

NEWSLETTER OF THE VETERAN CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W.)

# SPIT AND POLISH

Registered by Australia Post,  
Publication No. NBH 1442

\* PRICE 70 Cents

September, 1985 Vol. XXVII No. 3



PATRON:

His Excellency,  
The Governor of N.S.W.,  
Air Marshal

Sir James Anthony Rowland,  
KBE, DFC, AFC, K.St.J.



## *Spit & Polish*

NEWSLETTER OF THE VETERAN CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W.)

Volume XXVII No. 3

September 1985

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Other Veteran Car Clubs have permission to copy.

The next Monthly General Meeting of the V.C.C.A. (N.S.W.)  
will be held in the Clubrooms at 8.00 p.m. on THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 1985.



*Editorial**Comment*

Members who were not present at the last General Meeting may not know that a special edition of *SPIT AND POLISH* was distributed to all members present and some members signed and took some for other members to aid distribution.

We owe this special edition to the efforts of member Ron Yeates who compiled "The Saga of 'U-Fording' Across the Top of Australia August 1919" and arranged Qantas to do the printing, enough for all interstate Veteran Car Club members too. These interstate copies were handed to each Club's delegate at the A.G.M. in Canberra.

This special issue will again be available at the next meeting, so please come and receive yours if you were unable to attend last month. Then the outstanding issues for country and other members who could not attend will be posted.

This Spring issue is full of information about coming events and reports of the Navigator's Run and Aussie Luncheon. A surprise article on "One of the Pioneers of the Australian Motor Trade" and Max Vormister writes of "Dodging Memories you 'Auto' Know", plus news from Belt Drive Burke and more.

Enjoy your September reading.

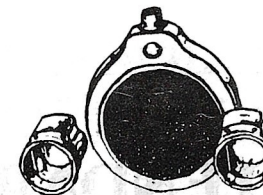
- SANDY ROBERTS

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COPY REQUIRED BY FIRST THURSDAY OF MONTH

Address all correspondence to:

SPIT & POLISH, 134 QUEENS ROAD, FIVE DOCK. 2046

*President's Message*

The advent of spring marks the start of an active motoring year for our club with the Newcastle Tour and the Bridgestone Concours and Parade in October, followed by the 1 and 2 Cylinder Tour and Fishers Ghost Run in November. The year's activities will culminate with our Blue Mountains Rally in April and a combined tour with the V.C.C.A. (Victoria) at Merimbula from 10th to 17th May. For all those members who are forever promising that this year they will get out and enjoy their veteran motoring more often, the time has arrived to make that decision and really join in.

We are slowly but surely getting close to occupying part of the new building. During the past weeks John Corby has been busy fitting doors and Ron Cox, Bill McCarthy and Len Sheen have been helping our electrical contractor installing lights and power to the building. The electrical work will take several more weeks before it is finished and your support in volunteering labour and raising funds is sought and appreciated.

One very encouraging sign is that our club continues to grow and "new" veteran cars are being found each month by old or new members. There are also at least a dozen veterans nearly completed restoration with their owners anxious to get these cars on the road.

Incidentally there are a few veteran members on the sick list and in need of restoration. I hope the warm weather will help improve your health and that we will see you out and around soon.

- BOB BAXTER

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## 1985

October	4-7	NEWCASTLE 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR TO MORPETH
October	27	(SUNDAY) BRIDGESTONE MOTOR SHOW CONCOURS & PARADE
November	2-3	1 & 2 CYLINDER TOUR TO BUNDANOON Details John Simmons
November	10	(SUNDAY) FISHERS GHOST TOUR Details Ken Quarmby
November	16	(SATURDAY) INSPECTION DAY NORTH SIDE 12.30 p.m. Pymble Bus Depot, 5 West Street, Pymble
November	17	(SUNDAY) INSPECTION DAY SOUTH SIDE 8.30 a.m. Arthur Garthon's, 492 Forest Road, Penshurst
November	24	(SUNDAY) VIC JACOBS & ARTHUR GARTHON CHARITY TOUR
December	1	(SUNDAY) CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
December	7	(SATURDAY) MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

## 1986

February	22	COUNTRY/WESTERN NIGHT FUND-RAISING SOCIAL FOR BUILDING
March	16	VETERAN & VINTAGE DISPLAY DAY
April	25/26/27	(ANZAC LONG WEEKEND) BLUE MOUNTAINS TOUR - BLACKHEATH
May	10-17	RALLY TO MERIMBULA & HUB TOUR
September	14-19	THIRD NATIONAL 1 & 2 CYL RALLY

## REPORT ON NAVIGATOR'S RALLY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1985

The Navigator's Rally was held on a day of brilliant sunshine and 9 veterans lined up for the start at Rose Bay. We were joined by another 3 veterans and 3 moderns at the Centennial Park finish.

The only place people got lost was in the Park itself. An enjoyable day was had by all, although the R.D. forgot the B.B.Q.

It was great to see Austin and Judy Grellman out in the Crossley for the first time in many years. Don't make it so long next time.

### CARS WHICH ATTENDED:

Bob & Phillip Hobson	1913 Ford
John Corby & A. Brook	1918 Cadillac
Mike Bendeich & Ray Hill	1913 Chalmers
Bob & Anne Baxter	1912 Calthorpe
Cliff & Betty Ward	1918 Dodge
John Simmons	1907 Delage
Neil & Lyn Martin	1913 Fiat
Austin & Judy Grellman	1913 Crossley
Arthur & Val Garthon	1914 Delahaye
John & Anne Simmons	Modern
Jan Coulcher	Modern
Joe Quattrochi	1918 Ford
Roley Coulcher	1911 Star
Noeline Thomson	Modern
Reg & Olive Jones	1908 Clement Bayard

\* \* \* \* \*

## "AUSSIE LUNCHEON" - SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 1985

We arrived at Taylors Pt., Clareville, on the most beautiful spring day and were greeted by Ron and Edna Cox at the door of their family holiday home and were led out to the balcony to see a magnificent panorama of the Pittwater waterways.

We were served wine and orange juice and much chatter was heard.

Our two Social Secretaries, Lyn and Noelene, were working very hard in the kitchen and served delicious pea and vegetable soups. Next came the Aussie pie, peas, carrots and mashed



potatoes and tomato sauce, and a few blow flies (plastic) were spotted sitting about. Gum tips and a few koalas gave a true Aussie atmosphere.

We were then served apple and gramma pie with cream - beautiful. On completion, coffee was served with lamingtons.

Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely, including the children who played down at the waterfront, with Ron and Edna's boys, giving rides in their boat.

The lucky door prizes were won by Don Steer (a bottle of Goanna Oil!!) and Elizabeth Wards (a book on Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie).

The raffle was won by Hilda Sheen: a hamper of Australian products.

Congratulations must go to Lyn and Noelene for their wonderful efforts on a most successful day, which was enjoyed by one and all.

Also a big thank you to their families for the assistance they gave to Lyn and Noelene.

We will be looking forward to our next social event.

- MERRYL GODFREY

\* \* \* \* \*

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

#### New Members

GREGORY, PETER J. MEMBER NO. 802 F  
850 Pacific Highway,  
Gordon. 2072

(B) 498.4455, (H) 48.5168  
Overland 1906 Tourer (Ex Royce Gregory)

FULLER, LINDSAY R. MEMBER NO. 803 A  
5 Edmund Street,  
Beverly Hills. 2209  
(H) 57.7796

- KEN QUARMBY

\* \* \* \* \*



### BRIDGESTONE CONCOURSE

#### D'ELEGANCE PARADE,

#### SYDNEY MOTOR SHOW -

OCTOBER 27, 1985

CONCOURSE D'ELGANCE  
PRIZE: TO THE VALUE  
OF \$300

MOST APPROPRIATELY-  
DRESSED COUPLE OR GROUP  
PRIZE: TO THE VALUE  
OF \$200

.....

Bridgestone are sponsoring this event for Veteran Cars at this year's Motor Show and we need at least twenty Veterans to turn out for the day from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Each car will be supplied with an information sign and members are requested to forward the following information to the Events Chairman, Roley Coulcher, at the September General Meeting:

YEAR OF MANUFACTURE:

MAKE:

NO. OF CYLINDERS: H.P.: BODY TYPE:

SPECIAL FEATURES OF CAR: (Up to 25 words)

HISTORY OF CAR: (Up to 30 words)

OWNER:

\* \* \* \* \*



CHRISTMAS DINNER

DATE: Saturday, December 7, 1985  
TIME: 7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m. start  
PLACE: Home of Bob & Elizabeth Hobson  
 16 Fiona Road, Beecroft  
COST: \$20.00 per head for 3-course catered  
 meal (including drinks)  
BOOKINGS: Lyn Martin 632.5047  
 Noelene Thomson 651.2247

(All monies to be paid by November 28, 1985)



.....  
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - SNAPPER ISLAND

DATE: SUNDAY, DEC. 1, 1985

COST: \$2.00 PER ADULT

BRING: YOUR OWN

PICNIC

LUNCH

BOAT DEPARTS: 11.00 A.M. SHARP  
FROM: Birkenhead Ferry Wharf UNDER Iron  
 Cove Bridge at Birkenhead Point  
PARK: Lower car park at Birkenhead Point  
REF.: Greg. Map 146 11-D

LIMITED NUMBERS DUE TO BOAT SIZE  
 Preferences given to Club Members  
 and Children and Club Members and  
 ONE (1) Grandchild

.....

BRIEF BUT IMPORTANT

Did you know that the only veteran cars not at the recent Denman Tour were either broken down at home or the drivers were likewise. That is Newcastle Branch cars, of course.

Peter Adams insisted Neryl and the lads make the trip to Shingle Splitters Point outing: "It's the early inspection outing and attendance is compulsory." Neryl, very much in the grip of a bout of 'flu and wrapped in a blanket didn't cheer much when told Inspection Day is at Cameron's Orchard outing.

Cameron's Orchard outing well attended and most cars inspected in the time available. Conditions of tyres this year showed a marked improvement.

Branch display at Newcastle Swap Meet provided an opportunity to show that our club still exists in Newcastle and provided a spot to leave recently-acquired valuables. I heard that the 250cc JAP engine drew more comments than the Veteran cars.

Best wishes to all

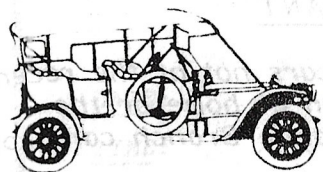
- BELT DRIVE BURKE

\* \* \* \* \*



"I suppose now you're going to give me  
 a ride out of here!"



1986 ANNUAL BLUE MOUNTAINS TOURFRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1986TO SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1986

This is our 30th Annual Tour and has been organised for the 3-day Anzac Holiday Weekend. Entrants will make their way from the start at Auburn Botanical Gardens to Blackheath, making their own arrangements for lunch. Saturday will be a drive down to the Megalong Valley for a Gymkhana and the only competition day of the tour. Sunday, you return to the Auburn Botanical Gardens for lunch and the end of the tour.

ACCOMMODATION has been booked at:

- (a) Blackheath Motel - 18 units B & B only  
 Charges: for 2 nights, bed only -  
 DOUBLE: \$90.00  
 PLUS \$14.00 per extra person  
 PLUS Breakfast
- (b) Redleaf Lodge Motel - 46 units Dinner, Bed & Breakfast  
 Charges: for 2 nights  
 TWIN SHARE: \$88.00 per person  
 TREBLE SHARE: \$76.00 per person  
 FOUR SHARE: \$72.00 per person  
 CHILDREN UNDER 8, SHARE WITH 2 ADULTS: \$40.00

NOTE: Redleaf Lodge have agreed to cater for Dinner @ \$14.00 per person for entrants staying at other motels. Please nominate on the Entry Form if you wish to take up this option.

Some members have opted to stay at the Leura Caravan Park on this weekend. Anyone interested in this form of accommodation should get in touch with Neil Martin for details.

Evenings will be free for members to relax and discuss the world at large and veteran cars in particular.

LUNCHES - @ \$5.00 per adult, \$3.50 per child - will be available through the Club on Saturday and Sunday.

# # # # #

Now you have all the details, you have had early enough warning to get a start on your car, so now is the time to fill in the Entry Form and get it posted, together with your cheque, to the Rally Director.

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 31, 1986

We would suggest you hurry, as it is FIRST IN - FIRST SERVED with the relatively limited accommodation available.

EVENTS DIRECTOR: Roley Coulcher, 546.4791

EVENTS COMMITTEE: Neil Martin, 632.5047  
 Joe Quattrochi, 666.6107

(Yellow Entry Form attached to centre of this issue.)

\* \* \* \* \*

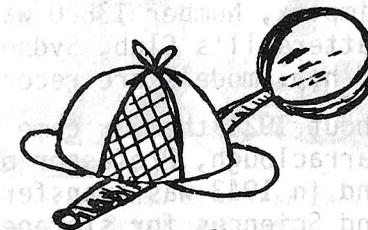
DATING & INVESTIGATION

Date Certificates announced at the August 1985 meeting and presented to vehicle owners were issued in respect to the following veteran cars:

1. 1911 STAR Model 15, 4 cylinder, 15 h.p. Tourer,  
 Chassis No. 2889, Engine No. Y117  
 Owner: Rob Beeston, Brisbane, Queensland

This 15 h.p. Star is no exception from those previously dated, inasmuch that as an exported vehicle it differed greatly in both specifications and dimensions from the English domestic product.

The car was sold originally by Larke Hoskins & Co. Ltd., 237 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, in April 1911, to





Mr. Kirby of Beranga sheep station outside St. George, Queensland, but was registered in N.S.W., a registration it retained until 1929. Thereafter the car was deregistered and used as a station hack until 1955, when it was relegated to the property dump.

2. 1913 SHEFFIELD-SIMPLEX, Model 7B, 6 cylinder, 30 h.p.  
Torpedo Tourer  
Chassis No. 1081, Engine No. A1090  
Owners: Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, Sydney, NSW

The firm, Sheffield-Simplex Motor Works, Tinsley, Sheffield, in 1904 commenced under the name Brotherhood Crocker Motors Ltd., of London, and transferred their activities to Sheffield in 1906. The name Brotherhood was derived from the engine designer and builder, Peter Brotherhood.

The transfer to Yorkshire resulted from the acquisition of the company by Early Fitzwilliam and was renamed Sheffield-Simplex in 1907.

Ownership of this car originally is uncertain, but it is recorded that the celebrated Australian Boxer, "Snowy Baker", was in some way connected with it, while 1915 and 1916 N.S.W. registration records disclose that one only 30 h.p. Sheffield-Simplex, Number 13820 was then owned by Barney B. Allen, Tattersall's Club, Sydney, during this period. No other 30 h.p. models are recorded.

About 1921 the car came into the possession of Sir Henry Barraclough, Professor of Engineering, University of Sydney, and in 1943 was transferred to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences for storage and safe-keeping, later being donated to the Museum in 1983. It is the only known 30 h.p. model to exist, but a 45 h.p. 1910 model is owned by the Hon. M.B. Balfour of Sheffield.

Some of the car's salient features include:

- Cylinder arrangement in two banks of three, with the magneto and electric generator driven in parallel with the timing case and mounted on the offside.
- The gearbox mounting is unusual, in that it is fixed directly to the front end of the drive-shaft housing, with the universal joint forward of the gearbox.

- The 4-passenger torpedo touring body is by Van Den Plas Ltd., London.

When last inspected by the writer, the car was stripped to the chassis-frame. All components are currently undergoing complete overhaul, with the object of returning the vehicle to mobility, originality being a major consideration.

- GEORGE A. ROBERTS  
Research Historian

\* \* \* \* \*

### ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MOTOR TRADE



A.E. Roberts Coachbuilding Works in Gordon Street (now Coles car park.)  
The building was later extended through to Brisbane Street.

MR. ALBERT EDWIN ROBERTS - affectionately known as 'Bertie' - was a slightly built gentlemanly man whose trademark was his bowler hat.

'Bertie' was born in Birmingham in 1878 and came to Australia with his parents - Albert Edwards and Sarah Roberts.

A.E. Roberts Senior was a coach and body builder by trade and within one year of being in Australia started to work in



Ipswich and by 1887 established a coach works. The business expanded and moved several times within the town and during the next twenty years the firm gained more than 100 medals and certificates as recognition of high standards of work at exhibitions in Brisbane, Ipswich and nearby country towns.

The firm also "placed upon the roads of Ipswich and other districts more than 1500 vehicles including omnibuses, waggons and waggonettes, hearses, tray buggies and two wheelers of every description".

Young Bertie went to school in Ipswich and after finishing technical college joined his father's business.

1903 saw Bertie studying coachbuilding overseas in England, Europe and America. He became very aware of the 'motor car' on this trip and this was to be a great interest for all his life.

1910 was the year that A.E. Roberts established a branch dealing with the construction and repair of motor bodies.

1913 - Bertie bought himself a Model T Ford and in the same year gained the Ford Agency for Ipswich and District, which meant he took over part of his father's premises.

1920-21 the first motor buses were built by Bertie for Ipswich. He continued on in the motor business, apart from a short time during the Depression until he retired in 1958 - his 80th year.

Yes, members, 'Bowler Hat Bertie' was our member, George Roberts' - father. This article has been compiled from information from 'The Queensland Times', February 28, 1983 which Max and Jean Chapman recently sent to me to include in SPIT AND POLISH for all our interest and as a 'surprise' for George, who contributes regularly to the magazine.

- EDITOR

\* \* \* \* \*



BEADED EDGE TYRE CO. PTY. LTD.  
514 HUNTER STREET,  
NEWCASTLE. N.S.W. 2300

Phone (B/H) (049) 24069  
(A/H) (049) 469741  
(049) 488140.

"BETCO" Quality Tyres.

Size	Type	Price
710 x 90	BE	\$190
815 x 105	BE	\$230
875 x 105	BE	\$255
820 x 120	BE	\$260
880 x 120	BE	\$265
895 x 135	BE	\$350

Also available 500 x 23 and 500 x 24 Straight Sided.  
Some other sizes available on request.

THIRD NATIONAL 1 AND 2 CYLINDER

RALLY

This Bi-Annual event will be held between Sunday 14th September and Friday 19th September, 1986, Wangaratta (Vic) being the Venue.

This is a must for all small Veterans. Its only Thirteen Months away, so start planning for it NOW!!

Barry Vinen  
(03) 707.1994



# DODGING MEMORIES YOU "AUTO" KNOW

I was sitting at home thinking of some Dodging memories when the 'phone rang and Bill Rutty's voice came on the other end, very excited. "I've just got 'er going." Well, not too sure what he had got going, I asked: "What?" and the reply was, "The 1912 T Ford", and would I like to have a ride?

So up to Bill's I went, only to find that the main reason he wanted me there was to tie a rope onto my Dodge and onto the T Ford to lower it down his driveway.

We proceeded to go around the block in a sort of a fashion and Bill asked if I would like to drive. I think he was getting a bit exhausted.

I jumped at the offer as I had never driven a T Ford before and soon found out why the slogan goes: "If you can't a Ford a Dodge, Dodge a Ford!" Well, after letting off the handbrake and stalling the car in top gear, we were away down the road, learning to drive all over again.

As there is no speedometer on a T Ford I asked, how do you tell how fast we were going? "Well," he said, "You don't need one. At 10 miles per hour the lamps clatter, at 20 miles per hour the mudguards rattle, at 30 miles an hour the whole car shakes and if you go any faster than that, you're flat out!"

The most common method of starting Henry's terror was the sweat, blister and curse method - the old crank handle! As far as I am concerned, one of the smartest things Henry ever did was to attach the crank handle more or less permanently to the front of the car. Otherwise, there might not be a Model T Ford left with an intact radiator, headlight or front mudguard.

Another Dodging memory was when I was looking for a Dodge at Thirroul Heights. The old guy took us into a back shed and there she was in all her glory, a 1926 Bentley. I was not interested in the car so I thought I would do a little pre-purchase haggling for a chap I know at The Lodge.

On enquiring how much he wanted for the bucket of bolts I was told 300 quid. Well, that's too much for that type of car so I commented that the air was showing through on the rear tyre, meaning that there was bare fabric exposed in several spots. The wily owner told me: "That's one thing you have to watch on these Bentleys - that motor has so much powa' she'll just peel a new tread like peeling a banana." Then he added, "'Course you ain't getting into the real wearing part of the tyre till the strings being to show."

Then, licking a finger, he dipped it into the radiator to show how pure the water stayed. He told us, "You could run this machine full bore through hell and back (Bourke to Bourketown) and still take a drink from the radiator without burning your lips!"

Well, at this stage I decided to leave, but I could have believed the old guy if the car had been a Dodge.

- MAX VORMISTER

\* \* \* \* \*

M - I - N - D - S - T - R - E - T - C - H - E - R

Solution to No. 43

## LETTER LIST

A, E, A, P etc. are the second letters of ten months of the year - January, February, March, April, etc.

Did you notice the clues you were given?

No. 44

## SEVEN SINGERS

Our local music society has seven male members who are singers. At a recent concert, each of these members sang a duet with each other member of that group. How many duets were sung?

.....



# Advertisements



## FOR SWAPPING:

1916/17 ? DODGE beam axle,  
hubs and two wooden wheels.

GREG DALEY (02) 451.8354

## FOR SALE:

Five 70 spoke 20 inch wire wheel  
rims complete with lock rings and  
5.00 - 20 tyres with tubes, all  
serviceable. \$700 the lot.

MAX CHAPMAN (02) 94.6402

## WANTED:

FIAT ZERO Fan and Pulley

FIAT ZERO Fan Post

FIAT ZERO Fan Pulley from  
camshaft with nut

MAX VORMISTER

70 Langson Ave., Figtree. 2525

## FOR SALE:

1912 WILLYS OVERLAND Model 59T

Fully restored.

\$17,500 o.n.o.

L. OCRAME 30.1172; 300.9160

## WANTED:

C.A.V. Electrical Switch Box

(Complete or incomplete)

circa 1912, 13

Elliott Speedo Type 7 (0-80 mph)

Wheel locking mechanism for early

Rudge-Whitworth

Wire-Wheel Coarse-Splined Hub

Tyre size - 895 x 135 B.E.

JIM WEIR

19A Hunter Place, Castle Hill. 2154

(02) 634.1388

## WANTED:

Having recently retired due to cardiac  
problems, and acquired Associate  
Membership No. 798 status with the Club,  
I would be further interested in  
becoming an active member while my  
health permits.

I would be interested in acquiring a  
veteran vehicle with following basic  
requirements:

- Ceiling price - \$10,000 cash
- Over 20 h.p. so one doesn't have to be  
continually struggling up hills
- A four-seater so that it would  
accommodate family and friends
- MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL: An  
electric start for those cold mornings so  
there is no strain on the driver.

MARTIN F.W. SORENSEN

49 Rembrandt Drive, Merewether Hts. 2291

(049) 632.907

FOR SALE (ALL STATES): 1911 T FORD factory bodied touring car. Fully registered (Number XX-1911) this very authentically restored car is fitted with a full set of five beaded edge wire wheels. Engine number 52366.

Included with the car is a complete set of twenty hard-bound volumes of the "Vintage Ford" magazine. Price \$16,000 firm.

(The only reason I'm selling the Ford is that we're buying a larger and more powerful veteran in order to cope with our growing family.)

JOHN HUGHES - (049) 37.4646

FOR SALE:

1912 OVERLAND T60 tourer.  
Fully restored. Royal blue and  
black. Black all-leather  
upholstery. Proven rally car -  
sale due to illness. \$18,000

JOHN ANDREW  
c/- Garry Coxon  
Richmond (045) 71.1878



**"I was going to ask you how you like my new hair-do!"**