



P.S.C.A.A. November – December 2024 Newsletter

President's Report

Australia's Right to Repair Legislation: 3 Years On



Events this week with a friend's 20 year old European sports car got me thinking about Australia's right to repair legislation. The car is stuck in limp mode with the dash warning lights lit up like a Christmas tree and it is proving quite difficult to access a scanning tool that will work with the cars pre OBD2 proprietary software.

[The Motor Vehicle Service and Repair Information Sharing Scheme Act 2021](#) (or often referred to in broader terms as the “Right to Repair” legislation) played a pivotal role in reshaping how certain diagnostic, repair and servicing information for motor vehicles can be accessed by repairers and Registered Training Organisations.

Since its inception in 2021, availability of such information to independent workshops and repairers beyond traditional OEM-authorised dealers levelled the playing field and enabled consumers broader choice of access to their preferred repairer or dealer.

3 years later...

Over time, independent workshops and repairers have largely benefited from the Scheme with consumers and fleets showing strong preference to obtain servicing and repairs through independent workshops and servicing channels.

Research indicates that such independent workshops now account for an overall 60% of all service and repair activities within Australia, with future projections of further 20% increases in such activities each year by 2030. Such shift in consumer preference to use independent mechanics and servicing centres are largely associated with higher consumer trust and competitive pricing offered by such workshops. I am glad that the scheme has been considered a success, but it is not a lot of help with the car that I am helping on.

SEE YOU ON THE ROAD Andrew Hamilton, President

PORT STEPHENS CLASSIC AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION – 2023-2024 COMMITTEE

President: Andrew Hamilton – 0435 393 816 – pscaa_president@hotmail.com.au

Vice-President: Keith Green – 0435 240 959 – kpgreen@iprimus.com.au

Secretary: Christine Walton – 0409 114 020 – cwal1234@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Denis Pittorino – 0413 279 202 – denispittor@gmail.com

Committee Member – Derek McLachlan Regalia 0408 608 475

Committee Member – Terry Appleby Photographer / Facebook 0498 266 764

Committee Member -- Laurie Nolan Membership Records 0406 747 847

Events Team:

Committee Member – John Kerr **Events Co-ordinator** **0421 459 577**

Committee Member – Brian Turner Assistant Events 0412 496 180

Committee Member – Charlie Aquilina Major Events 0404 084 420

Appointed Positions:

Public Officer Laurie Nolan

Club Plates Co-ordinator Graham Clair **0422 290 937**

SWB Coordinator Lindy McLachlan **0400 828 217**

Newsletter Team:

Andrew Hamilton pscaa_president@hotmail.com.au 0435 393 816

Jeff Sinclair

Chris Bult

Terry Appleby (Photos)

Club Plates Team:

Graham Clair Plates Registrar 0422 290 937

Terry Appleby Assistant Registrar 0498 266 764

Charlie Aquilina **Rules Compliance** **0404 084 420**



Denis Pittorino

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

November 13th 2024

in the

Nelson room (Ground floor),

Nelson Bay Bowling Club @ 6pm

For The Diary

Next Cars and Coffee in the Bay, Long boat Café Fingal, 9.30am Monday 18th November 2024

Tuncurry Beach Bowling Club Car Show Sat 16 November free entry cash prizes 10am

PSCAA Christmas Lunch the Poyer's restaurant Lemon Tree Passage Wednesday 4th December

PSCAA Christmas Lunch 2024

At The Poyers Restaurant on the waterfront at Lemon Tree Passage Wednesday 4th December 2024

Menu

Bread

Alternate drop main course either:

Fish of the day with house made gnocchi and local seasonal produce

Or

Braised lamb shoulder with pearl cous cous mediterranean vegetables & fetta

Dessert is the sensational Bûche De Noël (Yule Log)

Tea / Coffee included Alcoholic Drinks available for purchase from the bar

Subsidised price of \$55 PH for members & associates, \$75 PH for guests.

Please pay asap PSCAA Account, Greater bank **BSB 637-000 Acct 7810 24309** use your surname and the word Xmas.

We have booked the entire restaurant(Max 60 persons first in best dressed) Meet at the venue 12.00 for 12.30.



By Jeff Sinclair.

FIRES IN EV BATTRIES

In November 2022 I wrote about an E-scooter being charged and the battery exploding in an underground car park in North Sydney.



scooters, bicycles and power tools.

The fire destroyed an Aston Martin and damaged a number of other vehicles. At the time, I pondered what would have happened if it had been an EV car battery. Well, now we know because it happened very recently in South Korea with an electric Mercedes exploding into an intense fire in a car park below a multi storey residential building. Despite firefighters efforts, it burned for 8 hours and destroyed 140 vehicles. Toxic smoke caused 21 people to be hospitalized and there was serious structural damage to the building. Not surprisingly, their government is talking about banning EVs from being charged in underground car parks. There will be some big queues on the street chargers! The Merc was fitted with a Chinese made NMC (nickel, manganese, cobalt) battery, in which Mercedes have invested a lot of faith - and money.

As at 23/08/24 there have been 185 fires in NSW caused by L-ion batteries in

Finally on EV cars, if you get a nail or screw in your tyre, you apparently cannot just have it plugged in the normal way. The tyres are of a different compound to ICE car tyres to carry the extra weight of the battery and reduce rolling resistance (less grip??) They also have sound deadening foam inside them and, if it is possible to plug the tyre at all, it has to be done from the inside, more complicated and more expensive – especially when you don't have a spare wheel!

Nuffsed Jeff

2024 South Coast trip in Pictures

Photos Terry Appleby



2024 South Coast trip in Pictures



PSCAA Membership Report – Newsletter November 2024

No new members this month, but three enquiries still outstanding.

Membership Cards have been sent to all financial “*Club Plate*” holders to validate their registration and insurance policies if requested by policing authorities. There are no outstanding renewals in this group

Currently we have 3 Life Members, 101 Full Members, and 75 Associates. Total PSCAA membership is 179. This is 10 down on last month due to some members notifying they will not be renewing. At this time we are still awaiting 11 Members to renew for 2025, so if you’re one of them.... Please pay ASAP.

Regards, Laurie Nolan – PSCAA Membership Officer





By Chris Bult.

Top Gear

Occasionally, just occasionally, one of those unsolicited messages on the 'device', demands a second look. And one appeared on my mobile yesterday. It's gone now of course, to be replaced by the usual inane articles on issues the cyberspace algorithm deduces you may find interesting. But this one – 'Only two manual cars now produced in the USA', had my attention. The article went on to reveal that the Mustang GT and Cadillac Blackwing were the only remaining cars in the States to be fitted with a manual gearbox. It further opined the writing was well and truly on the wall for the old 'stick shift', indeed the Mustang Ecoboost no longer offer the manual option and the V8, probably not too far behind. It's hardly surprising. Having driven both the manual and auto versions of the Mustang, there is little doubt the auto is both quicker in terms of acceleration and more economical too. Even Lewis Hamilton in a



manual would struggle to outpace the super smooth 10 speed auto with its paddle shift. A purist will argue a manual better connects you to the car and provides a more visceral experience. This may be true, but in reality an auto in the city is a no-brainer, it requires little or no maintenance and replacing the clutch becomes a thing of the past. And it must be said, a certain demographic finds manual shifting a challenge after various joint replacements.

Most Club members would almost certainly have learned to drive on a manual. In my case it was 1965 and my dad's

Wolseley 15/60, a more luxurious version of the Austin Cambridge and Morris Oxford. And just about the very first thing he told me was: 'Careful with first gear, there's no synchro'. Didn't have a clue what he meant of course, but quickly discovered changing down from second to first whilst still in motion elicited unpleasant grinding noises from beneath the Wilton carpet. And so began a lifelong association with the beloved manual. My very first car a humble Minivan, had a rather sloppy '4 on the floor' transmission. Passed my driving test in it and it



was also my first experience with vehicle maintenance – SU fettling, repacking wheel bearings and of course, the inevitable clutch replacement.

There followed a number of manuals, the most unusual almost certainly the oddball Renault 4. The gearlever protruded horizontally from the dash with a connecting rod going through the firewall, across the tiny engine to a bracket near the radiator where it took a 90

degree turn and plunged vertically to a three speed gearbox mounted at the front of the motor. Only the French you might think could come up with such an odd design, but at the same time (late 60s) I had a friend with a Borgward Isabella. It had a 4 speed manual column mounted shift. One can only imagine the complex system of levers, cables and pulleys required to reach the gearbox, let alone operate it and it certainly couldn't be rushed. Its owner, an engineer, delighted in its eccentricity.

In 1969 I became the proud owner of an Austin Healey 100M and for the first time discovered the joys of overdrive. In this case a Laycock de Normanville unit and it was a delight to reach top gear, flip the switch and hear the revs drop as a 5th cruising gear kicked in. This overdrive unit appeared in a number of British cars, including Jensen, Triumph and Vauxhall before making an appearance in Volvo, Chevrolet, AMC and even the Ferrari 250GT 2 + 2. The very early Healey 100/4 (BN1) had first gear blocked off as the very low ratio was prone to damage the spline or spokes in rear wheels.

My grandson recently passed his driving test. I had suggested he might consider learning to drive a manual with a view to one day driving my car. His response suggested he would rather give up his

precious phone. And right there we find the silver lining - Anyone under the age of thirty, perhaps even forty, will not be capable of stealing your classic, but only if it's a manual...



Club Plates News:

Don't forget to ring before you renew, contact Terry Appleby on 0498 266 764 to arrange where he will stamp your papers.

Make sure you have your pink slip with you when you get your declaration form stamped. Terry is supposed to sight it when he processes your form and as one of our members found out last year, if the staff at the Motor Registry notice that the pink slip is dated after the date on the stamped Historic Vehicle Declaration form, they will reject the renewal.

Lastly, we need to see your car, Terry is required to certify that the car meets the eligibility requirements of the historic vehicle scheme, and he can't in good faith do this if he hasn't seen the car recently.





Fridge Edition
John Kerr 0421 459 577

Events November 2024

Monday 4 November – Monday Morning Coffee Run

Monday Morning Coffee at the **Pacific Dunes Golf Club**, at Medowie.
Please meet at the Pearl Servo for a 9.30am departure.

Friday 8 November - Pizza Night at Uncle Franks

A regular get together for a meal at **Uncle Franks Pizzeria**
(next door to Jax Tyres at Salamander Bay). **Meet at the Venue at 6pm.**

Wednesday 13 November - Assoc. Meeting / AGM

Will be held at the **Nelson Bay Bowling Club** in the **Crows Nest Room** on level 2,
followed by dinner at **Fin & Scales Restaurant** on level 1.
Meeting commences at 6.00 pm. The AGM will commence immediately after the club Meetings.

Friday 15 November – Pub Run

Pub Lunch at the **Family Hotel, Maitland.**
Bookings are Essential.
Contact John Kerr on 0421 459 577 or email johnnotbird48@gmail.com
no later than midday, Thursday 14.
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an 11.00 am departure.

Wednesday 20 November - Jims's Long Run

This one is for the driver in us all. Long runs are usually 200 - 300 km.
Led by **John Kerr**, destination **Wollombi Tavern**
via **Freemans Waterhole, Yarramalong Valley & Kulnura**
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an 9.00 am departure

Thursday 21 November – SWB Ladies Lunch

This months' Ladies Lunch venue is **Poyers at Lemon Tree Passage.**
Please text Lindy on 0400 828 217 if you are attending as we need to advise re numbers.
Meet at the venue at 12.30 pm.

Friday 29 November – SMB Men's Breakfast

This months' Men's Breakfast venue is **Kings No Queens** (on the corner at) **Paterson.**
Meet at the Pearl Servo at 7.30 am.



Fridge Edition
John Kerr 0421 459 577

Events December 2024

Monday 2 December – Monday Morning Coffee Run

Monday Morning Coffee at the **Pacific Dunes Golf Club**, at Medowie.
Please meet at the Pearl Servo for a 9.30am departure.

Wednesday 4 December – Christmas Party

To be held at **The Poyers**, Lemon Tree Passage. Bread on arrival followed by alternate drop fish of the day with gnocchi & veg or braised lamb with veg & fetta. Desert is Buche de Noel + tea and coffee. \$55 PH members & associates, \$75 PH guests.
Please pay asap PSCAA Account, Greater bank **BSB 637-000 Acct 7810 24309** use your surname and the word Xmas. Meet at the venue 12.00 for 12.30.

Wednesday 11 December – Assoc Meeting

Will be held at the **Nelson Bay Bowling Club** in the Crow's Nest Room on level 2,
followed by dinner at **Fin & Scales restaurant.**
Meeting commences at 6.00 pm.

Wednesday 18 December - Jims's Long Run

This one is for the driver in us all. Long runs are usually 200 - 300 km.
Led by **John Kerr**, destination **East Gresford via Raymond Terrace and Lambs Valley**
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an 9.00 am departure

Thursday 19 December - Pizza Night at Uncle Franks

A regular get together for a meal at **Uncle Franks Pizzeria**
(next door to Jax Tyres at Salamander Bay). **Meet at the Venue at 6pm.**

Friday 27 December – SMB

This months' venue is **Boatshed at Tea Gardens.**
Meet at the Pearl Servo at 7.30 am.



Due to the club Xmas lunch and Xmas holidays, there is no Pub Run or SWB this month.

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Peter Masters

Mobile Service

Mobile: 0413 119 698

SUMMER IS HERE

and

IT'S WARMING UP

***P.S.C.A.A. Club members will receive
a discount from Bay Auto Air***