



THE CHRYSLER COLLECTOR

Number 264
January / February 2023

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 \$35.00 - Metro family \$40.00 - Country single \$25.00 - Country family \$30.00

Club Officers

President:	Brenton Gibb, 18 Caroon Avenue, Modbury Heights 5092 ah 08 8263 2908
Vice President:	Greg Lind, 56 Currawong Crescent, Modbury Heights 5092..... ah 0417 853 291
Secretary:	Ann Lind, 56 Currawong Crescent, Modbury Heights 5092..... ah 0417 853 291
Asst. Secretary:	John Goddard, 22 Stephens Terrace, Torrensville 5031..... ah 08 8443 6311
Treasurer:	Richard Tapp, 509 Greenshields Road, Youngusband 5238 ah 0439 682 011
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Librarian:	Jim Dawson, 31A East Parkway, Colonel Light Gardens 50410412 790 550
Assist. Librarian:	Gina Dawson
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Committee:	Greg Newley, 326 Morphett Road, Warradale 504608 8298 2586
	Brett Newley, 10 Win Gilchrist Avenue, Craigburn Farm 50510402 833 281
	James Colbey, 23 Bruce Street, Morphett Vale 5162..... ..0411 027 261
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Combined Car Clubs Rep:	Vince Isola, 4 Grigg Court, Clarence Gardens 503908 7007 4461
Public Officer:	Barry Maslin, 13 Walthamstowe Road, Old Noarlunga 516808 8386 2931
Auditor:	Michael Bartsch, 105 Billabong Road, Modbury Heights 5092..... ah 08 8395 3919
Catering Coordinator:	Lorraine Beythien, 6 Manley Court, West Lakes Shore 50200409 096 070

Club Tools held at: Chris Howes, 4 Peter Place, Campbelltown 5074 ah 08 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.

Website: chrysler-restorers-sa.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/chryslerclubsa

Photos: flickr.com/photos/164632874@N04/albums

YouTube: youtube.com/c/ChryslerRestorersSA

The Chrysler Collector

Next Issue: Please submit material for the next issue **no later than Friday 24 February 2023. Only corrections/ amendments accepted Sunday 26 February 2023.** Contributions can be e-mailed to editor@chrysler-restorers-sa.org.au or posted to 509 Greenshields Road, Youngusband SA 5238 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. The magazine is available in colour on our [website](http://chrysler-restorers-sa.org.au).

COMING EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS

Wed. 8th February 2023

Wed 8th March 2023

INVITATION/OTHER CLUB'S EVENTS

Sunday 29th January 2023

Glen Ewin Hill Climb Revival, Lower Hermitage

See Greg Lind for details

Sunday 5th March 2023

All British Day – Echunga

See Greg Lind for details

Friday 31st March – Monday 3rd April 2023

Morris Car Club of SA. Morris Minor National Rally – Adelaide SA

www.morriscarclubofsa.org.au/national-rally-booking

7th – 10th April 2023

Mildura Vintage Vehicles Club Inc

24th Biennial Easter Vineland Rally

See Greg Lind for details

Sunday 16th April 2023

Ardrossan Show N Shine, Ardrossan Football Club

See Greg Lind for details

Sunday 16th April 2023

Gawler Veteran & Vintage to Barossa, cost: \$10,

Times: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

See Greg Lind for details

Entry Forms etc.

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

Swan Reach Classic Car Gallery

On the 18th August 2019 the club visited the Swan Reach Classic Car Gallery.

On 6 January 2023 InDaily reported that "Swan Reach Hotel manager Craig Fromm said water was already filling the bowling club, along with the

classic car museum at the bottom of the hill where car club members shifted out vehicles and as many fittings as possible."

I don't think that any of us thought of the location as being vulnerable to flooding at the time of our visit.

Richard Tapp

<https://indaily.com.au/news/2023/01/06/swan-reach-prepares-to-meet-river-murray-peak/>



New Members

Brett Smith Woodville South
1966 Valiant VC Sedan

Brenton & Edwina McRae Kadina
1924 Nash Sedan
1940 Dodge D15 Sedan

Ben & Alex Edwards Seaford
1979 Chrysler Valiant Wagon
1991 Ford Raider Wagon

Mark Edwards Kingston, ACT
1946-1958 Dodge Power Wagon Utility

Mark & Tanya Hazelhurst Ridgehaven
1952 Dodge Kingsway Sedan

Cover Photo

Max Green's 1966 Dodge Phoenix DB6 - photographed at the 2022 Ferry Run by R Tapp

COMING EVENTS

Twilight Run

Saturday 11th February 2023
Meet at CCC clubrooms 4.15pm
for a 4.30pm departure. BYO

chairs, tables (limited tables at
site) food and drink. BBQ
facilities are available.

A short drive to a picturesque
coastal area.

Greg Lind 0432 373901

Chrysler Festival

Friday 24th – Sunday 26th March
All Chrysler Day will again be
held at Gaza Oval, Klemzig on
Sunday 26th March from 10.00am
– 3.00pm.
All members who wish to attend,

we will be meeting at 8.30am –
from North East Road, turn into
Wellington Street to gain access
to oval. BYO chairs, food
available on site.
We will be setting up a display

area. An attendance sheet will be
circulated at the February General
Meeting.

**Greg Lind 0432 373901 or
Brenton Gibb 08 82632908**

KarKoo Nursery Oakbank

Sunday 16th April 2023
Meet at the CCC Clubrooms at
9am for a 9.15am departure.
This run should appeal to the
ladies of the club. The Nursery,
which is nestled in the old
Johnston Brewery, has a large
garden/plant section, a huge range
of pottery products, plus many gift
items, a Vintage section, Florist
and much, much, more.

There are rooms filled with
artefacts of years gone by (good
one for the guys), plus plenty of
items for you to peruse or buy.
We will have reserved seating in
the Café for you to sit back and
enjoy a cup of Tea/Coffee with
scones, jam & cream, grazing
platters or a light meal or you may
like to be seated in the outdoor
area.

This nursery is pet friendly so you
can bring your furry pooch with
you.

Come along and enjoy an
interesting/relaxing day out with
fellow members. An attendance
sheet will be circulated at the
February General Meeting.

Greg Lind 0432 373901



From the Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

This issue comes to you courtesy of Greg and
Ann Lind, Brenton and Sharon Gibb, Greg
Newley, Jim Dawson, Terry and Dilys Jones and
John Milton.

Many thanks to the magazine despatch team,
being Sharon and Brenton Gibb and Ann and
Greg Lind,

*Please submit articles and entries to the
magazine as early as possible but no later than
the Friday date shown on page 3.*

WEBSITE STATISTICS

	Dec 22	Nov 22	Dec 21	Dec 12
Sessions	167	148	186	565
Users	127	111	133	330
Page views	384	252	438	4,984
Pages/session	2.3	1.7	2.3	8.8
Average session (m:ss)	2:14	1:01	3:22	3:10
Flickr views	1,378k		1,121k	-
Facebook mbrs	1,895	1,850	1,282	-

FROM THE COMMITTEE

President's Message



Hi all, welcome to the January / February 2023 issue of the Chrysler Collector. I trust everyone had a wonderful festive season with Santa supplying those missing parts you needed.

On a sad note, since our last issue we have a number of members or past members who have passed away. Those of you who are long serving members may remember Meryl Bryant, several members attended her funeral. Judy McNair's son Paul suffered a massive heart attack and also passed away. Darryl Squiers, who regularly attended meetings until his illness got the better of him, also joins this list. Graham McRae who many of you would know, had served the club well in a variety of different roles over the years. He had been President, Secretary and Historic Registrar and Committee person, and was one of those people always willing to have a chat and share his knowledge on any subject with both new and old members. He will be greatly missed around the club. Helena Tapp's mother Barbara also passed away. Our thoughts are with all of their family and friends at this difficult time.

Last year at our AGM Richard Tapp took on the role of Treasurer as we were unable to fill this important position, instead of the role of Vice President which he had planned to do and take control as President at the next AGM. Greg Lind stayed on as Vice President to fill this void at the time. So at the next AGM in July 2023 my time as President will be up so a new President or Vice President needs to be found. If you would like this opportunity please come and talk with myself about what is required, or at least give it some thought. The club cannot run without volunteers.

Back in early September we did our Ferry Run, crossing the upstream ferries from Mannum through to Lyrup. At that time the river was starting to flow quickly as it snaked its way to the sea. Many of the roads we travelled along are now impassable and the only ferry left in operation is at Cadell. For those that did this run it gives us a greater understanding of the flooding that is now occurring. For our county members who live along the Murray, I hope you are all safe and well with not too much property damage to clean up afterwards.

Our planned run to Karkoo Nursery back in November was called off at the eleventh hour due to inclement weather and

was posted on our Facebook page to let those attending of the change. For those not on facebook may I suggest give it a try as it's a great way for us to communicate with everyone at short notice of any changes to runs outside our usual control.

Our Christmas lunch held again at Tavern Seven22 on Port Road saw fifty nine members attend. We booked for sixty, our number rose above that but then Covid raised its head again and the number dropped. Once again the meal and service was first class and as a central location makes this an ideal place to go.

The Chrysler Car Club of SA are once again holding their Adelaide Chrysler Festival March 24th, 25th and 26th 2023 with All Chrysler Day display day being at the same location as the last couple of years at the Gaza Oval at Klemzig on Sunday 26th March. We as a club would once again like to put on a display of our vehicles on the day highlighting the vast range of different age vehicles that we have. Chrysler Club cars are mainly Valiant with a scattering of American Muscle Cars where as we have the complete range in ages of vehicles from the twenties onwards. To get an idea on numbers attending a sheet will be circulated at both the February and March club meetings or you can contact either Greg Lind or myself if you can assist us by bringing your special vehicle along. The club will have portable shades available if the weather is a little hot. For more runs information please check out what our Runs Coordinator has planned for us and I hope to catch up with some of you out and about.

Brenton Gibb



Darryl Squiers

I met Darryl Squiers some 20 years ago when he was a client of the Accountants for whom I worked. The acquaintance was renewed when he and Ann joined CRCASA in 2018. Darryl and his business were honoured by both the MTA and Kubota for his service

to the agricultural equipment industry.

Richard Tapp



FROM THE COMMITTEE**Merle Bryant**

On Monday 14th November Greg and I attended the funeral of Merle Bryant. Her daughter Kathryn had been in touch with the club to tell us of her passing on November 5th at the age of 97. Even though the older members of the club are thinning out there are still some of us who have fond memories of Merle.

Murray and Merle Bryant were active members of the club when we joined in 1983. We were in our early 30's while Murray and Merle were about the same age as our parents. Murray had extensive knowledge about cars and Merle was a warm and friendly lady who never had a bad word to say about anybody.

Like many ladies of her generation she was a good cook, a talented dress maker, a knitter and more importantly a devoted mother and proud grandmother. Merle loved a good story and a good laugh.

We went on many car runs and rallies with Murray and Merle and they were always great company.

Even though Merle suffered a stroke five years ago and was chair bound, Kathryn said that she was still in good spirits and loved the many visits from her grand children and great grand children.

Denice Newley

**Graham McRae**

Graham McRae passed away on 31 October 2022. Jim Dawson spoke at his Memorial Service.

"It is a very great honour to be asked to speak, on behalf of the Chrysler Restorers Club of Australia, at the funeral of our esteemed past president Graham.

As we have heard earlier, Graham had an extraordinary intellect that came from an enquiring mind. I had early dealing with Graham as I sought to join the club and it was Graham who, at my very first run with the club, sprinkled holy water upon my car and anointed it into the club as a historic vehicle.

I had good opportunity to talk with Graham, as being involved in aviation for a period, we had much to talk about when he was in the library as the historic registrar.

When asking about, the ladies of the club described Graham as either being "a gentleman" or a "true gentleman."

If any of us can take a little of that from today, then Graham lived his life well."

Jim Dawson



FROM THE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held 9 November 2022

The Chrysler Restorers Club of Australia, SA Inc.

Summary of minutes of the meeting held 9 November 2022 – commenced at 7:45pm.

Vice President Greg Lind presided over the meeting as Brenton Gibb was away for work.

Emergency Wardens

Greg Lind explained emergency response plan.

Vale

Greg Lind advised of the passing of Graham McRae on 31 October 2022

Apologies:

Per attendance book - including President Brenton Gibb

New Members & Visitors

Brett Smith

Sick List

Terry Jones, Ellen Haywood, John Goddard

Minutes Previous Meeting

Read and moved by A Lind seconded Kevin Williams, carried by members attending meeting.

Correspondence

In: CCC – Minutes of committee meeting held 10/10/22

FHMC – Minutes of meeting held 15/10/22

Email 27-10-22 - from secretary Chrysler Restorers Club of Aust, Vic Inc advising of new committee – sent email thanking them for the update

Letter – 25/10/22 – from Hon Tom Koutsantonis regarding our feedback regarding the introduction of Individually Constructed Vehicles into the Conditional Registration Scheme for Historic, Left-Hand Drive and Street od Vehicles.

Out: None

Treasurer's Report

Bank Account as at 31/10/22 - \$31,995.82

National Tour Account \$5693.29

Total \$37,689.11

Payments for approval

None requested.

Committee Reports

Runs Coordinator – G Lind: Spoke re future events.

Editor – Keep sending in articles for the magazine.

Public Relations – J Goddard was an apology

Records – Sharon advised “All good”.

Librarian – Jim thanked Steve Tyler for assisting in finalising what we have in the storeroom located at the Glandore site.

Tech Rep – Jim advised all going well. Jim thanked John Milton for donating a book which identifies all models built by Chrysler Australia.

HVR – Jeff was an apology, but had advised that all was going well.

Triple C – Vince advised there was nothing to report.

Federation Rep – Greg Newley advised there was nothing to report.

Past Events

Greg Newley spoke on his Motorfest trip to the Railway Museum at Port Adelaide. Had a very interesting time, however on the way home a trailer he was following exploded into a fire ball and one of the drums hit the road

in front of him and became wedge under the front of his car. Luckily it was able to be removed without any damage to the car, however it was a frightening experience. Luckily the incident happened outside an SA Metro Fire Depot on Grand Junction Road!

General Business

Greg asked members attending if there where any issues to discuss regarding the letter from Hon Tom Koutsantonis – no members advised any issues with this letter. Greg will hand letter back to Brenton Gibb to advise our club position on this letter.

Greg advised members in attendance to see Lorraine Beythien after the meeting to discuss the supper for our Xmas meeting.

Greg also advised committee members there would be a quick committee meeting after the general meeting has closed. Meeting will be held in the library straight after general meeting.

Something you don't know about me – Chris Howes
Chris grew up in Broken Hill and then moved to Adelaide. Since retiring he spends one day a week volunteering at the Birdwood Motor Museum. There is so much information to be collated and catalogued. The library is just massive including memorabilia, workshop manuals, etc. At this time there is no data base available to the public, but the information that is held there is just astounding.

Raffle

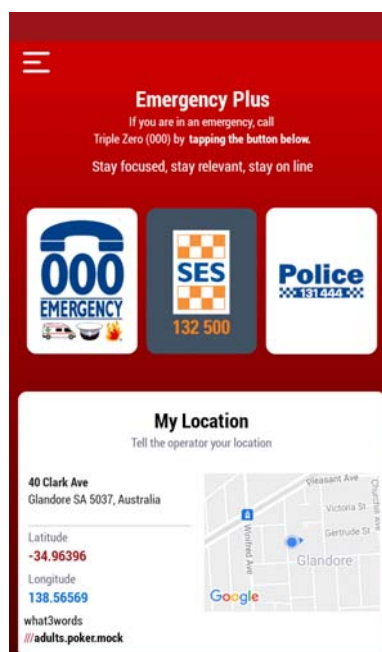
Greg Newley conducted the raffle.

Conclusion

Kevin Williams told a joke in memory of Ron Hincks
President summarised the coming events and the buy and sell board.

Meeting closed at 8:38pm followed by supper.

EMERGENCY PLUS APP



When an ambulance was called for a member at a previous meeting, the Ambulance failed to quickly find the Clarke Avenue carpark.

The Emergency Plus App, screenshot on left, is available for both Android and iOS (Apple) phones.

It converts the phone's GPS location into a 3 word code which Australian emergency services can use to immediately locate the phone within 3 metres.

Surely we should ALL have this App.

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held 14 December 2022

The Chrysler Restorers Club of Australia, SA Inc.

Summary of minutes of the meeting held 14 December 2022 – commenced at 7:45pm.

Emergency Wardens

Brenton explained emergency response plan.

Vale

Brenton advised of the passing of Daryl Squiers, Merle Bryant, Paul McNair (Judy's son) and Barbara Tapp (Helena's mother).

Apologies:

Per attendance book

New Members & Visitors

Adam Hill (nephew of the late Steve Lovell)

Sick List

Ellen Haywood and Richard Tapp

Minutes Previous Meeting

Read and moved by A Lind seconded Jim Dawson, carried by members in attendance

Correspondence

In: Email – 9/11/22 – FHMC Shirley Tonkin – from Brian Davey re log books – a short discussion ensued regarding the email.

Email – 10/11/22 – from Jim Dawson re Graham McRae

Email – 23/11/22 – from CCC requesting a copy of our Public Liability Certificate of Currency

Email – 23/11/22 – from FHMC Shirley Tonkin – regarding the ICV letter from Hon Ton Koutsantonis – clubs response time extended to 31/1/23

Email – 5/12/22 – from CCC Minutes of CCC meeting

Aust Post – 5/12/22 – Invoice \$393.96 re postage of magazines.

Out: 2/12/22 – to CCC – copy of Certificate of Currency for Public Liability

Treasurer's Report

(Passed to Secretary before meeting)

Bank Account as at 30/11/22 - \$32,319.82

National Tour Account \$5693.29

Total \$38,013.11

Payments for approval

Elite Printing – Nov/Dec magazine - \$790.00

John Goddard – Green Steel Supplies re Disaster Award Trophy (already approved previously) \$33.55

Ann Lind proposed the above expenses for payment, seconded Trevor Beythien, carried by members in attendance.

Committee Reports

Runs Coordinator – Greg Lind: Spoke re future events

Editor – Bob Haywood - keep articles coming. Calendar available \$15.

Public Relations – Details on pp 20-21 of magazine

Records – All going well, some new members joined

Librarian – Jim advised Brenton McRae had been in touch with him regarding cars, parts and photos which have been located in Hawker, will have more information in the new year. Brenton also asked if any club members were interested in helping clean out Graham's shed and literature. Brenton also thanked Jim for his speech at Graham McRae's funeral.

Tech Rep – Jim advised he had received an enquiry regarding the Dodge Power Wagons – how many were built for the Airforce during 1958-1968?

HVR: Jeff Knowles - Jeff thanked Kevin Williams for helping him out with HVR while he has been recovering from knee surgery .

Triple C – Vince Isola: Vince advised the renaming of the Gardner/Mugford Room – which is our large meeting room. Vince wished everyone a Merry Xmas.

Federation Rep – Greg Newley Not much to report – Greg got himself organised to go to the meeting, but had a little time up his sleeve so he decided to sit down for a while, and went to sleep zzzzz. Unfortunately woke up too late to attend meeting. We have received a copy of the Federation minutes which has been forwarded to Brenton Gibb and Jeff Knowles – regarding information on log book changes. The change relates to formally abolishing the Log Book Return Sheet in its present form and replaces it with the Log Book Sheet Declaration. This will commence on 1st July 2023 which will cover the period 1st July to 30th June 2023.

Past Events

Brenton discussed the Xmas lunch at Seven22 last week. Thought it was a great day with good food and good company. He asked members in attendance if next year they were happy to increase the price of the meal to include sweets. There was an overwhelming show of hands for this to be implemented next Xmas lunch.

A lot of our members commented on the good food and the great service which was delivered by hotel staff.

General Business

Dick Hart advised members that he went to see Richard at Rubber Seals Australia (who advertise in our club magazine) for some new rubbers and was impressed with the quality of seals supplied.

Kevin Williams advised that in his capacity of HVR he travelled to the Riverland to see Russell Frith and get his car on Historic Reg.

Brenton Gibb spoke to members at the meeting regarding an invitation from the Lincoln Auto Club Inc inviting our club to attend a tour in their region culminating with their Club Show and Shine event on 22nd October 2023. We would be looking at going over a few days earlier and then returning on the Monday. We could look at the Lucky Bay ferry to cut some time. Brenton asked for a show of hands on who would be interested, around 30 members put their hands up. It was noted that the Bay to Birdwood run is scheduled for the 22nd October 2023.

Greg Lind spoke to members regarding the cancellation of the KarKoo Nursery run due to bad weather in November. This cancellation was posted on Facebook for members, however there are some members who are not on Facebook and he asked members to contact people they who are not on Facebook.

Raffle

Greg Newley conducted the raffle.

Conclusion

Kevin Williams told a joke in memory of Ron Hincks!

President summarised the coming events.

Meeting closed at 8:37 pm followed by supper.

PAST EVENTS

2022 BAY TO BIRDWOOD

An early start, a light breakfast (you never know what delights may be available) and off we go. First mistake. I chose the Military Road entrance and queued. It made us late, vehicles were already leaving but it was a glorious spring day with entrants and spectators taking advantage of the morning sun, moving amongst the cars and waving the leaving entrants away.

As usual the organizing at the start was fantastic and apart from our delayed entry, it went smoothly. The Marshals were cheerful, skilful and got us away with the minimum of fuss. Two policemen I spoke to had smiles on their faces.

How good is that!



Out to Tapleys Hill road and onto the bottle neck joining the Anzac Highway with the usual 'me firsters' racing past and squeezing in to make the single lane turn.

We queued and queued. The Dodge's fluid flywheel came into its own, in second gear, using the brakes to keep our place in the queue. Old style modern. We've attended this event many times over the years but at three and a half hours it was the slowest time ever.

Having said that it's a great run. As usual the crowds turned out lining the roads, waving and cheering and obviously enjoying the show in the sunshine.

And what a show it is! The variety and styles from what is over a hundred years of historical engineering all carefully restored and maintained. And being driven and shown off by enthusiasts.

Its free, park a chair and it will all roll past you.

And so on through Tea Tree Gulley into the hills. Inglewood, Chain of Ponds with the reservoirs

sparkling through the trees, Gumeracha and onto Birdwood with the slow cruise allowing plenty of time to study the scenery.

At Birdwood we crept up to the turn left into Warren road and headed to the entrance. Did I mention we queued? Through the entrance we received our award plaque and once again the fantastic marshals directed us with precision to a disabled parking space amongst the trucks near the museum. Here we were joined by our granddaughter who had arrived separately.



We walked over to the food area and purchased lunch finding seats and chatting to our fellow diners. The ground was soggy under foot and bark clippings had been laid in places to help walkers which caused Dilys problems with her walking frame, Michelle, our granddaughter commented that some cars had become bogged over in the main paddock.

After lunch I took Michelle for a tour of the museum leaving Dilys sitting by the Dodge. You never know somebody may have noticed it was for sale but at the location we only saw curious passers-by.

A walk around the museum always brings back memories of the past vehicles my friends and I have owned and it was a pleasure describing this history to Michelle who dutifully listened and used her phone to photograph these interesting vehicles. It's a great display and well worth the trip.

We'd missed the presentations but there was still lots of classy vehicles to see with their dressed up occupants in period clothes. Over the years I've seen many a beautifully dressed lady carrying her shoes. That grass is not for high heels.

PAST EVENTS

2022 BAY TO BIRDWOOD



The high end cars, as usual, got the envy bug going. They're worth drooling over, and I wonder how many only see the road on this event.

And with Dodge running like a two bob watch we returned home. The trip, at a gentle pace, taking under an hour.

A curious one. Leaving Birdwood is a large rectangular sign which in large letters states: ADELAIDE via FREEWAY. No other directions and I've never found the way. [Onkaparinga Valley Rd - Ed]

The Bay to Birdwood is a great South Australian event and a credit to the organizers, volunteers, SAPOL. and of course the car clubs and the general public who support it.

Sadly this will probably be our last B. to B. but the Dodge, with a new owner, could see many more runs.

P.S. In both directions, Big Ted never made a comment as we passed through Inglewood. Perhaps he's forgotten Miss Teddy. (see Chrysler Restorer # 181.

Keep Rolling!

Terry and Dilys Jones

Photos: Birdwood - Terry Jones
Adelaide Gaol - Richard Tapp



LIVING HISTORIES

Lindsay Gibb

Interviewer Jim Dawson (Int)

Guest Lindsay Gibb (L G)

Int It's July the 7th, 2022 and on behalf of the Chrysler Restorers Clubs of Australia, South Australian Division, I'd like to welcome all listeners and readers to our second edition of Living Histories. It's my very great pleasure to be in conversation today with Mr Lindsay Gibb, a senior statesman and life member of our club who was one of the very first to make my wife and I welcome to this club.

Lindsay has had a long career associated with Chrysler Australia, and with cars generally, but best we hear all of that from Lindsay.

Welcome.

L G Thank you.

Int Thanks for travelling down here to see me today.

L G That was my pleasure. I've enjoyed the drive.

Int Excellent. Born and raised a country boy?

L G Yes, I was born at a little country town called Orroroo, in the upper- north of South Australia, and I lived on a farm with my mum and dad in a little place called Johnburgh.



I don't think it's even shown on the map anymore, [Google is all powerful. The region is outlined



but Johnburgh township is under the "b" - Ed] but it was a very dry, desolate country village. I suppose for the want of a better word, I went to school there as a primary school only.

When I started school, there were about 15 students, one teacher of course and by the time I left, I had to do grade 8 by correspondence just to keep the school open, there were so few numbers.

And when I left, the school closed and that was basically the end of Johnburgh.

Int You finished it off! Big family?

L G Big family, five brothers, five in total, with four brothers and myself.

Int So what was the family business in those days?

L G Well, they were mum and dad, they just had a small farm. Not enough to really bring up five kids through drought times, wartimes, so dad used to go out building concrete tanks with his brothers. I think there was two of them, and they would go around to the stations and building concrete tanks for the graziers, and that's helped their income, plus he used to do a bit of work on the Carrieton Council in which district we lived, and so that got us a very welcome income, but as each of us left school, we left home and, strangely enough, we all went to Orroroo.

LIVING HISTORIES

Lindsay Gibb (ctd)

My oldest brother Murray, he was hell bent on building a garage and starting off in the motor trade. He had worked with his uncle, who was the Waymouth dealer and Waymouth, of course, in those days was the Chrysler agent I suppose. And then Waymouth had their dealerships throughout the country regions as well as here in Adelaide.

So he left home in the early days and started to build this garage and when I left school all I wanted to do was get out of Johnburgh because I was sick of the dust storms and no company, just nothing. It was depressing to live there, so I jumped on my push-bike and I rode out of town and headed for the big sticks of Orroroo.

Int "Rode out of town" - love it! So what is your earliest memory of motor cars and did that, light a passion in you then or did that come later?

L G Well, Dad had a T model Ford. That was the first car that I remember and that was a buckboard and us kids used to sit in the back of the buckboard and then he got a Buick, 6 cylinder Buick. and that was a luxury car in those days? 1925, I think it was.

Int For Buick was just one down from the Cadillac, wasn't it?

L G Yes it was, it was the upper class of the General Motors range.

Int Long way above a Chev.

L G Oh, absolutely, absolutely. And so, he had that and I was mad keen on it of course.

But when I moved to Orroroo, I think I would have been 15, probably 15 years old when I moved there, and of course I wanted to get into

the motor trade. That was my aim, to get into the motor business.

We got started to build this garage and dad came and helped us and we built this garage and it turned out to look a bit like a church that had gone wrong, because the fellow who designed the roof, had too big a pitch on it, and it had a very high roof, still standing today in Orroroo as you drive into town on the right hand side.

And so we started to build the garage and to my surprise, one night Murray came home in a brand new Austin. I think it was an Austin A70 from memory, about 1950 this would have been, and he had just acquired the Austin franchise from the All-British Motor House here in 75 Pirie St. and he came home and this Austin and wow, I thought this was this was the bees knees, so we became Austin dealers, which later become BMC.

Well, I was very interested. We had a pit and by then we'd built the garage and we got a hoist and so I became a grease monkey in the Austin franchise.

But I was always keen on selling and so I started to sell these little Austins, the A30s and 40s and 60s and so on, and then my uncle, who had the Waymouth dealership across the road retired, and with a fairly new garage directly opposite us, across the road. So the next thing I knew was Waymouth knocking on the door. My uncle had retired, and the business was just shut up, so we had a visit from Waymouth asking if we wanted to buy the garage?

I think we bought it for about 2,000 pounds. Walk in, walk out.



LIVING HISTORIES

Lindsay Gibb (ctd)

Int Do you remember what year that was?

L G That would have been Chrysler Royal era.

Int So mid late 50's?

L G Through it towards the end of the Royal yes, it would have been late 50's.

So then we became Waymouth dealers and I sold, I think, a couple of Chrysler Royals and a Chrysler Royal utility and that was about it. And at that stage they, I think they had the Simca, Simca Vedette and Simca Aronde.

Int I was going to ask you about the Simca.

L G Yes, and that's another story that will come shortly.

So the next thing we knew we had an approach from Chrysler. I can't remember the man that came around, probably one of the reps and said we're going to go direct distribution, Waymouth is out, and we'd like you to become a Chrysler dealer.

Int So that would have been the late 50s I guess?

L G Very late 50s early 60s, because not very long after that we were invited to attend the release of the R Series Valiant.

Int Right, we'll get to that in a second. I've got a few more questions I want to ask you about what came before that.

So the first car you ever sold through the dealership was a Royal, was it?

L G Yes, it was.

Int And alongside the Royals, were you involved in selling the bigger stuff, the Fireflite and what

have you that were around at that time or were they just not in the picture out there?

L G They were too rich for the country folk. Although there was a few Chevs that were being sold by the Holden dealer; we had a pretty aggressive Holden dealership in town, and also a Ford dealership.

Int So there was competition around?

L G Yes, but the Ford Fairlane, the early Fords and the Chrysler Royal and the Chev was I suppose competition in those days. But the Royal was getting pretty tired and just about run its race.

Int Ian Webber tells me that at around that time Chrysler Australia was virtually on its knees and that David Brown had been sent to this country with a brief to either get in or get out.

L G That's fair, yes, that's exactly right.

Int So now you've sold a couple of Royals and a Royal ute and you're marketing the Simca range. How well was the Simca accepted in the country regions.

L G I really wasn't interested in Simca because we still had the BMC franchise and we'd spent many, many years promoting Austin and then later Morris, or BMC, and so I wasn't really very interested in Simca which turned out to my detriment, we paid dearly for it later, because with the R & S Series, you couldn't get an S Series unless you took a Simca.

Int Well this will get interesting!



Late '50s Chrysler Royal - Neill and Joan Wormald's

LIVING HISTORIES

Lindsay Gibb (ctd)

L G Oh yeah, it was a bit of blackmail.
[Subsequently made illegal by the Trade Practices Act of 1974 - Ed]

Int This will get interesting. I get the feeling through observation, I guess, driving around in the countryside and talking with people, that the Chrysler as a brand had a pretty good reputation out in the country.

L G Ahh yes, it had.

Int So what do you put that down to, Lindsay?

L G Well, I think they were advanced right from day one of Chrysler coming to Australia. They had four wheel brakes, they had the best engines and they were top of the class as far as engineering was concerned. Way back in the late 20s, 30's, 40s, etc. They were very good car.

The Dodge. I can remember a few of the 1940's Dodges around and they were head and shoulders above anything else. They had a very good reputation.

Int Chrysler was of course known as "The Engineering Company" throughout that period of time.

L G Oh yes, yes, yes. They were advanced right through that era really, that motoring era.

Int Competition not only in town from the Holden and the Ford dealers, but competition from within your own ranks the BMC versus the Simca!

Well, it's an excellent insight, Lindsay. And the bigger US Chrysler cars were a bit rich for your market. So I guess we get to the introduction of the R Series Valiant. Tell us how soon before the

actual launch did you become aware that this vehicle was coming?

L G I had no idea! We got invited to the release of a new model, probably there was a leak around the Adelaide area, but once we got into the far country, we knew nothing about the R series coming.

Int So give me your first impressions when you saw this thing.

L G Well, I was invited to the release of the R Series and everybody was excited. All the dealers were there for the release and David Brown was there talking about it, etc etc. but to my dismay, they said there's not going to be many of these because as we speak there's a new model heading our way and there's only going to be about 1000 of them made and so you're not going to get many of these.

I thought, this is absolutely ridiculous. Like, why are we getting this car when there's a new model already on the way?

How are we going to look the customers in the eye that we sell them an R Series and then there's a new model hot on its tail? Anyway, we were allocated one! I sold that within a few weeks.

Int Do you remember who you sold it to?

L G Yes I do, he was actually the Rep for one of the tractor companies, I can't remember which one, but he lived in Clare, and so I sold it and it went out of the district and I never saw it again.

Continued next issue ...



Lindsay & Marlene Gibb's 1962 S Series Valiant

PAST EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT SEVEN22

The Christmas lunch was held at Seven22 on Port Road. As mentioned in the President's report, the



PAST EVENTS

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT SEVEN22

food and service were both good and we are likely to patronise them again in the future. **R Tapp**



RESTORATION STORIES

Painting Brenton's Cars

I first met Brenton Hamilton in about 1991. He phoned me asking to quote to paint his 1940 D 15 Dodge sedan. After he accepted the quote I set about painting it. I stripped it back to bare metal, fixed the rust and dents, acid washed, primed then top coated it using Dulon Triple A paint. Brenton had this car for some time. The car is now owned by Graham McRae. *[Written before Graham's death - Ed]*

Sometime later he purchased a 1956 Dodge Kingsway Coronet which needed a bit of tidying and he wanted it two toned. Brenton wanted to save money so he decided to do some of the preparation (donkey work) himself. Although it wasn't a back to bare metal job the car looked quite smart.

Somewhere along the way a 1971 VH Charger appeared and again a paint job was required. Brenton loved this car. He always had the ability to find an extra bit of jewellery or tail light lenses that were better than the ones that came with his cars and he continued to upgrade them to his standard. Unfortunately this car was hit from behind and he had to find a back end to repair it.

Brenton had found a panel van for my son to buy. Brett was 14 at the time. The problem was it was in Broken Hill so I had to hire a car trailer and drive to Broken Hill. What I didn't know was that he had found a wrecker there who had a wrecked Charger. Bruce Lord had organized the wrecker to cut up the rear end so it would fit into the panel van. After we had loaded the panel van onto the trailer Brenton said that he need to pick up a spare part from the



Brenton's 1940 Dodge D25

wreckers. The Charger rear end fitted nicely into the back of the panel van and travelled comfortably back to Adelaide. Charger repaired. Very sneaky!

This well loved Charger was stolen in the city and after they had their joy ride the mongrels set the car alight. Brenton was very upset about his beloved Charger being burnt out.

I got another visit from Brenton, this time he had bought a 1956 Canadian Dodge Mayflower which had been an American Diplomatic car from Canberra and he wanted it painted for the Canberra Rally. Again he did a lot of the preparation work,

under supervision. This time we triple toned it and it looked nice. Brenton continued adding his extra parts and pieces to enhance it. He took a photo of it in front of Parliament House.

Bad luck struck again when this car caught on fire and burnt out on the way home from Broken Hill.

He also had an AP6 for a while and I also painted a motor bike and side car for him. I always enjoyed Brenton's company. He worked with me on several jobs and projects after he retired. He really was/is a Chrysler man.

Greg Newley



Brenton's Charger was similar to this

RESTORATION STORIES

Painting Brenton's Cars (ctd)



Brenton's 1956 Dodge Kingsway Coronet



Brenton's Canadian 1956 Dodge Mayflower

MILTON MOPARS

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