



P.S.C.A.A. July - August 2024 Newsletter

President's Report



The old and the new.

I have just sold my old Corvette after 11 years and I am in the process of selling my 30 year old Mercedes Coupe. It is my intention to replace these cars with a much newer sports car. Why? Well, when you are out and about in the oldies there is always an underlying fear that the thing is going to break down on you. Add to that, a newer, quieter and more waterproof convertible may entice the beloved it get in it more often. This got me thinking about the vehicles in the club and how they have changed over the years. When I joined 16 years ago it was mostly old classics particularly MGs. These days when people join the club it is about 50/50 Old Classics vs Future Classics. Some of the cars we consider to be future classics are amazing, lots of new Mustangs of course, some of which have enough horsepower to reenact a space shuttle launch, also brand new C8 Corvettes, given that there are less than 800 of these in the country it is remarkable that two of them (soon to be three) reside in our club. Whilst we are on a statistics bent, have you ever wondered what the most expensive car in the club is? Certainly not one of mine. I'm not entirely sure but I think the answer is a certain Mercedes with a price tag slightly north of 400 grand.

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



Derek McLachlan

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

July 10th 2024

in the

**Crows Nest Room (top floor),
Nelson Bay Bowling Club @ 6pm**

For The Diary

Next Cars and Coffee in the Bay Long boat Café Fingal, 9.30am Monday 15th July 2024

Machines & Macchiatos Car Show 291 King Street Newcastle Sunday 14th July 8am

All Japan Day McDonald Jones Stadium Newcastle 28th July 2024 8am

All Euro Day (including UK) Foreshore Park Newcastle Sunday 25th August 2024

Tilligerry Motorama Sunday 8th September Tanilba Bay RSL Club 7am-1pm \$10 (Club Event)

JIM'S LONG RUN – 17 MAY, GREY GUMS CAFÉ, PUTTY ROAD



By Chris Bult

At nearly 400 kms and calculated to be the longest of the 'Long Runs' to date, it was decided to get an early start, so six cars arrived at the Pearl Servo for an 8.30am kick off. Quite a bit of fog greeted us as we set off toward Cessnock ('The beginning' or 'The first') via Kurri Kurri which was also our first coffee stop at the Golden Arches. Suitably primed with caffeine we then hit the wide open spaces as we motored toward Broke and Milbrodale. Very little traffic encountered and it was great to give the cars a good run as we headed west. Still quite a bit of mist carpeted the paddocks and up in the hills we could see they had a layer of cloud sitting on the summits, waiting for the sun to break through and burn off their autumn blankets.



The Putty Road is renowned for its appeal to our two wheeled enthusiasts and there are numerous signs warning said 'enthusiasts' of the dangers inherent in their missiles on this twisting and often damp roadway. And about half way along our convoy encountered many kilometers of serious road -works that for once did not appear to be dreaded pothole repairs, but possible subsidence, with the steep lower side of the road embankment receiving massive concrete reinforcement to prevent further slippage. The traffic lights eventually turned green and an escort truck had us on our way. It was an enjoyable drive for the remainder of the trip before pulling into the Grey Gums Café where as usual, a 'comfort stop' naturally took precedence over immediately ordering lunch.

The café will probably never be awarded a Michelin Hat, but generous hamburgers, E & B rolls, or a tasty pie certainly did the trick and it was nice to stretch our legs and sit in the now warm and welcome sun that

had finally made an appearance. Needless to say this is a popular destination for the two wheel brigade, evidenced by the numerous flagpoles around the car-park with each flag bearing the emblem or badge of various motorbike companies past and present. On fine weekends this becomes one of the most popular venues for riders from Sydney, putting the working week behind them as they seek their adrenaline rush whilst avoiding the Highway Patrol. Sadly, but perhaps unsurprisingly, Putty Road has a history of two wheel fatalities, being a magnet for thrill seeking riders and 'weekend warriors', who take their chances with both the road and the law. I suspect we've all been there in our younger, 'bullet proof' days.

Suitably fed and watered, we traveled much the same way home with the option of the Hunter Expressway offering a slightly quicker route. Thanks once again to retired biker John Kerr for suggesting the Grey Gums Café. His transition from two wheels to four certainly hasn't slowed him down and his lovely Chrysler Crossfire kept up a safe and cracking pace for us all.



Chris Bult

Membership News: *By Laurie Nolan PSCAA Membership Officer*

PSCAA Membership Report – Newsletter July August 2024

During the month of June 2024, we welcomed new members:

- **Pete and Kerrie Middleton – Member #296 – 1979 Corvette; 1984 Suzuki Katana; 1960 Manx Buggy.**

Please give a warm welcome to Pete and Kerrie when you see them on future club runs and events.

One membership enquiries was received early July – Justin, who has a 1968 VE Valiant. A formal application has not yet been received.

Currently we have 3 Life Members, 103 Full Members, and 79 Associates. Total PSCAA membership is 185.

Regards, Laurie Nolan – PSCAA Membership Officer





TRY THIS QUICK QUIZ

The 'Surf & Turf' on Sunday 26 May saw at least fifty members rock up to enjoy the fine fare put on by Charlie and Pam et al, preceded by a motoring trivia quiz with 25 questions in 5 different categories. Last year the winner had 13 questions correct and this year we saw two 'petrol heads' level on 14 points apiece. So, as Tom Gleeson would say on 'Hard Quiz': "Time for a bloody hard off..." And so it was that Terry Appleby and Ken Cowell faced off for the tie-breaker and opportunity to take out the Repco \$100 gift card. Ken prevailed with a very accurate answer and Terry awarded the 2nd prize of a \$50 Repco gift card.

Try the quiz at home and see if you can top 14, then scroll to end of the Newsletter for all the answers, including the ultimate tie breaker.

Movie Questions:

1. What Japanese sports car appeared in the 1967 Bond movie 'You only live twice'?
2. In the movie 'Bullitt', what was the colour of his Lt Bullitt's girlfriend's Porsche 356?
3. What car (make & model) does Inspector Vera Stanhope drive in the TV series 'Vera'?
4. What component broke in Stirling Moss' Maserati in the movie 'Ferrari'?
5. What car did Roger Moore drive in 'The Persuaders'?

Vehicle Insignia:

1. What is the correct title of the 'Flying Lady' on a Rolls Royce?
2. What does the BMW badge represent?
3. What is Maserati's emblem?
4. How many sides surround the MG badge?
5. What does the GR stand for if seen on a Toyota?

Motor Sport:

1. In which Australian state was Daniel Ricardo born?
2. In which UK country was Jim Clark born?
3. What car won the 2024 Bathurst 12 hour race?
4. Which F1 team does Aussie Oscar Piastri drive for?
5. In what year did Alan Jones win the F1 World Championship?

Place of Origin:

1. Which country made the Trabant from 1957 – 1990?
2. In which UK country was the Marcos founded (not made)?
3. Which country produced the Borgward Isabella?
4. What Italian city produces the Fiat Abarth?
5. What English seaside resort produced the TVR?

General Knowledge:

1. Which country banned motor racing indefinitely following the Le Mans 1955 tragedy?
2. Christian name of Healey as in Austin- Healy?
3. What does the SU stand for in SU carbys?
4. Where do the V8 Supercars normally race in Tasmania?
5. Name the Australian who invented the orbital engine?

Tie Breaker: The current Land Speed Record is held by RAF pilot Andy Green in Thrust SSC in 1997. What is that speed?

Scroll to end of the Newsletter for all the answers, including the ultimate tie breaker.

Club Plates News:

Don't forget to ring before you renew, contact Graham Clare on 0422 290 937 to arrange where he will stamp your papers.

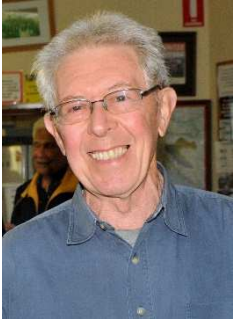
Make sure you have your pink slip with you when you get your declaration form stamped.

Graham 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, Graham 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.

OLD AND GOOD?

By Jeff Sinclair



In a recent edition of “Wheels” magazine, a letter was published from a reader saying that cars had reached their peak of sensible design and enjoyment around 20 years ago. I think he was right.

Do we really need a huge distracting “infotainment” screen off to the left, away from our vision of the road? Worse still, many operations are by touch screen and buried in the depths of menu options. Authorities are concerned that road accidents and fatalities are increasing, despite all the “Safety Features” built into our modern cars. Dealing with these screens, wanting to choose your music or adjust the air-con, must surely be one cause. It is interesting to note that the EU have decreed that from 2026, many operations currently controlled from the screen, will have to revert to switches, buttons or knobs.

I can’t help thinking too, that accidents happen because drivers can be lulled into a false sense of security because modern cars are fitted with so many features that are supposed to prevent accidents, that their attention drifts to other things. Obviously being aware of what is happening around you and anticipating and avoiding a problem, is always the first form of safety.

All this amazing tech in cars is wonderful while it is working, but a fault or an accident can cause great expense – little wonder that insurance premiums keep heading skywards! I do remember a friend telling me how he was driving quite slowly along the dirt driveway to leave his property, when one of his chickens panicked and flew into the front of his car. The VW Tiguan was convinced it had mortally wounded a pedestrian, triggering a number of “safety” responses. He was not happy, it cost a lot of cash to re-set / replace various components!

Apart from what could be seen as unnecessary additions to vehicles, some things have disappeared. Very few have a full sized spare wheel, many have no spare wheel. (Ask Laurie about an eventful drive through Tamworth!) A proper, cable operated handbrake is only fitted to cars that may be used for Drifting. A while back I was watching a TCR race, the 2 litre turbo came down the straight at about 200kph but had a hydraulics failure just before the almost 90 degree bend at the end of the straight. The push button “handbrake” of course was useless, he probably dropped down one gear, but any more would probably ripped the clutch out and over- revved the engine. The car sailed over the big sand trap and hit the wall hard, head on. With a proper handbrake he may have taken 40 kph of his speed while he was on the tarmac, or allowed a turn to hit the wall rear first – kinder to car and driver. A hydraulics fail is not so common now, but if it happens it would be nice to have a handbrake option as well as possible diagonal braking – especially in an auto.



but if it happens it would be nice to have a

Things like “Lane Keep Assist”, auto speed adjustment of speed according to the signs and the electric (hydraulic) handbrake, have all been in anticipation of self-driving cars. (BTW if you want to hear what happens when a push button “handbrake” fails to release, talk to Trevor P!) I remember in 2019 when Elon Musk said he would be selling self-driving cars by 2022, many of his best engineers quit, because they knew it couldn’t be done safely. Two years on from his projection, we are still waiting. Recently a friend emailed a short video to me. A guy was wearing a T-shirt with a ”STOP” sign printed on it. He stood kerbside and watched the “smart” cars automatically hitting the brakes because they thought they were at a junction! Wait till the hackers get into them, then the fun really begins!

Yes, I think the guy who wrote to “Wheels” was spot on. More connection to your vehicle, less interference from a computer, cheaper to maintain and repair AND more fun to drive! Go the oldies!

Nuff sed, Jeff.





TRIUMPH GTR4 DOVE

By Mike Wilson

I like to think that I'm fairly knowledgeable about British sports cars produced between the 50s and the 70s, but I came across one at a classic car event a while back that I had never seen or heard of before. Viewed from the front, there was no mistaking that it was a Triumph TR4, but this one had a fixed, fastback roof and a back seat.

A placard on the dashboard proclaiming it to be a 1964 GTR4 Dove left me none the wiser and, unfortunately, the owner was not present to satisfy my immediate curiosity. However, an hour or so on the internet back home revealed that it was the brainchild of one of Triumph's largest dealerships in the UK, L F Dove & Company of Wimbledon, and that just 50 to 55 examples are thought to have been made.

The conversion from a two-seater roadster to a 2+2 coupe was carried out by the coachbuilder, Thomas Harrington & Company of Hove, which had already carried out a similar transformation on the Sunbeam Alpine. As with most 2+2 designs, the modest rear seat was best suited to young children, although it could be folded flat to increase the luggage area.

The coupe was mechanically identical to the TR4 roadster, but weighed about 180-kgs more. A review of the car published by *Autocar* magazine in 1963 found that it was 0.6 seconds slower than the factory car over a standing quarter mile, recording a time of 18.4 seconds, but three seconds quicker from 0-100 mph at 43.6 seconds, presumably due to better aerodynamics.

For an extra 35 pounds, though, customers could have the engine balanced and the head gas-flowed by Jack Brabham Motors or another automotive engineering shop. Overdrive and a higher diff ratio were also optional.

In standard trim, the GTR4 cost about 30% more than the TR4 roadster at 1,093 pounds plus sales tax of 157 pounds, pricing it against the likes of the Alfa Giulietta Sprint, Volvo P1800 and Austin Healey 3000.

Standard-Triumph was already working on the Spitfire-based GT6 coupe at the time and chose not to take on the GTR4, which went out of production when the Harrington coachbuilding division was closed down following a takeover of the company. The Dove dealership subsequently converted about 10 more cars based on the later TR4A model.



Mike Wilson

POTHOLE PERIL

By Chris Bult



On a cold and wet Wednesday evening a friend of mine was making her way home and looking forward to a take-away Thai from the 'Li'l Buddha' and the arrival of some die-hard Blue's supporters for the first State of Origin. What could possibly go wrong? Well something did. In the increasing gloom and driving up Government Road and through the roundabout near the police station from Nelson Bay, she suddenly both felt and heard a large bang from the front of her car, a 2014 Mazda 3. Sure enough she'd collected a deep lurking pothole that instantly deflated her right front tyre. Reduced to a crawl and accompanied by some unpleasant grinding noises, she trundled gingerly to the next side street and pulled over.

All is well one might think, no one hurt - a quick call to the hubby and Roadside Assist, then still be home in time for that glass of red, a hearty Massaman curry, but most importantly, the kick-off! And then she tried to get out of the car to inspect the damage. The door would not open. In fact none of the doors would open. She tried clicking all the appropriate buttons, including the key fob remote, but to no avail. Even the manual internal door levers refused to work. She was trapped in her car. The collision had clearly upset the sensitive electronics and the door locks had thrown a hissy fit.

Now this lady is not one given to panic and considering her options she tried the electric windows and was much relieved to see them all descend. So she now had the option of climbing out if needs be, but at 70+ such a maneuver belongs more in the orbit of a flexible and lythe 20 something, especially when behind the steering wheel. And so to her trusty mobile, which soon had hubby on his way, but with a suggestion that while waiting, call Roadside Assist through the insurer – AAMI.

The AAMI lady (not in the Philippines or Mumbai), was very concerned, considerate and helpful, but best of all, provided some sage advice that is news to me and I suspect, many other club members. She suggested my friend hold the key fob as far as she could outside the window then press the 'OPEN' icon three times. She did as instructed and Bingo, it worked. All four doors unlocked in unison and she was out.

But it doesn't take too active an imagination to picture a not so happy ending: The car upside down in a ditch; No mobile phone contact; Kids frantic in their child restraints. The list goes on.

My betrothed is no fan of the modern car with all their whiz-bang gimmickry. In fact, I know for sure that given the choice, she'd prefer wind up manual windows in her RAV 4. For all their cleverness our modern computerised electronic wonders can occasionally outwit themselves. And what's more, I doubt Council will foot the \$350+ bill for a new tyre and wheel alignment...

Chris Bult



Hold on Jackthe
council are on their way .



Port Stephens Classic Automobile Association

Club Regalia - For Sale to Members
(heavily subsidised by PSCAA)



Polo Shirts - \$30



Jackets - \$40



Baseball style



Beanie



Sunhat

Hats – all \$15



Cloth Badges – \$5

(Window stickers provided with new memberships
for interior or exterior application)

To purchase Club Regalia, contact Derek McLachlan – 0408 608 475
...or come along to any PSCAA Members Meeting (6pm on the 2nd
Wednesday each month at the NB Bowling Club) or any Club event

EVs – REALITY BITES!

By Jeff Sinclair



The president of the Australian EV Association recently stated that the shortage of qualified mechanics and limited spare parts is causing motor insurers to write off accident damaged EVs, thus causing premiums for them to rise. He said governments are busy convincing people to buy an EV, but not promoting the training of suitably skilled mechanics and only a very small percentage of workshops are able to perform maintenance or repairs.

With the prospect of a hugely expensive battery replacement, resale values were extremely poor and recharging opportunities are another big problem. More apartment blocks are being built but Body Corporates and building insurers are, understandably, not keen on vehicles being recharged in the basement with the possibility of intense battery fires.

From another source, a big survey in the US found that over 30% of American EV owners said that they will go back to an ICE vehicle next time. The same survey found that in Australia, that figure was as high as 40%. It appears that only in Japan were people happy with the EV choice, with only 13% saying they would go back to a traditionally fueled vehicle.

It will be interesting to see what will be the situation in 2 or 3 years time.....??

Nufsed Jeff.





Events July 2024

Fridge Edition
John Kerr 0421 459 577

Monday 1 July – 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, to enable us to do a head count and advise the venue of numbers attending.



Wednesday 10 July - Assoc. Meeting

Will be held at the **Nelson Bay Bowling Club** in the **Crows Nest Room** on level 2, followed by dinner at **Fin & Scales Restaurant** (for those who are up to it).
Meeting commences at 6.00 pm.

Wednesday 17 July - 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 **Tuncurry** via **Buledelah**
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an **9.30 am** departure.



Thursday 18 July - SWB

This months' venue is **2317**, (upstairs at The Deck), **Soldiers Point**.
Please text **Lindy** on 0400 828 217 if you are attending as we need to advise the venue re numbers.
Meet at the venue at 12.30 pm.

Thursday 25 July - 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 26 July - SMB

This months' venue is **Common Grounds** at **Morpeth**.
Meet at the Pearl Servo at **7.30 am.**



Wednesday 31 July – Pub Lunch Run

Lunch at **Harrigans, Cameron Park**.
Bookings are Essential. Contact **John Kerr** on 0421 459 577 or email johnnotbird48@gmail.com no later than 2.00 pm, Tuesday 30th July.
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an **11.00 am** departure.



Events August 2024

Fridge Edition
John Kerr 0421 459 577

Monday 5 August – 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.



Thursday 8 August - 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.**

Sunday 11 August – Sunday Roast Run

Sunday roast lunch at the **Erringhi Hotel** at **Clarence Town** (21 Grey Street)
\$20 special – roast lunch and a drink. **Bookings are Essential.**
Contact **John Kerr** on 0421 459 577 or email johnnotbird48@gmail.com no later than 2.00 pm, Monday, 5th August.
Meet at the Pearl servo for an **11.00 am** departure.

Wednesday 14 August - Assoc. Meeting

Will be held at the **Nelson Bay Bowling Club** in the **Crows Nest Room** on level 2, followed by dinner at **Fin & Scales Restaurant** (for those who are up to it).
Meeting commences at 6.00 pm.

Thursday 15 August - SWB

This months' venue is **Salt, Fingal Bay Surf Club**.
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.

Wednesday 21 August - 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 **Peats Ridge** via **Wollombi**.
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an **9.00 am** departure.



Tuesday 27 August – Pub Lunch Run

Lunch at **Family Hotel, Maitland**
Bookings are Essential. Contact **John Kerr** on 0421 459 577 or email johnnotbird48@gmail.com no later than 2.00 pm, Monday, 26th August.
Meet at the Pearl Servo for an **11.00 am** departure.

Friday 30 August - SMB

This months' venue is **Poyers** at **Lemon Tree Passage**.
Meet at the Pearl Servo at **7.30 am.**



TRY THIS QUICK QUIZ...Answers

ANSWERS:

Movies.

1. Toyota 2000GT
2. Yellow
3. Land Rover Defender
4. Brake pedal
5. Aston Martin DBS

Insignia.

1. Spirit of Ecstasy
2. Revolving propeller
3. Trident
4. 8 or Octagon
5. Gazoo Racing

Motor Sport.

1. W.A.
2. Scotland
3. Porsche 992 GT3R
4. McLaren
5. 1980

Place of Origin.

1. East Germany
2. Wales
3. Germany
4. Turin
5. Blackpool

General Knowledge.

1. Switzerland
2. Donald
3. Skinner's Union
4. Symmon's Plains
5. Ralph Sarich

TIE BREAKER: 763 mph.



100.9 PSfm

your community your music

**PORT STEPHENS CLASSIC
AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY PORT
STEPHENS FM**

*YOUR COMMUNITY
RADIO
STATION....has
served your
community for over
30 years....*

BAY AUTO AIR



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***