THE CHRYSLER COLLECTOR

Number 215

Nov/Dec 2014

THE CHRYSLER RESTORERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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CLUB DIRECTORY

The Chrysler Restorers Club of Australia,

South Australia Inc.

Established in 1980, catering for the following vehicles:
Dodge * Plymouth * De Soto * Chrysler * Imperial * Maxwell * Fargo * Graham Brothers * Valiant

Postal Address
PO Box 667, Plympton SA 5038

Meetings
Meetings are held at the Combined Car Clubs (Triple C) Club rooms, Glandore Community Centre, Clark Avenue, Glandore at 7:45 pm on the second Wednesday of each month, except January. Entry to club rooms is through the car park. Visitors and guests are welcome. Please bring supper to share.

Subscriptions
Metro single $30.00 - Metro family $35.00 - Country single $20.00 - Country family $25.00

Club Officers

President:	Richard Tapp, 17 Simpson Parade, Goodwood 5034	ah 0439 682 011
Vice President:	Brenton Gibb, 18 Caroona Avenue, Para Hills 5096	ah 8263 2908
Secretary:	Ann Lind, 56 Currawong Crescent, Modbury Heights 5094	ah 8263 6998
Asst. Secretary:	John Goddard, 22 Stephens Terrace, Torrensville 5031	ah 8443 6311
Treasurer:	Alan Driver, 6 Hastings Road, Brighton SA 5048	ah 8298 1194
Editors:	Bob Haywood, 2 Rosemary Street, Woodville West 5011	8268 3508
	Richard Tapp, 17 Simpson Parade, Goodwood 5034	ah 0439 682 011
Librarian:	Stephen Tyler, 4 Munster Street, Windsor Gardens 5087	ah 8261 7971
Technical Liaison:	Graham Bailey, 41 Reservoir Road, Hope Valley 5090	8264 2261
Public Relations:	Peter Braham, PO Box 515, Prospect East 5082	8344 3288
Runs Coordinator:	Greg Lind, 56 Currawong Crescent, Modbury Heights 5094	ah 8263 6998
M/ship Vehicle Records:	Jenette Black, 41 Reservoir Road, Hope Valley 5090	ah 8264 2261
Historic V Registrar:	Graham McRae, 26 Fisk Avenue, Glengowrie 5044	0498 485 934
Committee:	Chris Howes, 4 Peter Place, Campbelltown 5074	ah 8165 3971
	Lindsay Gibb, 22 Lorraine Avenue, Para Vista 5093	8263 5416
	Jeff Knowles, 7 Stanley Street, Hillbank 5112	8255 8671
Federation Rep:	Alan Driver, 6 Hastings Road, Brighton 5048	ah 8298 1194
Combined Car Clubs Rep:	Ken Barnes, 21 East Avenue, Millswood 5034	8293 7923
Public Officer:	Barry Maslin, 13 Walthamstowe Road, Old Noarlunga 5168	8386 2931
Auditor:	Michael Bartsch, 105 Billabong Road, Para Hills 5096	ah 8395 3919
Catering Coordinators:	Cathy Woods, 4 Peter Place, Campbelltown 5074	ah 8165 3971
	Judy Hart, 55 Hallett Avenue, Tranmere 5073	8337 7887
	Shirley Crichton, 3 Smith Street, Newton 5074	8337 6980
Club Tools held at:	Chris Howes, 4 Peter Place, Campbelltown 5074	ah 8165 3971

Note that most committee members have e-mail access. You will find their e-mail addresses on the contacts page of the website, where they can be protected from harvesting by spam robots. Addresses listed in the web version of the magazine can not be protected.

The Chrysler Collector

Next Issue: Please submit material for the next issue no later than Friday 2 January 2015. Corrections/amendments until Sunday 4 January 2015. Contributions can be e-mailed to editor@chrysler-restorers-sa.org.au or posted to 2 Rosemary Street, Woodville West SA 5011 or brought to club meetings. E-mailed digital photos should preferably be at least 1200x900, photos should be scanned at 200 dpi; line-art at 600 dpi. **Copyright:** All material published in The Chrysler Collector is the copyright of the author of the article or the photographer. Their permission should be sought before reproduction. **Website:** The Chrysler Collector can be downloaded in colour from: **http://www.chrysler-restorers-sa.org.au**

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COMING EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS

Second Wednesday of each month except January

CLUB RUNS / EVENTS

Tuesday 18th November 2014
Visit to the Koala Wildlife Hospital Anzac Highway Plympton.

Margaret Edwards
8341 6661

Sunday 30th November 2014
Clayton Bay Old Fashioned picnic.

Greg Lind
8263 6998

Sunday 7th December 2014
Christmas picnic, Beefacres Reserve near Darley Road bridge.

Sharon and Brenton Gibb
8263 2908

Sunday 14th December 2014
Church and Chariot Run, Brighton Church of Christ 9.30am.

Barry Thomas
8296 4160

Wednesday 31st December 2014
New Years Eve at Margaret and Ashley's home at 230 Lady Gowrie Drive, Largs Bay. Any time after 6.30pm

Margaret Edwards
Ashley Farrow
8341 6661

Sunday 25th January 2015
Ray Miels Memorial Breakfast Run. Meet CCC clubrooms 7.30am for a 8am departure.

Richard Tapp
0439 682 011

INVITATION/OTHER CLUB'S EVENTS

17th and 18th January 2015
Milang Vintage Machinery Club. Emphasis this year on Chrysler and Dodge vehicles. Entry forms available.

Greg Lind
8263 6998

Monday 26th January 2015
Cars of Australia show Strathalbyn Oval complex 10am-4.30pm. Details and entry forms from Greg Lind. Entry forms to be returned to Greg to submit together to receive discount on entry.

Saturday 7th February 2015
The Lions Club of Kaniva car and bike show. Kaniva Recreation Reserve 9am till 4pm $5.00 admission. Entry forms;

Greg Lind
8263 6998

Sunday 22nd February 2015
Street Machine Association of SA Show n Shine, Regency Park Oval, South Road, Regency Park

7th and 8th March 2015
Power of the Past Mt Barker Oval, Alexandrina Rd, Mt Barker. A working display. Entry forms available

Greg Lind

Sunday 15th March 2015
The Vintage Sports Car Club Of South Australia Inc. Bring your veteran and vintage vehicles to the Pre 1931 historic gathering day Anzac Highway between Keswick Bridge and West Terrace Adelaide. Vehicles on display between 10.30am and 2.30 pm. Free entry, caterers on site. Ian 8382 7243 or Rodney 8382 2100

Thursday 19th March 2015
The R and S series Valiant Car Club 6th National Rally held on the central coast of NSW. A lead up run along the river taking in Chryslers on the Murray on to Bathurst for a lap around the circuit is planned . More information and entry forms

Greg Lind

Sunday24th May 2015
Copper Coast Cornish Festival. Classic Cavalcade Kadina. Moonta. Wallaroo. Cars and motorcycles pre 1985.

Greg Lind
8263 6998

SWAP MEETS

15th and 16th November 2014
Bendigo

Sunday 18th January 2015
Hahndorf

Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st February 2015
Ballarat

Sunday 15th March 2015
Clare

Entry Forms etc

Club events co-ordinator has contact details and / or entry forms for other club's events.

New Years Eve

Wednesday 31st December 2014
Celebrate the incoming New Year at Margaret and Ashley's home at 30 Lady Gowrie Drive, Largs Bay. Bring a plate to share plus a chair. Watch the fire works at nearby Semaphore from their front yard. Any time after 630pm

Margaret Edwards
Ashley Farrow
8341 6661

Cover Photo

Rick Frith and Sheena Backhouse's 1925 Chrysler buckboard. This vehicle was used during the filming of the TV series The Battlers: *Photo Matt Haywood*

COMING EVENTS

Koala Wildlife Hospital Visit

Tuesday 18th November 2014
A visit to the koala wildlife hospital Anzac Highway Plympton.10.30am start. Donation $10.00 includes morning tea. Afterwards lunch at a local hotel. Sorry no children

Margaret Edwards
Ashley Farrow
8341 6661

Clayton Bay Old Fashioned Picnic

Sunday 30th Nov 2014
We will be joining the Historic Motor Vehicle Club on a leisurely run to Clayton Bay for an old fashioned picnic on Lake Alexandrina, Clayton Bay. BYO everything, BBQ's available and shops nearby. Meet at the CCC Clubrooms 9.00am for 9.15am start.

Greg Lind

2014 Christmas Picnic

Sunday 7th December 2014
The club's Christmas Picnic will be held at the same venue as last year at Beefacres Reserve, near the Darley Road Bridge. Assemble at 10.15am at the CCC clubrooms for a 10.30am departure.

On arrival at the reserve there will be various children's activities to keep them entertained.

A Chicken lunch, plates, cutlery, serviettes and Christmas gifts for children under 12 years old who attend will be provided by CRC. Please bring your own chairs, tables and drinks. Father Christmas will visit during the afternoon.

Cost per family is $10.00 (2 adults only + children under 12) or $5.00 for a single.

If you haven't attended the meetings to place your name on the list, please ring with numbers for lunch and children's names, sex and ages to allow time for purchasing and wrapping of gifts. Please let us know all details by the 12th November, 2014

PLEASE NOTE GIFTS WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN WHO ARE LISTED AND WHO ATTEND ON THE DAY

Members please bring a large salad or sweets to share.

Sharon Gibb
Home: 8263 2908
bskamgibb@adam.com.au

Christmas Church and Chariot Run

Sunday 14th December 2014
You are warmly invited to attend this unique Church Service. Dress as for a normal club outing.

9.30am; Arrive and assemble cars in the car park of the Brighton Church of Christ, 65 Sturt Road Brighton. Coffee will be served prior to the Church Service

10.30am; Attend Church Service. The Car Club Choristers will be featured again this year along with other musical items for your enjoyment.

Lunch in the form of a barbecue and a choice of desserts can be purchased, if required, after the service. Any monies raised will be donated to overseas aid. Depart between 12.00 and 12.30 for a BYO picnic lunch at the Oaklands Estate Reserve, (behind the old Driver Training Centre on Oaklands Road). Turn right at the traffic lights opposite Hendrie Street and drive through to the end. There are large shady trees and plenty of parking. Enjoy lunch together, depart at your leisure Feel free to invite your family and friends. For more information;

Barry Thomas
8296 4160
bcthomas@iprimus.com.au

Ray Miels Memorial Breakfast Run

Sunday 25th January 2015
Meet CCC clubrooms assemble at7.30am for an 8am departure to an unknown destination in the metropolitan area. In accordance with tradition the location is announced on the day.

Richard Tapp
0439 682 011

FROM THE COMMITTEE

President's Message

Welcome to the Nov/ Dec 2014 issue of the Chrysler Collector.

We didn't schedule a club event during September because Motorfest had organised nearly a dozen events and we wanted to encourage members to participate in these. Some of you did and reported on this at the October meeting. All the reports were favourable. Next year these will be cruising Classics events. Consider going.

At the October meeting Kym Snowball (the great great grandson of TJ Richards) was our guest speaker. The TJ Richards businesses were the forerunners of Chrysler Australia Limited. Kym spoke of the family involvement and also about his personal 1939 Dodge D11 limousine.

Later in the month we went to the first of our October "Pub Lunches" Traditionally these were in June, but with June now the end of our financial year and the need to deal with Historic Registration in that month, a different date was required. A big thank you to Peter Braham, for his persistence in finding us an excellent venue at a good price. The Hahndorf Old Mill ticked all the boxes. Really a buffet is ideal for our purpose, because there is no need to compromise on menu selections. You may be surprised to know that many venues that Peter approached were not interested in accepting a booking from a car club. Perhaps we need to collect references!

Our November run will be later than normal; not the Sunday after the club meeting but 30th November. An old fashioned picnic with the HMVC on the shore at Clayton Bay should be just the thing. This is a BYO everything event!

The Christmas Picnic will be Sunday 7th of December. Note that 12th November is the last day for notifying details of children who are to receive gifts. Santa needs time for preparation and has asked his favourite helper (Sharon Gibb) to accumulate this information. Note that catering is on the basis of bring a salad or sweets to share – but we need numbers for other aspects of catering as well – by the same 12th November date.

The December "meeting" will be more about eating and talking than "business". Expect only a few announcements before the serious business of "eat, drink and be merry" commences.

See you at some of our events!

Richard Tapp

From the Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

This issue comes to you courtesy of Greg and Ann Lind, Sharon and Brenton Gibb, Margaret Edwards and Ashley Farrow, Barry Thomas, Richard Tapp, Alan Driver, Graham McRae, Ellen Haywood, Graham Bailey, Jenette Black, and Barry Maslin.

Many thanks to the magazine despatch team, being Jenette Black, Ellen Haywood, Garry Williams and Dean Davis.

Bob Haywood

WEBSITE STATISTICS

	Sep 14	Oct 14	Oct 13
Visits	471	447	485
Pages	2768	5309	5845
Average visit duration	2:15	3:16	4:08

Statistics include photos but exclude videos.

CLUB NOTES

Federation Meeting Report

Historic Registration

DPTI has advised that they will commence audits of club HR records in 2014.

A vehicle which was made up of parts from the same make and several model years was de registered as it was in reality a replica of the vehicle it was presented as. DPTI was very upset, although not as upset as they would have been if they had identified it before the Federation reported it to them.

LPG on Historic Registered vehicles so long as LPG was fitted on full registration.

DPTI cosmetic review committee has recommended relaxing acceptability of air conditioning and sound systems so long as they are unobtrusive, and modern paints can be used so long as colours and schemes match the era of the vehicle.

Bay to Birdwood:

President reported that there were only five volunteers from our member clubs, again resulting in high traffic control costs.

40 to 50% of entrants are first timers and with poor volunteer support, he again queries whether the financial risk to the Federation is acceptable.

Motorfest:

Events hosted by member clubs were generally well supported and successful.

Clubs seeking membership of the Federation:

Citroen Society of SA has applied for membership.

Ring me if you need further insight toward these matters.

Alan Driver

Packard Factory Detroit

Welcome New Members

Chris and Stacey Smith	Para Hills	1965 Valiant AP6 Sedan

CLUB NOTES

Historic Vehicle Registration

Three Year Inspection for Historically Registered Vehicles

The State Government issued a new Code of Practice which was introduced on the July 1st 2012. One of the requirements from that was that **ALL** cars on conditional registration (that is historic vehicles) must have a club inspection within 3 years and then every 3 years from that date, what this means is;

Anyone whose vehicle was historically registered before July 1st 2012 **MUST** have their vehicle inspected before June 30th 2015. If it has not been done by then the car cannot be used from that date until it is inspected as it no longer complies with the requirements of the Code of Practice.

Those whose vehicles were entered onto the historic vehicle scheme after July 1st 2012 (that is the initial inspection for the MR334) must have their inspection done within 3 years from that date or as in the previous case the vehicle cannot be used from that date until inspected.

At this point we have something like 100 vehicles that have not been inspected and 2015 is fast approaching. We have a reasonable number of assessors in the club who can do these inspections but it is the **OWNERS** responsibility to produce the vehicle to the assessor, this can be done at club runs, meetings or organising to take it to the assessor for inspection. Please contact me and I will advise of the nearest assessor available to carry out the inspection. Remember that all of the assessors are volunteers in your club who have taken on this responsibility so that the scheme will work.

Graham McRae
HV Registrar
0498 485 934

Nick Hunt and Ashley Farrow at the Dodge Rally at Forbes

Vale Molly

Molly, was a treasured part of the family of Mary and Mike Osborne of Ardrossan on Yorke Peninsula. She had contracted cancer and during the last twelve months Mary and Mike did the best they could to keep Molly as comfortable as possible. Early October it was obvious things were not going well and the decision was made to put her to sleep.

She was a recognised part of both local and interstate club runs and travelled many kms in a variety of cars. She was also a part of the town of Ardrossan on her many town walks.

She will be missed by so many.

Our thoughts are with Mary and Mike.

CLUB NOTES

Past President Lindsay Gibb Turns 80

Monday 1st September 2014

Lindsay Gibb, past President, very active and keen member of the CRC of SA turned 80. Lindsay along with his wife Marlene involve themselves in many events in the club. Over the last three years they have organized the raffle at our monthly meetings. Lindsay is known for his very comprehensive description of the prizes prior to the draw. He is a current committee member, a position he has filled for a number of years. Interestingly, this year his birthday coincided with the annual "Old Car Day" so he spent most of the day at Bethany in the Barossa Valley.

At our general meeting on September 10th we surprised him with a cake and sang Happy Birthday. On behalf of the committee and members congratulations Lindsay, here's hoping we can celebrate many more with you.

Bob Haywood

National Motor Museum 50th Anniversary

During 2015 the National Motor Museum in Birdwood will be celebrating its 50th Birthday by holding various special events.

The Museum is inviting car clubs to use their facilities as a part of club runs. A discounted rate of $10 per vehicle for the use of the grounds for vehicle parking, tea and coffee and gas barbecues. Discounted admission to the Museum during club events will be available.

The Museum is offering Club space for a 3 month period. This is a chance to display vehicles as a Club display. They have room for 3 vehicles at a time.

If any club members have any ideas of how the Museum should celebrate its 50th birthday they would be happy to hear from you. They can be contacted by phone 08 8568 4000 or email motor@history.sa.gov.au

Library Notice

It has been brought to my attention the question regarding the unavailability of a collection of books for loan, within the library .

They are, The History of Chrysler, The Dodge Story, and the Plymouth and De Soto Story. These books have now become rare and collectable and considered irreplaceable.

They are of course available to peruse during your attendance at our general meetings.

Steve Tyler
Librarian

PAST EVENTS

"Old Car Day" Bethany 2014

Monday 1st September 2014

Our first day of spring forecast was a bit depressing but non the less we headed off in the Royal to celebrate "Old Car Day" at Bethany in the Barossa Valley

We arrived well before lunch and a number of people had already set up in the shelter of the oval building. An open fire being prepared was going to be most welcome during the day.

A small number of CRC members gathered and enjoyed a hot cuppa, lunch and a chat. The Adelaide Hills club was also well represented

By lunch time a total of 80 vehicles had arrived and were being set up around the grounds to be viewed by the many people who had braved the cool conditions.

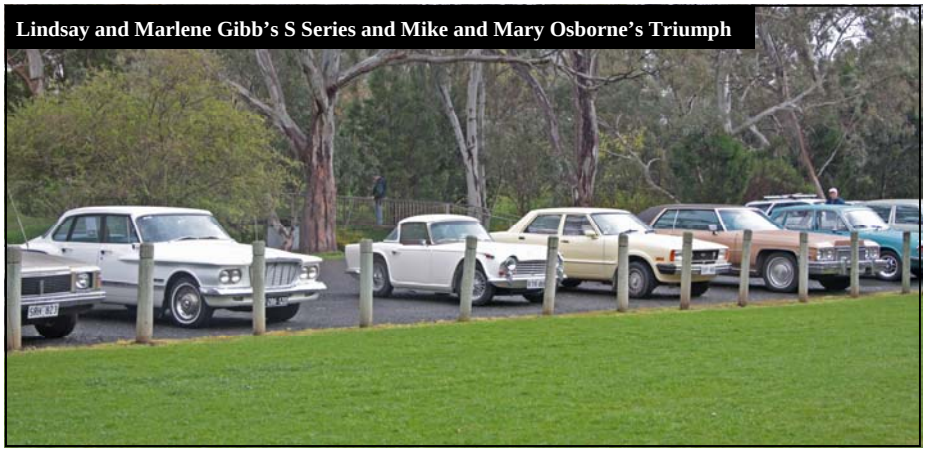
Fortunately after a light shower the rest of the day was fine and parties set up around their vehicles with lunch and a social get together.

This annual event always attracts members from many of South Australia's car clubs showing a good variety of vehicles.

We decided on a short visit into Tanunda to catch up with a couple of the local "op shops" before heading for home after another day out with the "Old Car" gang.

Another great event thanks to the Gawler Car Club.

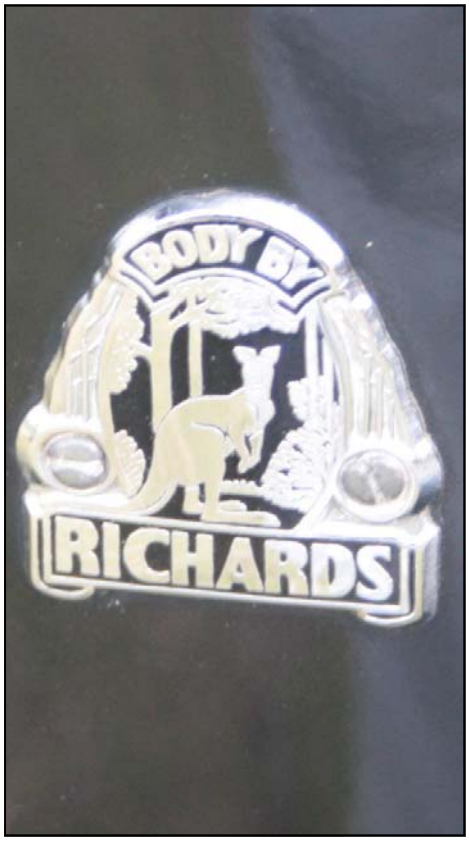
Bob and Ellen Haywood

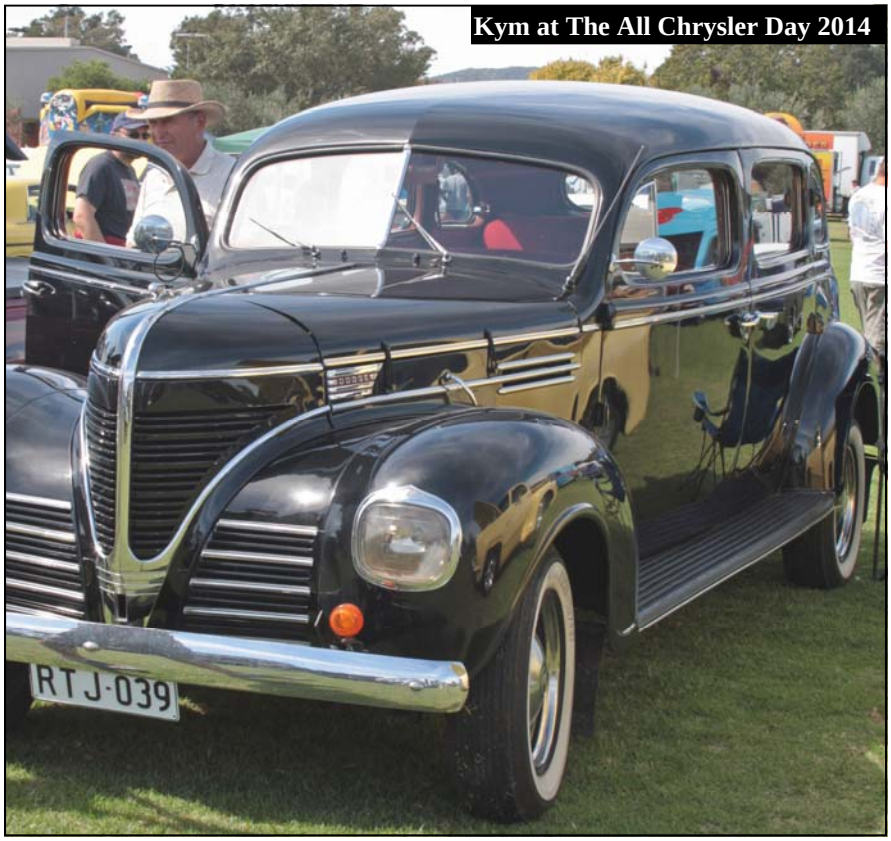


Lindsay and Marlene Gibb's S Series and Mike and Mary Osborne's Triumph

PAST EVENTS

Guest Speaker Kym Snowball





Kym at The All Chrysler Day 2014

Kym's 1939 Dodge D11 limousine

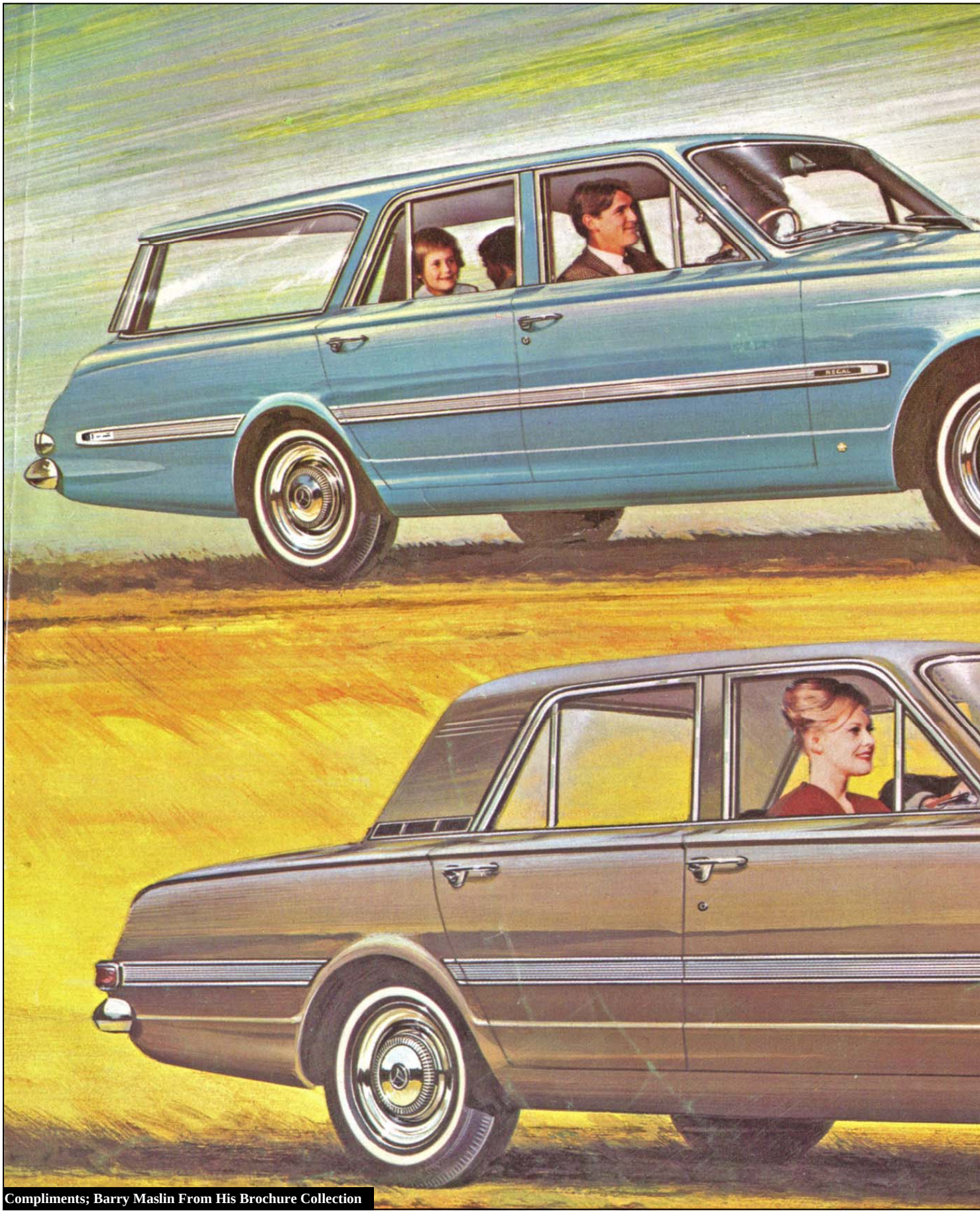
Wednesday 8th October 2014

A guest speaker prior to the official proceedings of our October general meeting was Kym Snowball, the Great Great Grandson of T J Richards. Kym gave a very enlightening history and family background of the T J Richards family and the Richards family history of motoring in South Australia. He brought along a selection of family photos to coincide with his well prepared presentation. His very rare Dodge car was on display and attracted a lot of interest. Many thanks Kym for your time and information of an important part of South Australian Motoring History. President Richard Tapp presented Kym with a small gift in appreciation.

Bob Haywood

Our Motoring Heritage

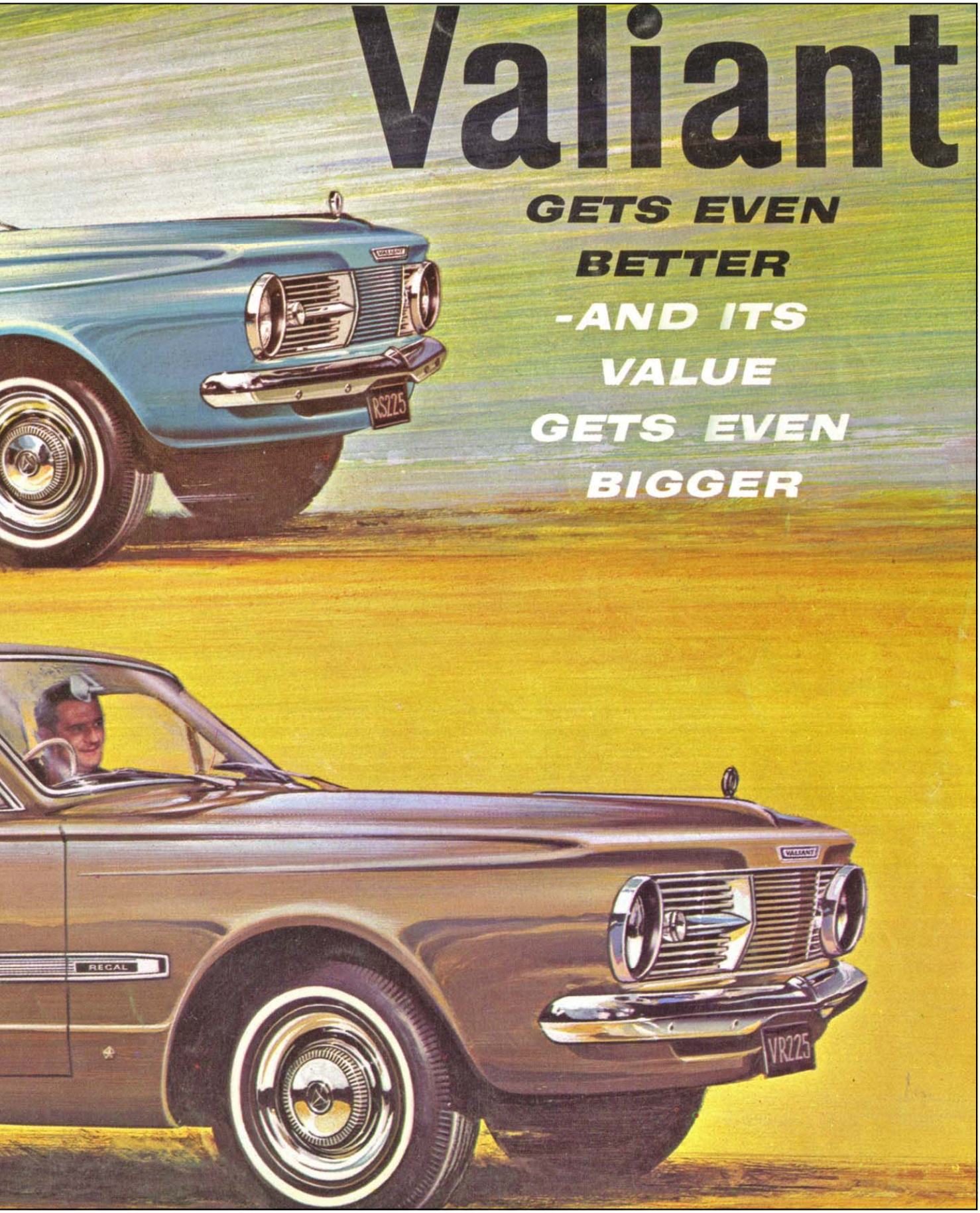
AP6 50th Birthday



Compliments; Barry Maslin From His Brochure Collection

Our Motoring Heritage

AP6 50th Birthday



MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

Our Weekend in Naracoorte

Thursday 2nd to Tuesday 7th October 2014

A small group of CRC members including Barry and Christine Thomas, Bob and Judy Freak Bruce Bragg and Carolyn Harris and Ian Myers made the trek to Naracoorte for the October Long Weekend.

Naracoorte Caravan Park was the chosen venue. There they joined in with a group of fellow caravanners from as far as Moonta Bay, Pinaroo and Ballarat.

We, along with Bob and Judy Freak headed off on Thursday. On arrival at Naracoorte we found a couple of caravans already on site including Barry and Christine Thomas and four other vans.

After settling in we got together for a happy hour and a chat before heading of to the Naracoorte Hotel for an evening meal.

Most vans had arrived by Friday afternoon. The Park management allocated us with well selected sites, enabling the group to have close contact with each other.

Following an enjoyable traditional happy hour we took the opportunity of a short walk to the Naracoorte Hotel for dinner.

The remainder of our group arrived on Saturday. We had made prior arrangement with the local media that our vans would be open for public display during the afternoon. The response from the public and other park people was great, and we were not disappointed getting positive comments from our visitors. The afternoon's entertainment made the time fly by and it was soon time to gather in the camp kitchen for a happy hour and a chance to welcome everyone to the event.

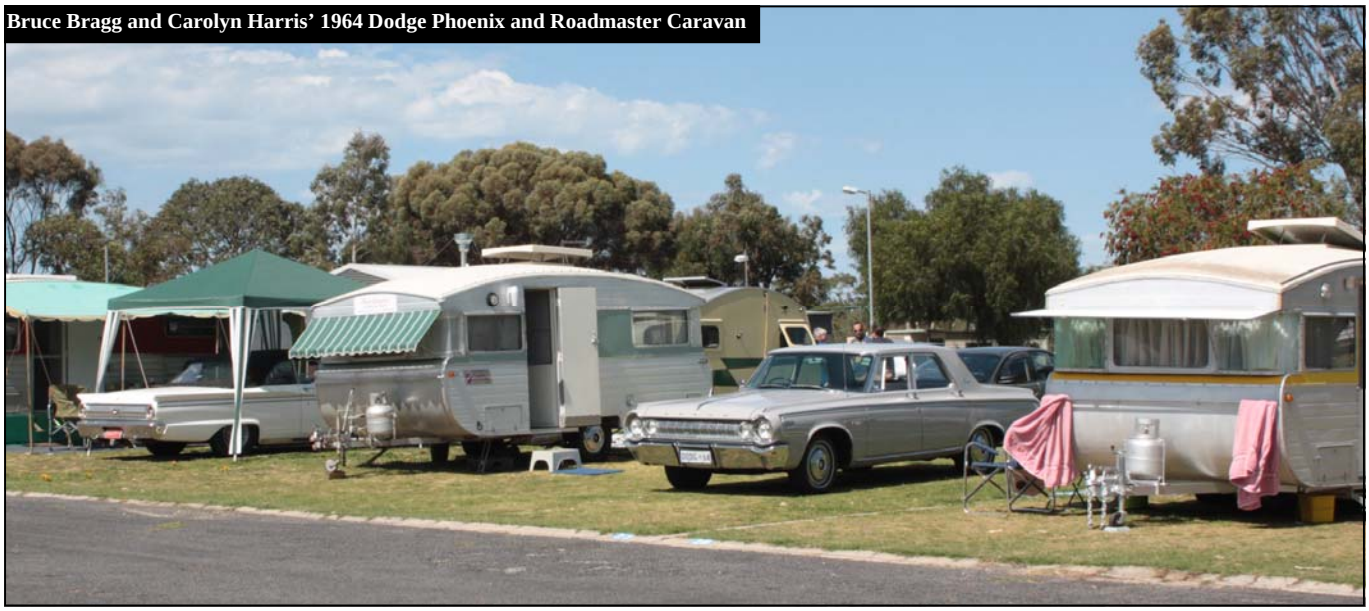
A barbecue tea with shared salads together with sweets took care of the evening meal.

A fun auction of assorted caravan related items, donated by a few of the group, created some laughs. Special thanks to Russell Walsh for donating his hand made model caravan for the auction. The small amount of money raised will be used to cover expenses and promote future events.

Sunday morning we gathered at the Naracoorte Historical Vehicle Club rooms after an invitation was received from them during the

NHVC Member Gordon Wright's 1956 Dodge ute

Bruce Bragg and Carolyn Harris' 1964 Dodge Phoenix and Roadmaster Caravan



MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

Our Weekend in Naracoorte (ctd)

recent Bordertown Rally. The morning was certainly enjoyed by all participants. The Members of the NHVC certainly excelled themselves with their selection of homemade savouries and sweets. Whilst in their Clubrooms, we took the opportunity to look at their diverse selection of member's cars, tractors and stationary engines, the display is certainly a credit to the club.

Monday morning saw the departure of the majority of the group, with the remainder leaving on Tuesday. This proved to be a good decision, as the serious weather conditions that developed during the day made the drive home fairly hazardous. Later enquiries found all had returned home safely.

Many thanks to the group with their unique selection of vans for making the effort to travel to Naracoorte and their friendship during the weekend.

A special mention to the members of the NHVC for their hospitality Sunday morning. A great time with great company.

Ellen and Bob Haywood

Happy Hour in the Camp Kitchen

NHVC Museum Tractor Display

PAST EVENTS

Men's Pit Stop Health Day

Saturday 18th October 2014

A small group of members with 10 cars attended the Men's Pit Stop health check day.

A comfortable 30 degree day was most welcome. St Helens Park in Prospect was the chosen venue

It is often said men pay more attention to their beloved vehicles than their own health.

The day was organised by the Prospect Rotary Club. Health checks were performed by a number of qualified people including two doctors to answer any problems which may have arisen from the check results. A very well organised event allowing the participants to be quite confident they were in good hands.

Brenton Gibb brought along the club's display flags and gazebo's and as usual the CRC display looked very impressive.

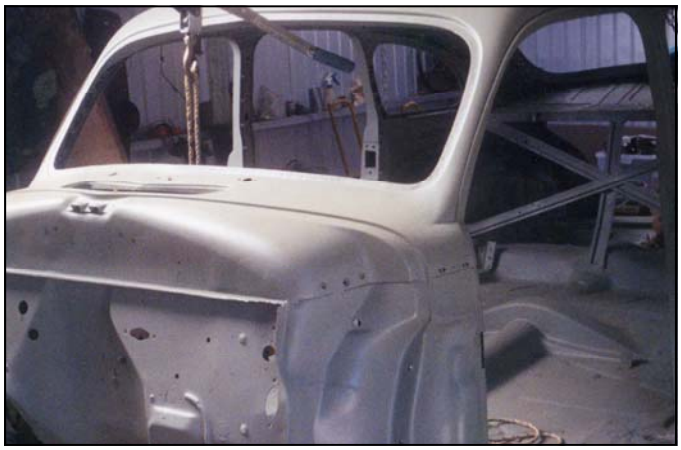
A continuous flow of car buffs wandered around the display of around 25 vehicles. Ex Rowley Park Speedway cars and bikes added to the interesting display.

A most enjoyable day with good company. Members are encouraged to take part in future Pit Stop events and also take advantage of the chance to promote our club.

Bob Haywood

Members Cars

Terry and Dylis Jones'1946 Dodge Restoration



Photos; Terry Jones

MEMBERS NOTES

Dodge Brothers Centenary USA Visit to Detroit

As others have written about the Dodge Brothers Centennial Tour in the USA,I have attempted to paint a picture of Detroit as it is today.

We had read last year that Detroit had filed for bankruptcy and seen some disturbing pictures so we wondered what we would find there on our arrival. I had images in my mind of it being a dangerous place to be in with gangs roaming the streets "raping and pillaging" etc., etc.

Well this it was not. A few rally members were in downtown Detroit on a Sunday and commented on how it was in fact quite lively. A fair had been running for over a week, people were there enjoying themselves and having fun. Not the scary city they thought it might be.

This is an excerpt from the Dodge Brothers Centennial Tour booklet:

'Today Detroit is a city struggling to emerge from bankruptcy. The core of the downtown with its renovated and expanded Cobo Hall exhibition centre is being maintained as Detroit's "showplace". In contrast huge residential and commercial areas outside the downtown have collapsed into decay with thousands of decrepit and abandoned homes and business structures. Blight is found in brown field areas where factories once stood.'

My first hint "in country" came from a woman art teacher waiting with us at the New York airport who talked of some of her students that moved to Detroit and "squatted" in a house and made arrangements with the council to buy it for a few hundred dollars! They would then fix it up a bit with materials lying about or taken from another derelict building.

With Chris Howes at the wheel of our rental car, we easily found the Hilton Hotel at Auburn Hills about 80km north of the airport. Along the way we saw a few derelict buildings but nothing like what was to come. Auburn Hills is in pretty good shape as are some other suburbs (separate cities I am told). It is only Detroit City itself that has filed for bankruptcy I believe.

Day 1 was our run to "The Henry Ford" (the collective name for the collection of attractions which include Greenfield Village, the Benson Ford Research Centre and The Henry Ford museum itself).

Along this route we passed beautiful homes set in manicured gardens and relatively good pavement but before long we started to see 2 story houses of a smaller size with cladding, or siding as they say. These could possibly be housing commission type houses, some of which were well cared for and loved but about 40 percent were boarded up, burned, derelict and definitely unloved. Many had demolition orders posted on them while some even appeared to be occupied.

I did notice a disproportionate number of relatively late model Cadillacs in the driveways around there. I guess if you can't own a house you buy a Caddy instead!

It upset me to see this level of decay in society but it is unavoidable I suppose when the population is less than that of 100 years ago when "the boys" started building their great cars.

Americans love their history and the Ford Motor Company heritage is no exception. "The Henry Ford" is a place for all to see, not just car nuts like us. The Benson Ford Research Centre is just amazing but is only open to groups to tour through by appointment. We were privileged to have the opportunity.

Day 2 was a run to the Ford Piquette Plant, via Woodlawn cemetery where John and Horace are entombed in their own mausoleum in a well kept area

MEMBERS NOTES

Dodge Brothers Centenary USA Visit to Detroit (ctd)

with lots of once well to do identities such as Edsel Ford, Eleanor Ford, Joseph Hudson, Levi Stubbs (The Four Tops) and David Ruffin (The Temptations).

This run took us closer to Detroit proper and into the "old heart" of Detroit manufacturing. Along the way we passed many former industrial sites such the Continental factory that made engines for the Senior Six. All that remains of this is the huge chimney stack with Continental written vertically down its side.

On Piquette Ave is the world's largest abandoned building, which is the 1903 Packard factory (pictured) that covers 40 acres (yes 40 acres)! On our left we found the Ford Piquette Plant that was saved by a group of enthusiasts called the Model T Automotive Heritage Complex (for more info go to: tplex.org). This is a great example of what a group of dedicated volunteers can achieve. It is now a dedicated Michigan Historic site. It is on a four-way intersection.

Across Piquette Ave as well as diagonally are vacant blocks where once stood who knows what and further down is a big multi-story ruin that was a G.M. plant. Across Piquette Ave to the Ford Piquette Plant side is another factory that is boarded up and defaced with graffiti and that ends at Beaubien St. Along Beaubien St at the rear of the Ford Piquette Plant is the railway line where the old fords were pushed out the back door and onto the waiting rail cars. This area is overgrown and the rail overpass is rusting quietly.

The Ford Piquette Plant is the birthplace of the Model T but prior to that Ford assembled almost all of the 'alphabet' cars (B, C, F, K, N, R and S models). John and Horace walked those floors boards and it surprised me to learn that the Ford Motor Company Board of Directors authorized Henry Ford and John Dodge to have the plans drawn up for it. So not only did the Dodge Brothers build most of the mechanicals of these cars which were referred to as "the machines", but John had a hand in the design of the factory they were to be assembled in!

Incidentally, I saw in "The Benson Research Centre", a letter from the Ford Co. to the Dodge Brothers listing the parts that were missing from a previous shipment. This list included such parts as magnetos, starters etc., indicating that Ford didn't even get the electrics (such as they were) direct

MEMBERS NOTES

Dodge Brothers Centenary USA Visit to Detroit (ctd)

from the supplier but through Dodge Brothers.

We have all heard of Adelaide being "the city of churches" well it has nothing on Detroit, which must be the city of religious brands. I have never even heard of most of the names on these churches. Don't think that churches avoided decay though as there are some magnificent stone cathedrals that are in disrepair with holes in the roof and windows broken or missing (probably stolen and sold).

The roads of Detroit haven't faired very well either and we hit some potholes that must have affected the wheel alignment if not bent a rim! I saw a segment on T.V. there about how the city is no longer doing preventative maintenance on the expansion joints between the concrete road slabs so the water gets in, freezes, expands and breaks away the concrete. We saw and felt evidence of this.

There is a 110 yr old opening bridge that never failed till 6 months ago when a drunken bridge operator lowered it onto a tanker passing below. Even though the insurance company has agreed to cover the damage it remains up, in the open position so businesses along the road it served are worried about their viability and commuters must go the long way around.

Leaving Piquette Ave and driving through a much better part of town we passed some historic landmarks on our way to Edsel and Eleanor Ford's home. The homes around these parts are not your average 1916 built homes, John Dodge built a 'modest' 7 bedroom, 11,583 sq ft house for his daughter Winifred. It has a walk in safe and a 4 car garage with a turntable so you don't have to reverse out! Horace built in this area too in 1912 but his widow tore it down after he died and replaced it in 1934 with a larger house which again was torn down in 1976. Horace Jnr. built next door and this has been replaced as well.

Cathy Woods in the Half Size House

Arriving at Edsel and Eleanor Ford's 1929 family home on 87 acres on the shores of Lake St Clare, where Americans (and us) can look south to Canada, yet we all know that Canada is north of the USA, don't we? The 20,000sq ft English Manor style house, featuring original antiques and art, was considered small for an industrialist of the day. The grounds included an eight car garage with turntable.

By contrast, we spent day 4 at Meadow Brook Hall, the historic 88,000 sq ft, 110 room mansion built by John Dodge's widow Matilda and her husband, Alfred Wilson. Both the Ford house and Meadow Brook Hall have half size houses (pictured above) for their kids to play in. The Dodge/ Wilson's kid's house even had electricity and hot and cold running water.

Meadow Brook Hall was built between 1926 and 1929 at a cost of nearly $4 million on the 320 acre farm estate that John and Matilda Dodge had bought years earlier and it is where John and Horace secretly designed their first car (for more info go to: meadowbrookhall.org).

The Dodge Brothers club have acquired a sheep barn on this property for the purpose of setting up a museum to display a Dodge Brothers or 2 that they own and I hope the 2 last Dodge Brothers' owned by Horace and John can be housed there as well.

So if you have the time and the cash to visit the USA, I believe you would benefit a lot by spending some time in Detroit.

Graham Bailey

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