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### Opening Times:

FRI, SAT, SUN & MON

10am to 4pm

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Adults \$17 - Concession \$12 - Under 15

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# Shed Chatter

A NEWSLETTER FOR  
GIPPSLAND VEHICLE COLLECTION  
MEMBERS

ISSUE 6 - 2023



Hi everyone,

I hope you enjoy the latest Shed Chatter. As usual there has been a lot happening at "The Shed". As we get closer to the end of the year, everyone has been so busy.

Thanks again to all those who contributed to this edition, I really appreciate it. As always, I am on the lookout for more articles.

The next edition will be out in February next year, so you have plenty of time to write up something for me.

Remember if you have a story to tell you can either email me on [cdurdu@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cdurdu@bigpond.net.au) or contact me on 0428456267, if you would like some help to get your story down on paper.

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### Club Permit Renewal

You can get your renewal signed at The Shed Fri, Sat & Sun between 10am & 1 pm and Mon 1 - 4pm without appointment.

We accept Club Plate renewals in the mail, provided you enclose a stamped, self-addressed return envelope & \$15. This will be signed and returned in the envelope supplied.

Please direct all enquiries for new club plate applications to **Graham Gunning** on 0409 667 096 for an appointment.

**Current VicRoads fees: 45 days- \$81.60, 90 days- \$158.40**

You can pay VicRoads through their **myVicRoads** account.

For more information on Online Renewals, please visit VicRoads web page: -

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/registration/limited-use-permits/club-permit-scheme/renew-or-extend-a-club-permit>

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Office Bearers			
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Graham Gunning	<a href="mailto:grahamgunning@hotmail.com">grahamgunning@hotmail.com</a>	0409667096	Club Plate Officer Past President
Caroline Duck	<a href="mailto:cdurdu@bigpond.net.au">cdurdu@bigpond.net.au</a>	0428456267	Shed Chatter Editor
The Museum		0351473223	The Museum

**Dates to remember:****Car Cleaning:** 10am every Thursday morning**Annual General meeting first Wednesday of August.**

All members welcome. Come along and get to know other likeminded members.



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EVENT CALENDAR			
Event Name	Date	Time	Location
Visiting Group: Idlers Four Wheel Drive Club	Nov 21		GVC Idlers Four Wheel Drive Club
Geelong Revival Motoring Festival	Nov 24 - 26	Daily	Geelong Waterfront, Eastern Beach Be a part of Australia's largest classic motoring event. The Shannon's Motorshow is one of the largest automotive shows in Australia. With over 500 cars, motorcycles trucks, caravans and more on display. For more information: <a href="https://geelongrevival.com.au">https://geelongrevival.com.au</a>
48 -215 (FX) Holden 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	Nov 26	10am -5pm	Trafalgar Holden Museum \$10 entry
Trafalgar Annual Swap Meet and Car Show	Nov 26	Gates open 6am	Trafalgar Recreation Precinct, Waterloo Rd Trafalgar Sellers \$!5, Show Cars \$10, Public \$5. Children under 16 free. Swap meet and car show with judging and trophies
Visiting Group	Dec 3		GVC Victorian Military Vehicle Group
Family Day Briarolong	Dec 3	10am -2pm	Log Cabin, Avon St. Briarolong Sponsored by Briarolong RSL. They need display vehicles from GVC members, from 10am - 2pm Contact Craig Baxter 045984166 for more information
Members Christmas BBQ	Dec 10	From 6:30	GVC more info to follow
"Coffee, Cars and Bikes"	Jan14, 2024	From 8am	Main Street Maffra Social get together for GVC members.
Festival of Motoring 2024	Jan 21, 2024	9am -3pm	Cruden Farm, supported by RACV For more information- <a href="https://www.aomc.asn.au/festival-of-motoring">https://www.aomc.asn.au/festival-of-motoring</a> Spectators \$10 per person, \$20 per entry for display cars.
Heritage Vehicle and Machinery Display – Lardner Park	Feb 3 -4	Sat 10am - 4pm Sun 9:30am - 2Pm	Lardner Park, 155 Burnt Store Rd, Lardner Historic, classic, veteran trucks, tractors, cars, motorbikes, and caravans, steam engines, stationary engines. All 25 years or older. Adult \$15, 12 -18 \$5. Exhibitors and children under 12 free. Enquiries Peter: 0419001948
Visiting Group	Feb 17		GVC Riviera Sports Car Club
Show cars Melbourne Sandown 13	Feb 18	9am - 4:30pm	Moonee Valley Racecourse All kinds of show cars welcome – street machines, hot rods, classics, muscle cars, elite cars, original, vintage. All clubs welcome. Food & coffee available. Featuring bands, awards, kids' entertainment, free giveaways, trade stands, drag car fire ups. Top 10 Red Carpet Outdoor awards, huge indoor/outdoor car & bike display
British and European Motoring Show	Feb 18	9am for display vehicles 10am for spectators	Yarra Glen Racecourse Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen Feature this year: -125 years of Fiat and 60 years Mercedes Benz Pagoda For more information contact: 0473832277

# NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

Since our last newsletter, there has been quite a bit happening at GVC.

## Launch of our new Display

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> of November, we launched our latest display called “Working Wheels”. This display seeks to show the important part that vehicles of all sorts have played in our working lives.

We were delighted to welcome a display vehicles from the Victoria Police – Big thanks to Senior Seargent Luke Banwell from the Road Policing Section and police officers Nick Rose, Chris King and Rob Baggaley who delivered the vehicles.



The display begins with some beautiful vintage vehicles such as the Whitechapel Hooded Buggy, circa 1900, a 1905 De Dion and a 1910 Ford Model T. All of these vehicles take us back to the earliest years when vehicles were just beginning to be used for business purposes.

As it moves through the years, we have emergency services and army vehicles being showcased next to vehicles such as an Indonesian Becak, trucks, tractors and a limousine.



There is even an appearance by the Mad Max Humongous machine.

John and Liz Britton have done an outstanding job in presenting a Hudson Hearse complete with the Funeral Director who would have been leading the funeral procession and a group of mourners – well worth seeing.

And you just have to see Ness's lettuces!!!!

We wish to thank the Traralgon Historical Society for lending us their 1902 Curved Dash Oldsmobile and Old Gipps town for generously allowing us to display their Hudson Hearse



These displays don't just happen – they take a great deal of work from many of our volunteers. So, to all of you who have contributed in one way shape or form – **A BIG THANKS** – it is really appreciated.

## Projects

Since our last Shed Chatter many smaller projects have now been completed including

- the updating of the front door,
- the lighting on the ramp together with the outside spotlights have now been fixed.
- the gutters have now been cleaned and the leak in the annexe fixed.
- We have now completed the audit of Loan and Model items with all documented and labelled.

The birds are giving us a bit of grief again and the smaller ones have worked out how to bypass the spikes that were put up. We are now looking at installing a “gizmo” that emits a noise designed to deter the pesky critters!

Arguably the biggest change is the front entrance – the removal of the tree out the front and the new paintwork has created a much clearer entrance and makes us easier to find. Whilst they were here, the contractors inspected all the trees to ensure they were safe and not likely to drop limbs over our free campers.

We have put in an application for funding to build a small Shed adjacent to the BBQ shelter. Vic Trak are still assessing the applications.



## HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO HENRY NOBLE



Henry represented Australia in an international gymnastics' competition held in the U.K. This week.

I am sure you will all join me in congratulating him on coming 25<sup>th</sup> in the world for his age group. What an amazing achievement for him ... and let's not forget his mum!!!!!!

## Christmas

Yes, folks it is coming!!!! As we have done the past couple of years, we will be having a member's day on **Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>** – So after you have been to Coffee and Cars, please swing by and enjoy a free sausage and a catch up with others.



**Another happy visitor!**

## NOTICEBOARD FOR CARS FOR SALE

One of our newer volunteers has kindly offered to maintain this board.

Generally, we will only display advertisements for a 3-month period but many of the ones that are on the board are outdated.

All undated advertisements have now been removed from the board but have not been thrown away.

If you still have a vehicle for sale and wish to have your advertisement on the board, can you please ring Craig on 0459 384 166 and he will arrange for it to be put up again for a 3-month period.

*Our current display is:*

***Working Wheels, Cars That Moved People.***

*One of the vehicles on display is an army truck, displayed by Paul Dekmetzian.*

Mr Dekmetzian purchased and restored the 2.5 tonne International 4x4 cargo truck in 2014, from the family of previous owner and war veteran William Baird OAM. This truck was designed and built by the *International /Harvester Co. Ltd. of Australia*. It was built specifically for the Australian Defence Forces. It has the capability of carrying either stores or personnel over terrain that it was usually inaccessible to other forms of vehicles. Its role within the Armed Forces was as a medium general service cargo vehicle.

The unique history of 'Cargo', as the truck is fondly named, prompted Mr Dekmetzian to create a series of children's books to share the truck's life story and surrounding themes, in a bid to inspire some passion into future generations.

The first in a projected 12 book series, ***The Adventures of Cargo the Army Truck – 'Cargo Gets a New Job'***, details the truck's transition from humble beginnings in a Dandenong factory, to a loyal community service vehicle.

Under Mr Baird's care, **Cargo** spent 15 years servicing the isolated New South Wales communities of Hay and Ivanhoe. Its powerful frame and large tyres were perfect for tackling the unsealed, often boggy dirt roads, of the rural townscape. Before that, between 1963 and the early 1980s, it was used throughout Australia's involvement in the Vietnam Conflict.

After Mr Baird's passing, the truck was stored in a shed until Mr Dekmetzian came along and gave Cargo a new lease on life. Part of the **Victorian Military Vehicle Corp (VMVC)**, Mr Dekmetzian said Cargo frequently catches the attention of young ones when it is displayed at **VMVC** shows.

"The kids go crazy," he said.

"When we show it, we drop the tailgate and roll up the canvas and there's seats in the back. The little ones go right to the back, and they don't want to come out."

Mr Dekmetzian said he wanted to create a fun and light-hearted book to share an important part of Australia's military history.

"The way I'm writing the books is, so it's as interesting for the reader reading it, as it is for the children listening to it," he said.

"Once my generation passes eventually, unless the kids are interested in [military vehicles] and excited by them, there won't be much interest in them, say after 20 to 30 years," he said.

"The books are meant to maintain that interest and enjoyment, and hopefully some young people start buying these and driving them around in the future. Who knows?!"

Mr Dekmetzian's passion for army vehicles goes back to the 1970s, when he entered the Australian Army as a school cadet aged 17. After finishing high school, he became part of the Monash University regiment.

"I was in the driving platoon, and I used to drive similar vehicles all over the place," he said.

Cargo is the second army truck in his collection. In 1981 he left the Army to pursue a career in banking, but maintains the experience affected him "in a very positive way."

"From 1973 to 1981, eight years of my young life, I was involved in the army...and it's taught me a great deal," he said.

"The army has a specific way of training people. You'll learn to keep things clean, how to keep things maintained, how to be disciplined and how to get on with the job."

**Technical Data:**

Engine: 6-cylinder, 282 cu. in, petrol  
gearbox: 5fwd, 1 rev., synchromesh (except for first gear)

Transfer Case: 2 speed, 4 position, low 4-wheel drive, neutral, high 2-wheel drive, high 4-wheel drive.

Fuel Tanks: 2 x 22 Gal tanks, range 300 miles (approx. 500km)

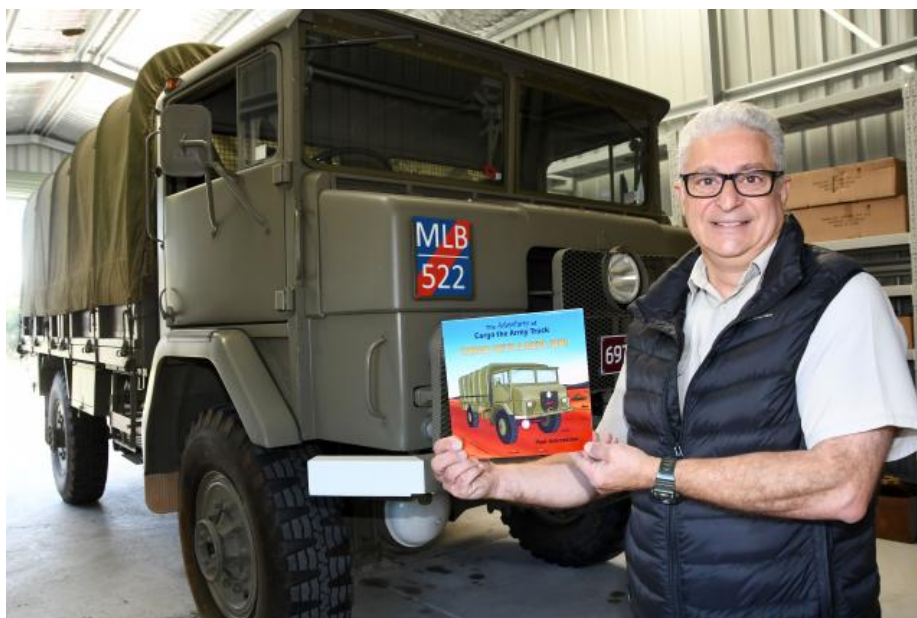
Crew: Driver, co-driver

Winch capacity: 20, 000 lb

Tyres: 12.00 x 20, 12 ply

Fording depth: unprepared 76cm, prepared 162cm

Weight overall: 5249kg





*Another vehicle on display is Ken Tate's 1951, Lincoln Cosmopolitan, Long Wheelbase.*

#### Background information:

A stately full-size luxury car, the Cosmopolitan from Lincoln was the type of car to chauffeur presidents. Introduced in 1949, the all-new post war Cosmopolitan was produced until 1954. One of them was built for Harry S Truman. It included integrated running boards, specifically for the Secret Service agents to ride on.

Based on a regular Cosmopolitan sedan, the Limousine was modified heavily and featured a variety of luxury features. Specially designed for U.S. President Harry S. Truman, the Cosmopolitan Limousine sported gold plating, letter desks, and reading lights. Incredibly modern for the day and time, the vehicle featured two-way intercom between the driver and passengers and full power windows, which could be completely controlled from the President's seat.

Only 18 of these unique models were built. Nine models were sent to the White House and eight travelled around the U.S. to places Truman often visited. It was also used by Truman's successor, Dwight Eisenhower who added a distinct "bubbletop". Presidents John F Kennedy and Lyndon B Johnson also used the Lincoln until its retirement in 1967. It truly was a "working car".

The car on display was only recently acquired by Ken from an importer from Queensland. Not much is known about its history, but it is very similar to the one that would have chauffeured Presidents around the U.S.

#### **Specifications for Lincoln Cosmopolitan Sedan 5.5V8 Hydra- Matic, 156hp, 1951, 4 speed.**

Power:115kw

Horsepower: 156hp (154bhp)

Engine: 337cu (5.5l) 2-bbl Flathead V8

Displacement: 5,518cc/ 5.5l

Cylinders: 8 Cyl.

Length:222.5in (5.652m)





## Mt Tarrengower Historic Hillclimb, Maldon

*By Caroline Duck*

Recently Roger and I were in Maldon for an engagement party. Happily, for us on that same weekend, the Mount Tarrengower Historic Hillclimb was running its annual event. It is run by the Bendigo Car Club in conjunction with Vintage Sports Car Club and the Historic Motorcycle Racing Association of Victoria. These hillclimbs have been running on and off since 1928. It has been run in this form since 1979.

Mt Tarrengower is recognised as the longest Hillclimb in Australia being 1.6km long and rising almost 182metres from start to finish. The cars competing ranged in age from 1917 Ford Model Ts up to a 1987 Ford Falcon XI. The motorcycles competing ranged from a 1936 Indian Sports Scout 750cc to a range of 1972 motorcycles including, a Suzuki GT 250, and a Honda CB 350cc. It was an interesting and exciting event to watch. Look out for it next year, it will be great weekend away. It is usually on the second weekend of October.



## Vintage Vehicle Run

*By Jan Hammond*

The November 4, Vintage Vehicle Run, was well attended. Most cars started at "The Shed" and were then joined by several happy folk at the old Sale Police Station.

John Franklin came down from Drouin with his 1920s roadster. He was joined by David Canavan (a 1929 Model A Ford), Peter Johnson's 1929 Dodge Coupe and Noel and Cheryl Hedington in their 1925 Oldsmobile Tourer. There followed a Morris, an Austin, a Vauxhall, a Fiat, a Chrysler and a Buick and the mighty Chevy Corvette. We were all happy to see the Land Cruiser with the rescue trailer fall in behind.

Leigh set off along South Gippsland Highway and then turned off to follow the narrow roads in the Ninety Mile Beach hinterland, yet another amazing area in this scenic jewel we know as Gippsland.

We were met head on by a column of 26 Model T Fords, all waving and honking their klaxons as they passed by.

After a brief stop to rest the cars and stretch our legs, we headed to Tarraville, once described as a 'most disreputable place', to see the old wooden church. It is the second oldest wooden church in Victoria and is a great example of slab construction, using



wooden slab planks and no nails. A church elder gave us a talk about the building and its history. The church is still used today, for Sunday services, weddings, and funerals. The bright blue and white paint belies the 167-year-old building. It contains a bell tower, which still has a working bell in it which a few of us tested, while the more accomplished musos had a tinkle on the old bellows pump organ.

We set off for Port Albert, and lunch at the famous fish shop. The main street was bustling with locals and visitors. The CFA was having an open day, and our procession only added more colour and interest, with heads turning to look as the shiny vehicles passed by.

The weather had been threatening rain all morning, so we sat in inside the café to enjoy our fish and chip lunch, during which time, Leigh moved around our tables to chat about the interesting history of the area.

Leigh had organised for us to visit the Historic Swing Bridge on our journey home, south of Sale. All cars behaved, along with their drivers, and we had a sedate run all the way to



the bridge, where we met up with the Model T Ford Club, from Melbourne.

Small groups formed and we all took an interest in each other's pride and joy, and re-acquainted ourselves with several familiar faces.

Shortly before 3pm, a council operator arrived to open the bridge, and the 111-year-old wooden boat "Rubeena" glided quietly up and down to the delight of passengers.





Although the bridge is now operated hydraulically, there is still some manual prep work to be done first. Eventually the old bridge began to slowly rotate, swinging its impressive tonnage until it was lying parallel to the banks, allowing large vessels, and yachts with masts to pass safely either side. It was such a wonderful achievement for engineers 140 years ago. I imagine it would have been a huge challenge to build the structure originally, considering the foundations were out in mid-stream. It was an enjoyable way to finish our day, and time to head off on our individual journeys home. The Land Cruiser and trailer were not called upon, which was great - no breakdowns. The day was a ten out of ten adventure. Thanks to all participants, especially to Leigh who led all day in his Willys Jeep.



SOME RECENT PHOTOS







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### Coffee, Cars and Bikes

Maffra has all the things you need to run a **Coffee with Cars and Bikes** event: stacks of parking, open coffee shops, bakery, shade, seating, toilets and a motor museum with over 700 members.

If you are one of the 600 odd members that have not turned up yet, it's about time you did. This is a social event, so even if your car is in a thousand bits just come along anyway. The coffee is good, the conversation is varied and we get a really good mix of cars and motorcycles to admire as a bonus.

The event has morphed to the bakery end of Johnson Street, it is now on the second Sunday of the month.

The time has not changed, it's 8:00-10:00 am with the idea that it's something you can attend that does not get in the way of whatever else you have organised for the day



Everyone is welcome.

**When** – Second Sunday of the month from 8.00 am – 10.00am

**Where** – Bakery end of Johnson Street, Maffra

**Park along Maffra's main street west of Foster Street**

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# Working Wheels

Cars that moved people

**New Display Opening on Sunday 12th of November**



For enquiries, maps and information visit our website  
[www.gippslandvehiclecollection.org.au](http://www.gippslandvehiclecollection.org.au)

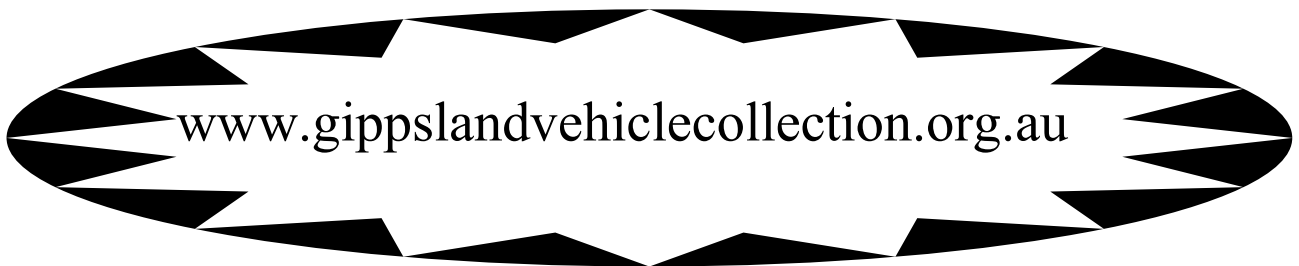
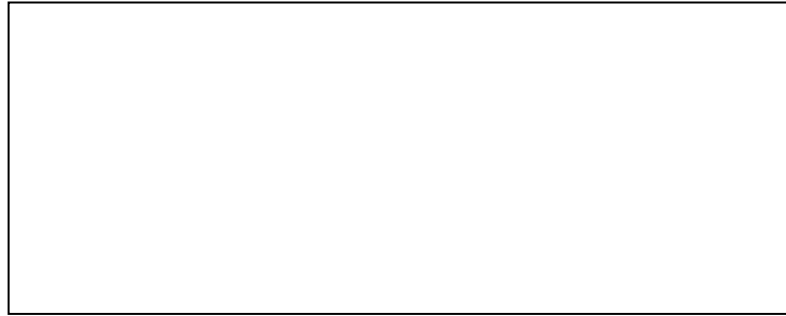
**Museum Opening Times:** Fri; Sat; Sun; Mon 10am - 4pm. Daily over school holidays. Anytime by appointment (for groups)

**Phone: (03) 5147 3223**



Postage  
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If undelivered return to:  
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A BIG THANKYOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND WORKERS