parkes over Easter. Two position papers have been endorsed on the recommendation of FIVA. One describes a heritage vehicle and the other is on conversions to be an EV. Both were circulated in FFAF. The CHMC has donated \$1,000 to the flood appeal.

CMC Would anyone interested in becoming the club's representative please see the president.

HALL A working bee will be held on 28 January. Robert would like some strong men to move chairs by 7:30 am. The outside needs a clean-up. Unfortunately, there has been another sewer blockage which the plumber has now cleared. The new work on the sewer line outside has started and should be completed over the weekend. Some building rubble needs to be cleared and volunteers need to see Phil. David McCredie has already volunteered. Once the work is finished the site will need to be made safe.

WEBSITE Abbey would like some more Vehicle Profiles for the website. Forms were distributed and the form can be posted, scanned or filled in online. Profiles of motorcycles and unrestored vehicles are interesting too!

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Comments on membership proposals

The President requested feedback on the proposal.

2. Road worthiness inspectors

The President congratulated Neil Martin and Malcolm Garthon on their appointment to be club road

January 2023

worthiness inspectors. He thanked them for volunteering to perform this valuable service to the club.

3. Australia Day Night Market January 2023

A market will be held at the January meeting where you can bring in items to sell or trade. Tables will be available to use. Check your garages and cupboards over Christmas as you might have something that will be a treasure for someone! John Grant is the co-ordinator.

4. The making of the Model T Ford

Due to technical difficulties the video will be shown at the next meeting

5. *Parade from the Past* were available for a gold coin donation.

The President again thanked members and their members for coming, especially the younger ones. Merry Christmas and a happy new year of Veteran motoring!

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:45PM.

The raffle was drawn.

Phil O'Loan
President

Louise Yeomans
Secretary



President's Report

By Phil O'Loan

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and are enjoying the start of a New Year. I have just returned from Canada where Terri and I spent Christmas with my daughter's family. I cannot tell you much about this, because I had to write this article before we travelled to meet the publisher deadline. However, we look forward to catching up with the three grandkids for a skiing holiday, then travelling through Vancouver.

Importantly, Andrea Holden presented a proposal for changes to membership structure. If you haven't seen this proposal you will find it in October's Spit and Polish. Please review this proposal and if you have any questions or concerns please contact Andrea or any member of the committee. The feedback that we have had so far has been very positive and believe it to be a valuable change to our constitution.

The club is still looking for a CMC Delegate. This is an important communication position to fill, as the Club can be keep up to date with any potential issues and changes within the historic car movement. Please contact me if you are interested in helping the Club out.

The Premier Rally in Orange is not too far away, Monday 6th- 10th March. If you haven't already, please contact Euan and Wilga Coutts to register your interest.

Happy Motoring.

Editor's Report

By Lauren Newman

Happy New Year to everyone! Here's to another great year using our Veteran Vehicles! What an excellent end to 2022, with both of the Christmas parties a huge success.

Hopefully as we head into this year we will have a few less hiccups with the magazine, however please remember to send though any information of what you are working on, if you go on an outing in your Veteran or some just some photos. As I said at the last meeting, I am looking for some photos to be potentially used on the cover so please send them through if you have anything. It needs to be a high quality image, so if you unsure please just ask me.

Stay safe and happy reading.

January 2023

Australia Day Night Market!

Clean out your cupboard and garage after Christmas!

Sale of bric-a-brac, knick knacks, trinkets, odds and ends and bits and bobs.
It doesn't need to have been a part of a Veteran, but it does need to be portable.

If its big, bring a photo. If its dirty, bring a photo!

Your junk will be someone's treasure.



Bring portable items or photos to the January Club Meeting on **26 January** to sell or swap.

Contact John Grant to reserve a table space.

Email: jgr13216@bigpond.net.au

Ph: 0418 558 949

Access to the hall from 6pm.

Sausage sandwiches will be available.

Help save some precious documents

To help fund the conservation of the three receipts 1905 Motor Trade documents a picture donated to the club will be raffled. These documents are valuable pieces of Australia's automotive heritage and deserve to be preserved. Preservation will cost approximately \$1000. So far \$250 has been contributed. It is a sketch framed with an orange mount. Please buy some raffle tickets to support this worthy cause. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10 and will be drawn at the January meeting. If you wish to pay by EFT (BSB:062009 Account:28023425) please indicate your name and raffle. Your tickets will be placed in the draw. Thank you for your support.



Delegates' Report - CHMC

Council of Heritage Motor Clubs NSW Inc Half Yearly Meeting
29 October 2022. West Tamworth Leagues Club.

Meeting opened 10.am

Well attended meeting, with delegates from clubs from almost all regions of the State. Committee's Reports Key Points:

• President Ray Ives:

- 2022 AGM had Matt Café, Transport for NSW, address members and answer questions regarding conditional registration.

• AHMF Delegate Mike Beale;

- AGM on September 17th & 18th. Unfortunately, has lost members from WA, NT & ACT due to various reasons. Discussion regarding the loss, and seeking other groups to become members.
- Raising the profile of AHMF discussed e.g., a national newsletter like CHMC's 'Dinkum Oil'.
- Operating Heritage Australia (OHA) presentation 'Facing the Challenges to Historic Motoring in Australia'.
- OHA & AOMC in discussion with GreenFleet re. appropriate carbon offsets.

• Webmaster Jenny Fawbert:

- Website focuses on substance over "spin", on dependable information.
- Our Facebook Posts can spike to thousands within a few hours, depending on the Post topic. Our Facebook audience is 71.90% Men and 28.10% Women.

• Registrar Alan Early:

- Number of financially affiliated clubs at 11/11/2022- 86.
- CHMC Membership 2023 Renewal Form: 3 options for clubs: Hard copy; Fillable pdf; QR code link: complete, sign and enter vehicle Census statistics online.
- Membership enquiries steady, but clubs seeking access to the Classic Vehicle Scheme with more heavily modified vehicles than CHMC would endorse don't proceed.
- TfNSW respects CHMC and our focus on heritage clubs.
- Council's 14 permanent trophies have all been sponsored for 2023.

• TfNSW Liaison Officer Peter Wright:

- Clubs processing registrations and renewals without sighting vehicles may be making a false declaration. Clubs should either physically sight all vehicles or develop processes that support the signing of Form 1259, e.g., photos.
- CHMC's CVS approval processes, for example, are considered "best practice" by TfNSW and Police.
- "Pink Slips" verify vehicles meet safe operation not HVS eligibility. Clubs need good process and procedures to meet eligibility.

- Misinformation circulated by other peak bodies is disrespectful to TfNSW, NSW Police, and Service NSW.
 - Revisions to HVS Eligibility Criteria, TfNSW- more difficult than first envisaged. CHMC were the only organisation to provide detailed feedback on a proposal to incorporate VSI6 into the HVS eligibility.
 - First TfNSW Fact Sheet "Logbooks and Club Runs" due soon. Do not re-write but circulate to your members as is due to the complexity of legislation and policy behind it. Fact Sheet link will be emailed to TfNSW recognised Clubs.
 - Historic Tractors - National Historical Machinery Association Inc and CHMC believe there is a strong place for tractors on HVS.
 - Historic Vehicle Industry Working Group: VSI6 the key document for determining if a vehicle is modified. Number Plate Changes.
 - New HVS number plates have not passed camera test to date but there will be no change in size. Service NSW has sufficient plates on hand to meet demand.
 - CHMC Registration Forums, Workshops and Zoom meetings. Unlikely more until after the State elections – neither TfNSW or NSW Policy officers are available to attend until after the election. Clubs offering to host a forum or workshop to contact Peter.
 - CHMC Registration Forum at Ourimbah, oversubscribed but 60 delegates were squeezed in. Presenters - Matthew Cafe (TfNSW Stakeholder Manager), LSC Stephen Richards (NSW Police Special Traffic Command) and Peter Wright.
- Annual Rally & Meeting Updates:
 - 2023: Friday 9– Monday 12 June 2023. Entries close Monday 1 May 2023. Host Club: Wagga Wagga Veteran & Vintage Car Club Inc (WWVCC)
 - 2024: Friday 29 March – Monday 1 April 2024 (Easter) Host Club: Parkes Antique Motor Club Inc (PAMC)
 - 2023 AGM –Host club: Classic & Specialist Car Club North NSW Inc. 28 October.
 - Election of Office Bearers:
 - Vice-President, Jim Hatton. Club: Dinosaur Drivers Register
 - Treasurer: Maxine Beale. Club: Namoi Valley Antique Motor Club Inc.

General Business

1. Discussion about separating the AGM from the CHMC Annual Rally. Motion: To move the AGM to the Saturday of the last full weekend in October. Carried.

2. CHMC Position Papers

- Definition of a Heritage Vehicle. Motion: The CHMC defines a heritage vehicle as being:
 - Mechanically propelled;
 - At least 30 years old;
 - Preserved or restored and maintained in an historically correct condition;
 - Not in daily use; and
 - Recognised as part of Australia's technical and cultural heritage.

Carried unanimously.

The adoption of the FIVA-based definition strengthens CHMC's heritage focus with other peak bodies, Government and other associations, and fits now and for the future.

- Conversion of Heritage Vehicles to Electric Drive. CHMC position is based on FIVA's Position Statement. Motion: Conversion from ICE (internal combustion engine) to ED (electric drive) is such a substantial departure from the vehicle's original design to render it ineligible to be considered as a heritage vehicle;
 - No vehicle converted from ICE to ED will be approved to enter the CVS under the CHMC as an Approved Organisation;
 - TfNSW will be lobbied to develop or adopt a VSI specifically for Conversion to Electric Drive;
 - Vehicles converted from ICE to ED will not be allowed to participate in the CHMC Annual Rally; and
 - A category for ED conversion in Heritage Display Days and/or Tours will not be supported.

Motion supported subject to review of this position by CHMC in 5 (five) years' time.
Carried.

3. Insurance – members advised to look around for competitive Public Liability quotes.

4. Supporting veteran and vintage vehicles: Motion: CHMC sponsors to the total value of \$200 for the Best Veteran and Best Vintage awards at the Pre 1931 Autumn Tours. Carried.

5. NSWHMA's Log Book proposal to TFNSW includes significant variation to current Logbook Scheme conditions: HMA want Log Books to be compulsory for all and all movements, including club runs, to be captured in log books.

- CHMC clubs understand what is a club run and the use of 60-day log books.

Motion: CHMC position maintain current status quo regarding 60-day logbooks. Carried.

6. Next Meeting: 2023 General Meeting Friday 09 June 2023.

Events Calendar

Club Events

JANUARY

- Friday 13th **Southern MaSH Coffee Run** - Meet at 10:30am Winifred West Park (Railway Station end) for morning tea and start of run. *Contact Bill (0429 333 769) or Robyn (0439 714 431) Betts for details.*
- Tuesday 17th **Newcastle Branch Meeting** - Westlakes Mining Museum, Teralba. 7:30pm
- Thursday 26th **Monthly Club Meeting** - 134 Queens Road, Canada Bay. 8:00pm
- Friday 27th **Northern MASH Coffee Run** - Meet at 10:30am Curry Reserve Elderslie for morning tea and start of run. *Contact Bill (0429 333 769) or Robyn (0439 714 431) Betts for details.*
- Saturday 28th **Working Bee** - to clean carpet and spruce up the building. Helpers required before 8:00am to help move furniture. Contact Robert Fordham.

FEBRUARY

- Friday 10th **Southern MaSH Coffee Run** - Meet at 10:30am Winifred West Park (Railway Station end) for morning tea and start of run. *Contact Bill (0429 333 769) or Robyn (0439 714 431) Betts for details.*
- Saturday 18th **Newcastle Branch Outing** - to Neil and Maria Heilbrunn's house to view their collection. If you wish to attend, please contact John Burke by the 15th for catering purposes.
- Tuesday 21st **Newcastle Branch Meeting** - Westlakes Mining Museum, Teralba. 7:30pm
- Thursday 23rd **Monthly Club Meeting** - 134 Queens Road, Canada Bay. 8:00pm
- Friday 24th **Northern MASH Coffee Run** - Meet at 10:30am Curry Reserve Elderslie for morning tea and start of run. *Contact Bill (0429 333 769) or Robyn (0439 714 431) Betts for details.*

MARCH

- Monday 6th-10th **2023 Premier Event** - Orange, NSW
EOI in July Magazine. *Enquiries: Euan and Wilga Coutts*
- Friday 10th **Southern MaSH Coffee Run** - Meet at 10:30am Winifred West Park (Railway Station end) for morning tea and start of run. *Contact Bill or Robyn Betts for details.*
- Tuesday 21st **Newcastle Branch Meeting** - Westlakes Mining Museum, Teralba. 7:30pm
- Thursday 23rd **Monthly Club Meeting** - 134 Queens Road, Canada Bay. 8:00pm
- Friday 24th **Northern MASH Coffee Run** - Meet at 10:30am Curry Reserve Elderslie for morning tea and start of run. *Contact Bill or Robyn Betts for details.*
- Sunday 26th **Visit to Ron Hatterseley's house** - details to come

Major Events

MAY

Thursday 4th-6th

Pre '31 Event - Cowra, NSW

For details, email:

wycowra77@bigpond.com

JUNE

Friday 9th-12th

CHMC Rally - Wagga Wagga, NSW

For details, contact Jenny Fawbert

CHANGE IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Allen Davis

New postal address:

30 Park Street, East Maitland
NSW 2323

James Graham

New postal address:

Level 25, 88 Phillip Street, Sydney
NSW 2000

Robert Shipway

New postal address:

PO BOX 90
Beaudesert QLD 4285

January 2023

VCCA Christmas Party 2022

Photos by the Editor.



Newcastle Branch Christmas Party

Sunday 4th December 2022. By Graeme Newman

After not having held a proper Christmas Party for a couple of years due to COVID restrictions, it was great to be able to get together to enjoy a BBQ lunch and a good chat to celebrate the fast-approaching festive season.



For many years we have gathered for our Christmas function at Bargoed House on the shores of Lake Macquarie, however for several reasons the venue was no longer available. Instead, we decided to meet at the Westlakes Miners Museum where we hold our monthly meetings. This provided us with a lovely shady area to set up the BBQ as well as the convenience of indoor seating, albeit with all the hall doors open which lets the outside in.

From around 10.00am a good crowd gathered, including Neil and Lynette Martin making the journey from Sydney and some of our newest members, Henry and Andie Horton who live in Merriwa. The two Johns, Burke and Brumby did a great job with the steak, snags and onions whilst a number of the ladies provided a delicious array of salads.

Following lunch, Chairman Burke said a few words which was followed by dessert and a group photo around Catherine's 1600 FN.

Those attending:

Catherine Strutt & Isaac Struttstevens - 1912 FN
Chris Duncan & Helen Strutt - 1911 FN

Modern:

Max & Joan Burke
David & Betty Cherry
Henry & Andie Orton
John & Kelly Burke

Dianne Gotley
John Brumby
Peter Cockbain & Kay Good
Jeff & Kaye Palmer

Neil & Lynette Martin
Graeme, Karyn & Lauren Newman



Library Report

24 November 2022. By Louise Yeomans

David McCredie hung up more pictures. To give the best protection from light, photos were hung in the committee room. In the main hall, items were moved to the northern wall.

David Norton listed the library's holdings of The Autocar.

Jenny Fawbert sorted the shelves.

Have you noticed that no filing cabinets are left in the hall?
The Dating Committee have a new cabinet.

Terry Lyness used the collection to access information on Talbots.

Next year the shelved will continued to be sorted and placed in permanent positions.

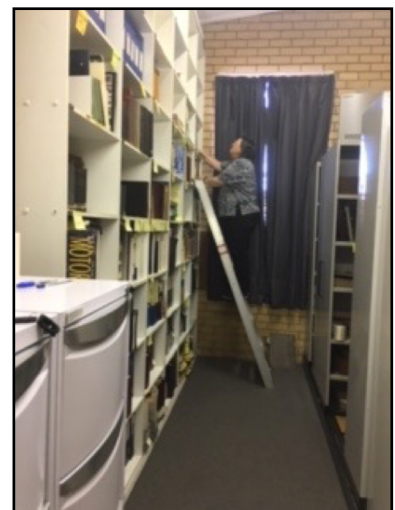
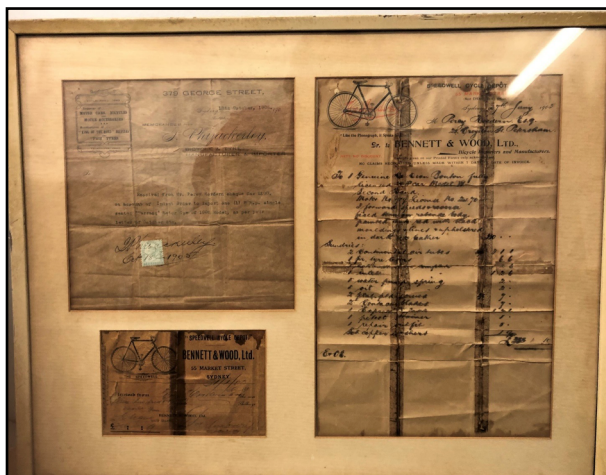
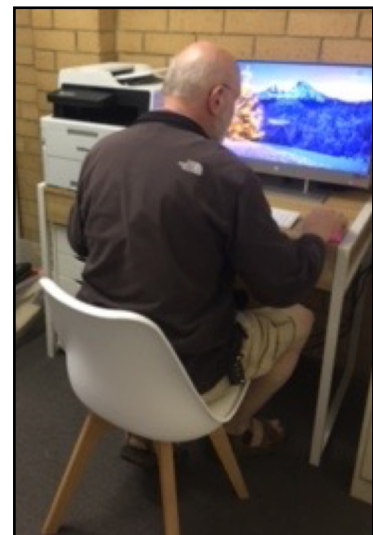
Then the items will be listed onto a catalogue that will hopefully be able to be accessed on the web.

Thank you to the team who have worked hard this year and the progress is amazing!

Reminder: We need your help! Our target is \$1000. You can contribute with buying a raffle ticket for a painting of a veteran car donated by a member of the Vintage Sports Car Club.

\$5 each or three for \$10.

The raffle will drawn at the January meeting. Thank you for your support.



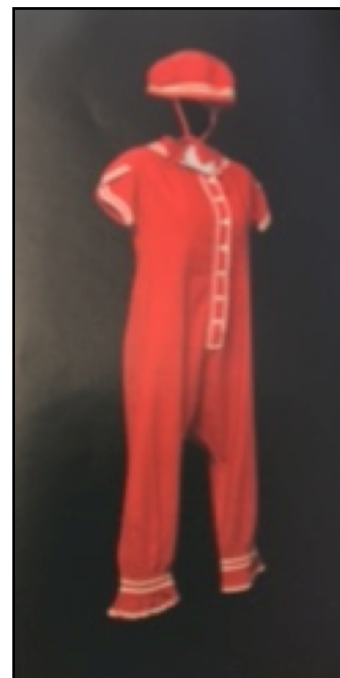
What an Edwardian Woman may have worn!

By Louise Yeomans

Recently I had the pleasure of attending a fashion parade hosted by the Cavalcade of History and Fashion. This organisation is committed to the preservation of historic gowns and accessories and rather like veteran car owners, consider themselves to be the custodians of its collection for future generations. The group was selling some of its publications and this one caught my eye- *An Edwardian House Party: 1900 -1914* published by the Cavalcade of History and Fashion following an exhibition held by the group.

It is a wonderful little book with many photographs of the items held in Cavalcade's collection dating from the Edwardian period, almost corresponding to the time frame for the manufacture of our veterans. Amazingly, on the first page is an example of a woman's dust coat and gloves worn in the car on the way to the house party! I had to buy the book!

Each of the twenty pages is illustrated with photographed examples of the clothes worn over a weekend away from day to evening wear and then bedtime! There are many blouses, skirts, dresses, and even bathers and a night gown with appropriate accessories such as collars, hats, umbrellas, fans, and shoes. It is in colour. There are brief descriptions of the garments and its construction and the providence when known of the original wearer of the item. As the book is only 15cm by 21 cm it is difficult to see the details of the garments.



The booklet is a useful source of information for those of us who like to wear clothing corresponding to the date of their veteran. It will be in the library for use as a reference for those interested in what the Edwardian woman wore!



Brisbane to Broome in a 1911 Fabrique Nationale 1560

By Catherine Strutt. July 18–August 11 2022. Part 2

We used the rest day to catch up on cleaning the brass on the FN, doing laundry, replenishing food supplies and visiting the QANTAS Founders Museum. The next day it was a must to visit the alluring outback clothing stores where Chris and I purchased more suitable Akubra hats for the relentless outback heat and sun and a few other goodies before leaving Longreach and heading north west towards Mount Isa.



The huge 1917 American La France on the rally. 2kms per one litre of fuel!



The landscape became utterly flat. The road before us totally disappeared into hundreds of square kilometres of nothingness. I thought I had witnessed plenty of nothing before out in NW NSW but this was a whole new level of nothing. Whistling Kites soared above us scouring the hot bitumen for roadkill. Maggie and I pulled over on the side of the road and waited for the FN to arrive for us to have some lunch. A little wait later and the speck of the FN approached in the far distance, glints of brass catching the sun shined back at us like survivor's

mirrors in the desert. Chris and Stan arrived and flicked off the FN. It was sounding unusually rough. It was super hot and she'd been working hard. At first thinking the worst that it could be a big end bearing in the engine, they were somewhat relieved to find that the old girl had blown a gasket on the exhaust manifold. Nothing could be done on the side of the road in the searing heat and the problem wasn't getting any worse, so we swapped passengers and drivers and carried on to Winton where we





Mechanical repairs on the blown gasket

get to the next stop for the night. The Waltzing Matilda centre is there as well as opportunities to fossick for Queensland boulder opal, which held a personal interest to myself as I have an opal mine at Lightning Ridge, home of black opal. But we saw none of this as we chugged on out of the small town and into the unrivalled desolation between Winton and Julia Creek.

After stopping for the night in the Julia Creek showground with other rally entrants and a great meal at the local pub we got on the road early along with a few of the veteran bikes. Driving along the Flinders Highway we saw another change in landscape. Dozens of tall rust coloured termite mounds spread across the ground and all through the bush. Three or four varieties of golden yellow wattle on a red outback

found a great camp site for the night on a nearby creek, built the best campfire of the whole trip and made jaffles for dinner while Chris carried out a repair on the failed exhaust manifold gasket.

At Winton it became clear to us that because of the nature of the rally, the long hours of driving and our personal travelling arrangements between the four of us, we didn't have time to actually enjoy what the towns we were passing through had to offer. Winton is the dinosaur capital of Australia and as much as we wanted to see the dinosaur attractions in the town, it was not possible due to the time we needed just to



Our camp on Mistake Creek, Winton, QLD



The road to Julia Creek, QLD

soil against a bright blue sky wowed us with their extreme beauty. The FN was running smoothly and reliably. She chugged her way along the undulating highway climbing red ironstone hills and motoring through small gorges. This area around Cloncurry was easily the most spectacular scenery of the whole trip.

We arrived at Mount Isa and found our accommodation in the relative safety outside of town. Our stop for the night was the mine workers accommodation village that doubled as a caravan park. We had encountered some fairly intimidating

and violent antisocial behaviour from the local indigenous population already and it was advised that the further out of town you could stay when travelling through the towns along our route, the safer it would be. The town of Mount Isa is a busy mining town with the (copper, lead, zinc, silver) mine itself located on the edge of the town. The town itself is not an appealing place to spend time in. However, just a short drive out of town we discovered Moondarra Lake and surrounding park with its beautiful lush green lawns, a welcomed site in such a dry, barren environment.



Sunset over Moondarra Lake, QLD

As we enjoyed our sundowner drinks and chips, we



Trailer repair

were surrounded by a huge gang of peacocks, over thirty four birds, all on the scrounge for whatever was on offer, namely Stan's breakfast cereal...generously supplied by Maggie! It was a stunning scene and very much worth the side trip to see such a beautiful landscape.

The next day was another rest day so again we caught up on some laundry, food supply shopping and rest but the most important thing to do was get the jockey wheel bracket repaired on the car trailer. The night before I stepped out of the trailer onto the frame of the trailer and suddenly the whole thing gave way and dropped to the concrete slab. I didn't know I'd eaten

that much! But with the help of some very generous locals and the Mount Isa Handy Man, the bracket was welded up and we were good to go. Chris and I explored the rocky outcrop overlooking the caravan park and later we all enjoyed one of the best meals we ate on the whole trip, in the miner's mess.



Chris and I on the outcrop behind the caravan park

Leaving Mount Isa we travelled on to the tired, dusty town of Camooweal where we stayed a night and then finally crossed the border into the Northern Territory. Stan and I pulled up the FN to take some pics with the NT border sign. It was the first point of achievement and



Crossing the border into NT!

already we had come so far. We were in the real outback now and the scenes of flat endless bare ground had returned. After crossing the border we headed on to Barkly Homestead where, as there is only one place to stay in that location, for the first time since leaving Caboolture at the start of the rally, all the rally entrants were together again. It was also nearly exactly halfway on

the rally and we gathered with friends for afternoon drinks and a catch up on how everyone, and their vehicles, were travelling.

The days moved on as we travelled through the small outback stops of Renner Springs, iconic Daly Waters with its famous eccentric outback pub, Larrimah, Mataranka with its stunning natural thermal pools to Katherine where again we had a rest day. The days were extremely hot and dry but impressively, the FN never faulted mechanically. Between Daly Waters and Mataranka the brass windscreen frame split and came apart and Chris repaired this with some trusty silver duct tape. Then after swapping drivers, between Mataranka and Katherine the support arm on the windscreen snapped at the bolt and fell to the side of the car. We pulled over



Driving to Daly Waters

in the scrub and Chris repaired the problem temporarily with some cable ties, a must in any veteran



tool box! From Mataranka to Katherine I drove the old girl with the windscreen folded down in the afternoon heat and wind. When we arrived at Katherine Breeze Caravan Park, it was like an oasis. Located near the cool waters of the Katherine River, the shade from the huge trees covering the park was refreshing and needed after such a long and eventful day of hot driving. We set up camp and just made it to the welcome BBQ being hosted by the Katherine Antique

January 2023

Vehicle Club that night.

On our rest day at Katherine we again had another repair to attend to on the FN. At the BBQ the previous night, Stan and Chris got talking to a local car enthusiast who also happened to have all the welding gear to enable the windscreen arm support to be fixed. In the evening after work, our new friend, who couldn't do enough to help us out, was to come by our camp with a new bracket he had manufactured to be fitted to the FN. In the meantime we had all day to wait so we jumped in the Nissan and sat in the luxurious cool air conditioning as we drove 70kms or so out to Katherine Gorge and Edith Falls. The day was hot and sunny and Chris and I took the opportunity to swim in a NT freshwater gorge, changing into our swimmers and jumping in. It was fantastic.



Arriving at Katherine

As promised, in the evening the local car enthusiast and tradie arrived at our camp and together with Stan and Chris the FN was repaired and we were ready to get back on the road the following day.

To be continued...



Katherine Gorge



FN in the outback

1 & 2 Cylinder National VETERAN Rally

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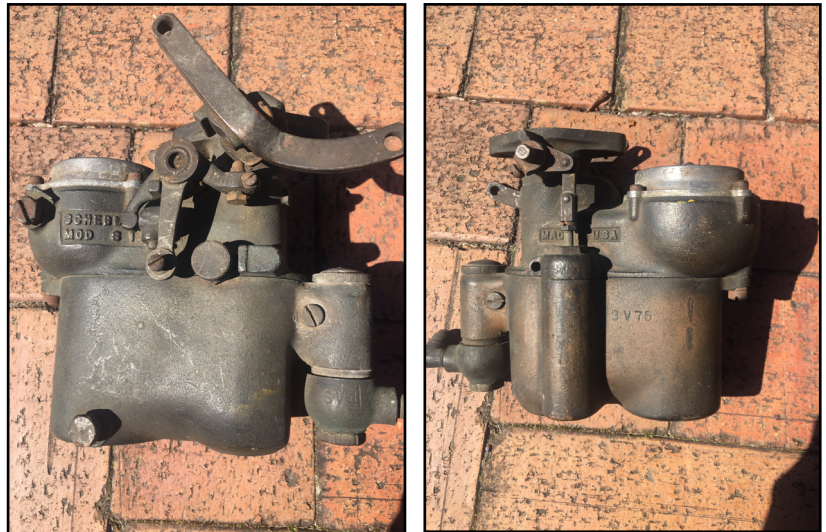
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