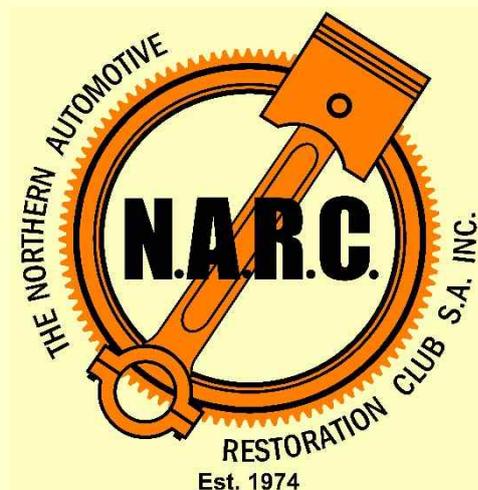


# THE 'CON-ROD'

## Official Newsletter



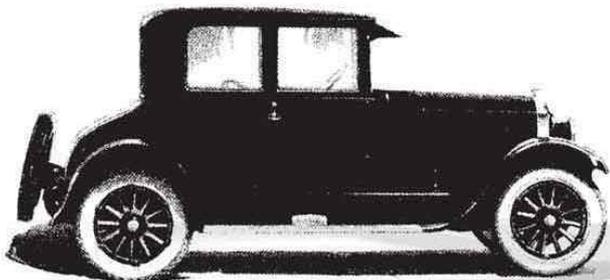
January/February 2023 No. 286



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# The 'CON-ROD'

Web site <http://www.narc.org.au>

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN AUTOMOTIVE RESTORATION CLUB S.A. INC.

NARC was formed in 1974 to encourage the regular use, restoration and preservation of veteran, vintage and classic motor vehicles, tractors and engines.

## January/February 2023 no. 286

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<b>SUB COMMITTEE</b>	Ian Warnes 8892 9697, Paul Wilson 0419 869 109, Roger Boehm 0437 322 734

Whilst every care is taken, the Editors of this Magazine cannot be held responsible for any errors in written material or advertisements

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13-15. Jack Butler of the 4 Square store  
16- Classifieds

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone.

Well we had a new style for our annual film and evening meal at Byth.

Thank you to those members who came along.

It was good to see some people we do not see during the year otherwise.

Thank you to those members who helped make the setup, meal and cleaning up a breeze.

A special thank you to Ian Roberts.

His suggestion to show the two movies was very popular and from all reports both good films.

I can now say all the members on the sick list on the night are now much better.

Also as announced on the night there will not be the Tickera Run on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our general meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> will be at Port Broughton

The Clare Valley Cruise is on March 18<sup>th</sup> so get involved.

Then there is the Show and Shine on March 19<sup>th</sup>

Although it may seem a way off the Burra to Morgan Run will be on Sat/Sun July 15/16<sup>th</sup> 2023.

So I would urge you to book your accommodation if staying over for this event.

More details coming very soon.

I hope you are all well

Keep smiling

Regards

Ian

### New Members

NARC would like to welcome new members:

Kevin Teague from Hamilton. Who has a 1925 Overland 4 cyl.

Mike & Mary Osborne from Ardrossan who have a 50 & 51 Alvis, 55 MG TF, 64 Simca Aronde 1970 Rover 2000 and a 1982 Lancia Beta. They are also members of MAPS and Mike edits their newsletter.

### FRONT COVER

Not a factory issue, but in 1970 a gold coast hire company bought 10, two door Valiant VG's and had them engineered for roof removal. A tubing frame with press stud tonneau style roof was rolled up and tossed in the boot for rainy days, but essentially these vehicles were hired out for cruising the Gold Coast. Similar idea to the Hertz Mustang on a small scale.



And yes it is a nice cruiser especially on a sunny day.

Rex Herde

## NARC Calendar 2023

- February**    **9<sup>th</sup>**    Meeting **Blyth theatre** 8.00pm  
Guest speaker Daryl Andriske on his Kakoda trek
- TBA**    **Tickera run.** Postponed for a month or two.
- March**        **9<sup>th</sup>**        General Meeting – Port Broughton Golf Club at 8.00pm.
- 18<sup>th</sup>**      **Clare Valley Cruise**
- 19<sup>th</sup>**      **Show'n'Shine Clare**
- 26<sup>th</sup>**      Booleroo Steam Rally.    NARC to display vehicles
- 30<sup>th</sup>**      Deadline for Con-Rod submissions
- April**        **1<sup>st</sup>**        **Laura Fair.** Narc to display vehicles.
- 13<sup>th</sup>**      General Meeting Port Broughton Golf Club 8.00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>** **NHMA Rally** Mudgee book online <https://nhma.arec.com.au/>  
email: [nhma2021@arec.com.au](mailto:nhma2021@arec.com.au) phone: (02) 6372 3899
- May**          **11<sup>th</sup>**      **General Meeting** Kadina 8.00pm
- TBA**      **Trip away** to Quorn Merv Robinson organising.
- 30<sup>th</sup>**      Deadline for Con-Rod submissions
- June**        **9<sup>th</sup>**        General Meeting – Port Broughton at 8.00pm
- July**         **13<sup>th</sup>**      A.G.M., Port Broughton Golf Club 8.00pm.
- 30<sup>th</sup>**                      Deadline for Con-Rod submissions
- August**      **10<sup>th</sup>**      General Meeting Port Broughton Golf Club 8.00pm.

## Swap Meets

- February**    **19th**    **Murray Bridge** at Showgrounds. Gates open 6am  
\$5 Entry per person Buyers and Sellers Children under 14 free  
John Whimpress 0428 132 889
- March**        **5<sup>th</sup>**        **S.A. Rod And Custom Club** (Formerly Campbelltown swap meet)  
Globe Derby Park (harness race club)    \* NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE \*  
Buyers 7am Adults \$5.00 Children Free Sellers Site \$20.00 including driver  
Enquires Scott McLay 0412 555 723
- 19th**    **WOODSIDE** at oval. Sellers \$10 from 6.30am Buyers \$5 from 7.00am  
Chris 0408 850 315                      woodsidecommerceassoc@gmail.com
- May**          **7<sup>th</sup>**        **Port Pirie Yesteryear Day** swap-meet Princes Park Three Chain Road  
Sites \$10 free Saturday night camping Sellers 6.30 Buyers 8am FREE.  
David 0419 866 881 Wayne 0408 890 787

## Other Events of Interest

- February**    **12th**    **Corvette Rock the Bay** Wigley Reserve, Glenelg,  
Only Corvettes - Registrations close 31st January  
Peter McBride 0417 857 153
- 19th**    **All American Day Car Show** -Gleneagles Reserve Ailsa Avenue Seaton  
Entry to all American vehicles 9am to 2pm Adults \$5.00 Kids under 14 free  
enquiries Adrian Cowie 8264 9556
- March**        **4<sup>th</sup>**        **100th Mannum Show.** Mannum oval. Display of engines, machinery, tractors,  
vehicles etc exhibitors welcome. 0417 354 732  
secretary@mannumshow.org
- 5<sup>th</sup>**        **All British Day** Echunga Oval 10:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Hundreds of British vehicles from 1900 to the present day, including cars,  
motorbikes, commercials, farming and stationery engines plus displays and  
entertainment for all ages.  
Adults \$10 Children \$5 Family Pass \$25.00 for 2 adults and 2 children (children  
6 to 16 years) - 5 years and under are FREE  
web site [www.allbritishday.com](http://www.allbritishday.com) 0408 846 323 [info@allbritishday.com](mailto:info@allbritishday.com)
- 24-26<sup>th</sup>**    **Chrysler Festival**  
**26<sup>th</sup>**        **All Chrysler Day** Gazza Oval Klemzig. [pawilliams1@bigpond.com](mailto:pawilliams1@bigpond.com)
- 26<sup>th</sup>**        **GM DAY~ Show & Shine** Princes Park Oval, Gawler. Entrants from 8.00am  
Public from 10.00 am. Adults \$5.00 Families \$10.00 Concession \$3.00  
Enquiries Tony Meade email [Tony.meade@gwf.com.au](mailto:Tony.meade@gwf.com.au)
- 26<sup>th</sup>**        **Day Of The Volkswagen** Civic Park Modbury 9.00 am Free Entry.  
Kevin 0411632523 or [info@volkswagenclubofsa.org.au](mailto:info@volkswagenclubofsa.org.au)
- 27<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> April** **The Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club of Australasia Biennial Rally** at Berri.  
Wed. 29th Riverland Car Club providing lunch at their Cobdogla Club rooms &  
Douglas m/c group will be there. Enquiries, Merv Robinson, 0417 863 450
- 31<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> April** **Stories from the Road Museum** reunion. For more details  
Phone: 0429 201 549 [liz@storiesfromtheroadmuseum.com.au](mailto:liz@storiesfromtheroadmuseum.com.au)  
Or contact Editor for information sheet and booking form.
- April**         **2<sup>nd</sup>**        **British Motorcycle Day** Balhannah Oval, Public & British bike entrants  
\$5.00        [www.fomsa.org](http://www.fomsa.org) for more info
- 16<sup>th</sup>**        **All Alfa Day** 10:00am - 3:00pm at Wigley Reserve, Glenelg.  
Paul Lucas Email: [vicepresident@alfaclubsa.org.au](mailto:vicepresident@alfaclubsa.org.au)
- 23rd**        **McLaren Vale Vintage & Classic** Street parade, Cars, food & wine!  
Enquiries Nigel 0438 609 270
- August**        **5&6<sup>th</sup>**    **Price Tractor Pull** – at the Oval  
Family Fun Weekend , Foodvans, Music, Market Stalls,Bar,Donuts,Kids  
activities, Show n shine, Face painting,YP Community workshops, wool spinning,  
shearing demo, petting zoo, horse cart rides.  
Contact Nick Correll 0417 840 340 Shane Carty 0418 804 833

For more information on most of above... [www.bevenyoung.com.au](http://www.bevenyoung.com.au) swap meet

## FROM THE KAPUNDA CHAPTER

Chairperson	Richard Lang	0423 524 481	<a href="mailto:dicklang99@gmail.com">dicklang99@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chairman	Barry Rowett	0438 968 537	
Secretary	Malcolm Johncock	0490 672 237	<a href="mailto:oaklandkapunda@gmail.com">oaklandkapunda@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer.	Irene Woodcock.	0400 294 521	<a href="mailto:brianirene09@gmail.com">brianirene09@gmail.com</a>
Property Officer	Trish Evans	0404 085 775	
Vehicle Inspector	Geoff Rowett	0409 457 631	
Auditor.	Trish Williams		

### KAPUNDA CHAPTER CALENDAR.

Meetings held at Lutheran Hall South Terrace KAPUNDA

February 11th. Saturday. 12md. Ross Vogt Birthday at the Sir John Franklin

February 18th Saturday. Twilight run to Hamley Bridge for dinner. Meet Hill Street 5 p.m. leave by 5.15 p.m.

February 24th Friday meeting Brian Woodcock to give talk. "Your car is pulling to the right. —a bit". Followed by supper. Reminder that the deposit of \$100 per person for the trip to Lake Goldsmith is due at this meeting. March outing will be discussed at the February meeting. Malcolm may have organised something.

March 24th Friday meeting. No guest speaker yet organised.

March 26th BOOLEROO CENTRE STEAM DISPLAY.

April 23rd Sunday. A good day at Mallala (Allan) Nothing organised as yet but make your own way. \$25 per car with 2 people.

April 25th. Anzac Day Dutton Park 10.30 a.m. Bring own coffee or tea but Anzac biscuits will be provided. We have lunch out and will let you know where at March meeting.

April 28th Meeting.

Get well soon Malcolm !!

### **STOP PRESS**

31 March To 2 April 2023

Stories from the Road Museum Reunion.

For more details

Ph 0429 201 549 [liz@storiesfromtheroadmuseum.com.au](mailto:liz@storiesfromtheroadmuseum.com.au)

Or contact Con-Rod editor for booking form and information sheet.



## BLYTH MOVIE NIGHT 12<sup>th</sup> January

Kelvin and I left home in 41 degree heat heading for the Blyth Cinema. A new format was planned with a movie at 4pm, meal at 6pm in Hall and then Ian Roberts to have the 15 question Quiz in one cinema then the two cinemas to have different movies in each. The 4pm movie was "Jerry and Marge go large" based on a true story in America of a retired couple who discovered a loop hole in the lottery tickets.

Thank you to those that helped to organise the food for the evening meal and to Graham Burgess for cutting up the fresh fruit for the fruit salad. Also to the helpers in setting up the Hall with tables and chairs, then again in dismantling them. President Ian Radford said that several people could not attend the night because of Covid. He informed the members that Graham Goode was taken to Adelaide and the Calgary Hospital to have an operation at 5-00pm on 11<sup>th</sup> January for heart problems. Moranne Coombs had cataracts removed on 9<sup>th</sup> January and now has to have treatment for glaucoma. The third member on the sick list was Charles Lee who had returned to hospital.

Trevor Naismith spoke about the Clare Valley Cruise and the Show 'n' Shine to be held at Mintaro oval on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March, so get your vehicle ready for March. After the meal of cold meats and salad selections and fruit salad we went to the cinema for the quiz. Ian Roberts had selected slides of old vehicles or cars, weddings etc. for us to identify or date. Leon Darley came first again and we thank Ian in donating the prizes for the Quiz.

Two movies were then screened in each cinema, with a repeat of the first movie the other movie being "Top Gun - Maverick" by Tom Cruise.

Moranne Coombs has put in her resignation from the Secretary position because of her health problems and has sold her house at Port Hughes and is moving to Adelaide. We thank her for her invaluable contribution to the club over many years not just as Secretary but also President She nominated me for the assistant secretary back in 2018 which I accepted as I thought my brother Daryle Johns would be able to help me with the names of members. But now it's all a different circumstance as he passed on in August 2021 from cancer. I have been diagnosed with polymyalgia on the 12<sup>th</sup> December which is stiffness and inflammation of the joints in back, shoulders, hips, arms and neck. It can take up to 2-5 years, but the steroid tablets have awful consequences of weight gain, sleep insomnia and stomach ulcers so I will not become secretary.

Kelvin put two Deutz tractors up on the Kenworth truck to transport to Milang for the Yesterday's Power Rally with tractor pulls for 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> January. The Saturday was very hot and this deterred the public from attending the event. But on Sunday we had jumpers on -what a contrast of temperature. Other NARC members seen at Milang were Dean Manderson, Richard Lang, Tom Chapman, Nick Correll, Ian Kirchner, Charles Lee and Kip Newbold.

Kelvin came first with his 4 cylinder Deutz tractor and received a trophy. He placed 2<sup>nd</sup> with his 3 cylinder tractor.

The Mundoora Progress Association's Mud and Dust Vintage Tractor Pull won the Australia Day Event of the Year Award for the Barunga West Council.

Pam Stringer

The Northern Automotive Restoration Club SA Inc



## ***A Weekend of Memorable Motoring***

***Event Director: Trev Naismith***  
***Event Secretary: Ann Hammat***

***Phone: 0409 648 424***  
***Phone :0408 654 019***

Dear Motoring Enthusiast

The Northern Automotive Restoration Club SA wish to extend an invitation for you to participate in our **Weekend of Memorable Motoring** to be held in the Clare Valley over the weekend of **March 18 and 19, 2023**.

The weekend will be made up of two events. On **Saturday March 18**, the **Cruise for Cancer** will commence at the Mintaro Oval at 2:00 pm and takes in some of the lesser known bitumen backroads of the beautiful Clare and Gilbert Valleys. This year, the Cruise will have a long course and a short course which reflects the diverse mix of cars that will be in the Cruise. The long course (100kms) is best suited for those classic and contemporary cars that have good road speed and the short course (50kms) is more suitable for older cars that travel at a more moderate pace. Note that all proceeds from the Cruise are donated to the Cancer Council.

The Cruise will again conclude at the Pikes Winery and Brewery at Hill River at 4:00pm where there will be food and refreshments available for purchase.

That evening, you are free to enjoy many of the restaurants, cafes and hotels that are dotted throughout the Clare Valley, including the award winning Slate Restaurant at Pikes.

On **Sunday March 19**, the **Clare Valley Show and Shine** will open to the public at 10:00am with a range of categories to suit your car. Along with the Cruise for Cancer, the **Show and Shine** is a great opportunity for you to display your car and share your enthusiasm with like minded individuals and the general public.

There will be affordable food and coffee outlets at the oval along with a pub and restaurant within walking distance.

Entry forms are attached which cover admittance for the driver and passenger. Please complete and lodge the entry form and payment by EFT or cheque. Please clearly state your family and given names on the EFT. Car numbers will be issued on the day and you will be directed to staging locations on the oval.

I look forward to seeing you in the beautiful Clare Valley for a Weekend of Memorable Motoring!

Trev Naismith  
Event Director



THE NORTHERN AUTOMOTIVE RESTORATION CLUB PROUDLY PRESENT



Proudly supporting  
**Cancer Council**

# A WEEKEND OF Memorable Motoring



**SATURDAY MARCH 18**

## CLARE VALLEY CRUISE FOR CANCER

Discover the lesser used bitumen back roads  
of the beautiful Clare Valley

**CRUISE STARTS AT MINTARO OVAL AT 2PM, FINISHES 4PM AT PIKES WINERY**

\$10 per vehicle with ALL proceeds going to the Cancer Council.



**SUNDAY MARCH 19**

## CLARE VALLEY SHOW AND SHINE

**AT THE MINTARO OVAL FROM 10AM**

Prizes for all categories from Veteran and Vintage, through Classics  
and Contemporary. **Now with a Best Dressed Award!**

Coffee and food available on site.

\$20 per vehicle- includes both driver and passenger

**ENTRY FORMS: [www.narc.org.au](http://www.narc.org.au)**

**Event Director:** Trev Naismith | [trevornaismith@mail.com](mailto:trevornaismith@mail.com) | 0409 648 424

**Event Secretary:** Ann Hammat | [ann@baderloo.com.au](mailto:ann@baderloo.com.au) | 0408 654 019

**Proudly supported by the Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council  
and the Mintaro Progress Association.**

[www.mintaro.sa.au](http://www.mintaro.sa.au) | [www.clarevalley.com.au](http://www.clarevalley.com.au)



## CLARE VALLEY CRUISE for CANCER

**Saturday, 18th March, 2023**

Commencement time 2.00pm from Mintaro Oval.

Concludes at Pikes Winery approx 4.00pm

Entry Fee \$10.00 per vehicle. Proceeds to the Cancer Council.



Complete the details below and pay by direct debit. BSB 015-552, A/c 414239425 or send your cheque payable to: NARC S.A. INC. to Ann Hammat, 262 Mayfield Road, Washpool SA 5454

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please nominate for either long course (suitable for classic cars)

or short course (suitable for older vehicles)

### Indemnity Declaration

In consideration of this entry, I/We agree that the promoting committee and its associated organisation (NARC) will in no way be held responsible for the loss or damage to a participating Vehicle, its Parts or accessories and personal effects, or of any damage caused by such Vehicle or any Participant by entering, driving, or being a passenger in this event.

I/We thereby waive the right or action at law against the committee, its organisers, their representatives and Agents.

All Vehicles will be roadworthy, appropriately registered and drivers must be the holder of a current Driver's Licence for the class of vehicle being driven, and must abide by all road and traffic laws.

Signed by the entrant

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /2023

Please send completed entry form to [ann@baderloo.com.au](mailto:ann@baderloo.com.au) or post to Ann Hammat, 262 Mayfield Road, Washpool, SA 5454



# SHOW'N'SHINE

## MINTARO OVAL, CLARE VALLEY

**Sunday 19th March 2023**

**Event Director** – Trevor Naismith  
**Phone:** 0409 648 424  
**Email:** [trevornaismith@mail.com](mailto:trevornaismith@mail.com)

**Event Secretary** – Ann Hammat  
**Phone:** 0408654019  
**Email:** [ann@baderloo.com.au](mailto:ann@baderloo.com.au)

### Entry Form

Gates open from **8.00am**, display vehicles to be in place by **10.00am**.

Presentations **1.00pm**.

**Public Admission \$5.00**

**Children under 14 years – Free**

**Please tick category you wish to enter – One category only per vehicle.  
 (All vehicles considered for overall best vehicle.)**

**\$20 per vehicle including Driver and Passenger**

**Additional passengers \$5 each**

**Entry Closes: Friday 10th March 2023**

- |    |     |                                      |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | ( ) | Veteran (up to 1919)                 |
| 2  | ( ) | Vintage (1920-1929)                  |
| 3  | ( ) | Post Vintage (1930-1949)             |
| 4  | ( ) | Classic (1950-1969)                  |
| 5  | ( ) | Modern Classic (1970-1989)           |
| 6  | ( ) | Post Classic (1990-2009)             |
| 7  | ( ) | Contemporary (from 2010)             |
| 8  | ( ) | Motor Cycles                         |
| 9  | ( ) | Hot Rods/Street Machines             |
| 10 | ( ) | Commercial vehicles under 4.5 tonnes |
| 11 | ( ) | Overall Best Vehicle                 |
| 12 | ( ) | Best dressed Driver (and passenger)  |

Vehicle.....Year..... Model.....

Colour..... Vehicle Reg'n.....

Name ..... Email .....

Postal Address .....Post Code.....

Ph:..... Signature .....

Once completed, please pay by direct debit. BSB 015-552, A/c 414239425 or a cheque payable to:

NARC S.A. INC.

Please send completed entry form to [ann@baderloo.com.au](mailto:ann@baderloo.com.au) or post completed forms and cheques to

Ann Hammat, 262 Mayfield Road, Washpool, SA 5454

**PLEASE NOTE: All vehicles & drivers enter their vehicles at their own risk. The Northern Automotive Restoration Club Inc. in conjunction with all sponsors involved will not accept any responsibility of any kind for damage or injury incurred.**

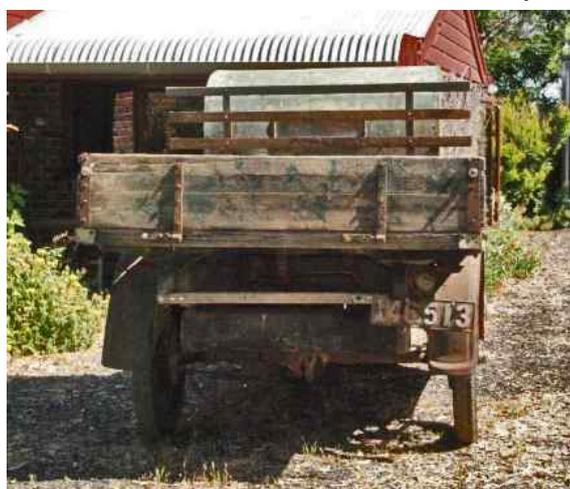
Northern Automotive Restoration Club S.A. Inc.

President: Ian Radford.

## Mystery Chevrolet Information Wanted

Dear Sir,

I picked this old car up early last year from Dejons at Lonsdale, they had got it from a dispersal sale of a local collector deceased in the Kapunda area, I am guessing last year. I have now got her basically running and drivable on the farm. She is in pretty good mechanical order, I would say was still being used into the late 60's or early 70's. It has evidence of being fitted with a drawbar and towed, likely by a fencing contractor or some such, to be used at the end of the day to drive home.



She has had a professional drop-side tray fitted, likely by a wagon builder, so not a backyard conversion.



What I would like is to find out its story and I am hoping it was a local Kapunda car and someone may either know it, or at least know the late collector that it came from. She still has the original number plates (46 513) and research gives me the number each side but not her !! First registered in 1925. I have put a photo on the Kapunda website page as well. I can be contacted on my mob 0447 261 006. Just as an aside my family had long connections with Analaby and the Dutton family, I rode in the Talbot as a kid, John Dutton driving.

Kind regards  
Gordon Hazel

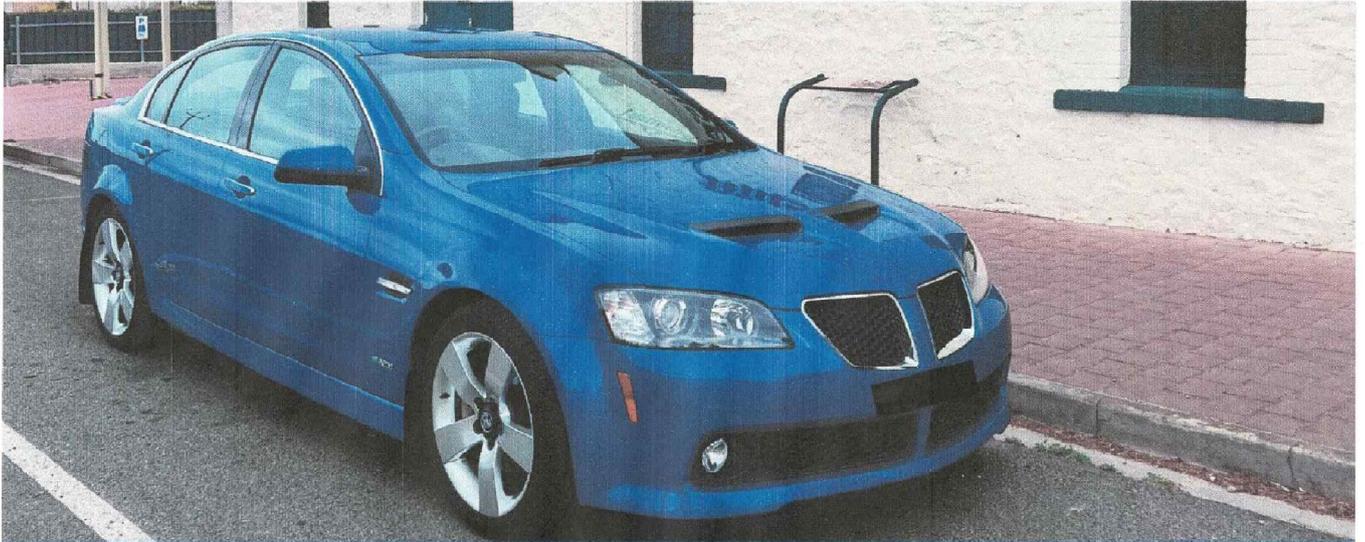
## Morgan Car Park!!!!

I was over at Morgan yesterday (13/12/22) and took this picture of the flood covering the lawn where we normally park on arrival on our Burra to Morgan run.

The gates we enter the park are next to the ute with the boat trailer.

Craig Thomas





ARDROSSAN 150 CELEBRATIONS

# SHOW N SHINE

ARDROSSAN FOOTBALL OVAL



Sunday  
APRIL 16TH 2023  
9:00am - 2:00pm

Spectators, entrants, stall holders \$5 admission  
Under 14s free.  
No eftpos available at the gate.

You decide on the most popular vehicle. People's choice  
award announced at 12:30pm.

Bring a photo board to display your previous vehicles?

Food, drink and bar  
facilities available.

Ardrossan 150 cash  
raffle drawn at 1:00pm

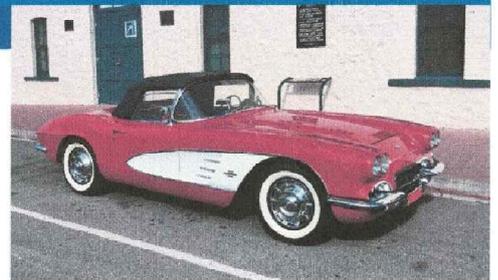
Various market stall  
holders on site.

No Dogs

See the Ardrossan 150 Celebration Facebook page for updates.

For further details, contact

Gerald Baird: 0408 825 981 or Stephen 'Fermby' Lodge: 0418 846 215



## Jack Butler of the Four Square Store

Don't we live in wonderful times? I think one day they'll call it the electric era. I just bought a new clock for my wife Ethel's birthday. It has a tiny electric motor in it and is run by electric power, so you never have to wind it. We have a new Crosley Shelvador electric refrigerator in the house,



replacing the old kerosene fridge, not to mention an Electrolux vacuum cleaner and a Naco washing machine. I've already had a big electric refrigerator in the shop for several years, so that butter stays fresh and I can stock bricks of Amscol ice-cream. As more and more people buy their own refrigerators, these are becoming a popular item. Who wants a messy, drippy icebox when you can have an electric fridge? The only



ones who are unhappy about this are the iceman and the man who owns the ice factory, but they'll find new jobs, just the same as all the grooms and farriers did when motorcars became popular. My dad gave me good advice when I started up – he said, "Get into the grocery business! No matter what new inventions they come up with, people will always need to eat!" I think that was smart; nowadays, not even a drapery business is secure. I read in a magazine that they're starting up nudist clubs and are predicting that in a few years people won't even be wearing clothes.



Haven't cars improved as well? My new FE Holden cruises at sixty-five miles an hour and is in every way a better car than the '37 Chev or the FJ Holden that I before. It's maroon with white top and looks even better than the two-tone blue FJ that I traded in on it. You can tell that we live in good times



by the colours of cars. Back when I was knee-high to a grasshopper, cars came in bright colours, like red, yellow or orange. Even the Model T Ford had originally been available in such colours, though later they were all painted black to save money, and looked so drab. Maybe that's the reason for the old joke: "A Ford is like a bath-tub – useful, but not something that you want to be seen in!" When the

Depression came, they started painting all cars in dark, drab colours, like navy blue, black or dark grey and they stayed that way through the war. They're bad-time colours that people buy when things look dark. Now that there's no war and things are going well, the colours are bright and pretty. I read in a magazine that the Yanks are now building cars in pink, purple, yellow and colours like that – I reckon that I'd get one like that if I lived over there!

We ran in the new Holden by taking it on a trip to see my wife's sister in a town called Port Pirie. Ethel was thinking that Edna, her sister, would be jealous of our new Holden. I wouldn't want you to tell Ethel I said so, but she and her sister compete with one another other like a couple of schoolgirls. Anyway, when we got there Edna and her husband, Ted, had a bigger surprise for us – they took us around to see the new house that they're getting built. A nice place their new house will be, too: cream brick, tiled roof, toilet and bathroom inside the house, a nice kitchen with big windows and a view of the back garden. You should have seen Ethel's face! Suddenly the little old cottage at the side of my shop wasn't good enough. Ted and Edna were very impressed by the new Holden, but not nearly as much as Ethel was with their new house. She talked about it all the way back home, and it was clear that she was the one who was jealous. The kids added to it, saying plaintively, "I wish we could get a new house too!" The honest truth was that I felt the same way. The little residence attached to the grocery store was small and dingy with an outside dunny, while the laundry and bathroom, such as they were, were in an iron lean-to, definitely not up to the standards of 1956. I knew that lots of people were getting building done. Alby Elgar in the barber shop next door had a new brick bathroom and laundry at the back of his house, super modern and very stylish. I wondered about getting the same done at our place, but the rest of the house would have still been dark and cramped, so it was hardly worthwhile.

Next day, I was getting my hair cut by Alby – I wouldn't want you to tell him I said so, but he can talk the leg off an iron pot – he knows everything that is going on in town. I know what you're thinking – Jack Butler is just as bad, and I won't deny it. Anyway, Alby said that the house block in the next street,



behind my shop, had come up for sale. There was a tumble-down old cottage on it, built last century and only fit to be bulldozed, but being close to the shop, it was the perfect place for us to build. As soon as I got back to my shop and I had a spare moment, I phoned Ken Lourde. Now, there's a funny bloke. Real estate agent, stock agent, machinery agent, he must be sitting on a fortune, but he drives a second-hand Singer because he got it cheaply and he lives in a little fibro cottage.

A bachelor, of course, he wouldn't want to spend his precious money on keeping a wife and kids. He confirmed that the block was for sale, deceased estate, the old lady who had owned it had been in an old folks' home for several years and the place was badly deteriorated. I left young Joe Smithers, my assistant, in charge of the shop and went and saw Major Dunleavy, the bank manager. He gave verbal approval to buy the block and said he'd get back to me the next day with the total amount that he could lend me. I called Ken back and he drove over and I signed the contract to buy the block, subject to finance. When I act, things happen quickly, but I'm a businessman. You don't run a successful grocery store by sitting and dithering.

When I got home that afternoon and broke the news, Ethel was overjoyed, as were the children. It was, however, clear from the outset that Ethel would only be happy if the new place were better than her sister's. I hoped that Major Dunleavy would be able to approve a large loan. It was exciting to think that we would be able to plan our new house, and everyone started putting in their ideas. Of course, a lot of it was impractical; a grocer doesn't earn as much as a film-star, but everyone seemed to share the thought that it was critical to have a better house than Edna's. When Major Dunleavy phoned the next day and told me how much we could borrow, I immediately called Dud Forrest, whom everyone says is best the builder in the district. I told him what we could afford, and he brought a folder of plans and sketches to show us. It soon became obvious, however, that while we could build a house that would match Edna's, we didn't have the funds to build anything substantially better. I suggested building the house of asbestos – I've read about it in a magazine and it's the latest thing out, fire-proof, doesn't rot. Dud convinced me that it was fragile and anyone could put a foot through it, and the only way to fix it is to replace a whole sheet, plus it still needs regular painting. Cream brick may cost more at first, but it's the better option. I had also read that they're doing floors of concrete mixed with sawdust, so it's just as warm as a wooden floor and never warps or gets termites, but Ethel remembers a place her family once lived in with a concrete floor and wouldn't hear of it, so we'll get wood.



Dud could see that we weren't really happy with any of the ideas he came up with, but once he cottoned on to the idea that the house had to look better than Ethel's sister's, he came up with a brilliant solution. "Go modern!" he said. "I haven't built a contemporary house yet, but I've been thinking: low roof, raked ceilings, you just use simple beams instead of roof trusses, open plan, you save on dividing walls and doors, big windows, glass is cheaper than masonry, plus fixed windows and hopper windows are cheaper than sash windows. I'll go home and do some sums, but I reckon I can build you a bigger, modern house just as cheap as a normal medium-sized one!" I read a good word in a magazine that perfectly describes Dud Forrest – "enigmatic". Now, I wouldn't want you to tell him I said so, but Dud Forrest is an enigmatic bloke. He drives around in an ancient 1937 Graham and lives in an old cottage from last century and doesn't give a damn what people think of him, but when he found out that we wanted to impress Edna, he put his heart and soul into designing a place as modern as tomorrow and looking like a million pounds. Next evening he came back with some sketches of a place that looked like a film-star's mansion: lounge, dining and kitchen all in one, patio out the back, lots of glass and polished wood, three bedrooms, and said he could do it within our budget. Naturally we accepted at once.

Alby Elgar has just bought himself a new car, a Goliath station wagon. Now I don't go much on Continental cars, but it's a neat job. Alby brings in a lot of stock for his shop, and it hold so much more than a sedan and is easier to load and unload. I reckon that station wagons are the coming thing, and I can't understand why Holden doesn't build one. I read in a magazine that station wagons are really taking off in America, and nearly every manufacturer has several in their line-up. It'd be just the ticket for a shopkeeper like me, because I could also use it for deliveries and wouldn't need the Bradford van that I have now. Shops are really changing, too. I read in a magazine that the coming thing is the self-service store. Everything is in rows of shelves and the customers just walk around, put what they want in a basket and bring it to the counter to pay. That way, several customers at a time can get what they want and they don't have to wait. At the moment, if there are four customers in the shop, three have to wait while I'm serving the first one. I don't know what they'd do when one customer was wanting two pounds of flour and another eight ounces of sugar – they couldn't serve that themselves because it has to be accurately weighed – but I guess they'll find a solution.



It was exciting to watch as Dud and a couple of labourers pulled down the old dump and carted away the rubble, then they brought in loads of sand and gravel and started mixing the concrete for the foundations. Soon the walls were going up, the windows put in place and it was starting to look like a really posh house. Ethel and the kids and I walked through it every evening, imagining our future life in it. Soon the roof was on and Dud started plastering, then we could hear him hammering all day as the floor went in. We wanted to move in straight away, but the final details took quite a while - skirting boards and cornices, power points, water heater, stove, and, of course, painting.



We got a phone-call to say that Edna, Ted and family planned to visit us one Sunday. I wondered how they would go driving that distance in their 1950 Ford Prefect, but when they came, they had a brand new 1956 Ford Zephyr! It was a very attractive shade of deep green, and a nice car through and through. I had to laugh to myself, though, as I realised that they had only bought the Zephyr to keep up with us and our new Holden, but then I realised that we were worse, having built a whole house just to keep up with them! They were frustrated that their builder was making slow progress with their

house - he apparently had several jobs going at the same time, and would work for a few days, then move to another site. It made me realise what a gem we had with Dud Forrest. Well, when we took them to see our new house, you should have seen their faces, especially Edna's! They were very quiet over dinner and made an excuse to leave shortly afterwards, and we haven't heard from them since. Ethel's wish to make her sister jealous had obviously been fulfilled very well.

At last the great day came, and we felt like film stars and millionaires as we moved into the stylish new house. Of course, there was still a fair bit to do, and I became quite adept as a do-it-yourself home handyman. I laid green and red linoleum tiles on the floor of the kitchen and dining area, which complemented the pastel green and pink paint colour scheme nicely, then I put the newest thing available, vinyl flooring, in the bedrooms. We had a beautiful floral carpet laid in the lounge area. I bought a second-hand "Lightburn" cement mixer and then started on the driveway and paths, and Ethel began planting the garden and I put in the front lawn. It's now looking like one of the poshest houses in town, although I do say so myself. Little by little we're also replacing all our furniture with modern pieces to match the house.



Of course, I know that in another fifty years, our new house will look old fashioned. From what I read in the magazines, they'll be living in plastic spheres, driving to Mars on Sunday afternoon in atomic-powered rocket cars and they won't even need food anymore, they'll just take a vitamin pill once a week. However, as Dorothy Day sings in that song\*, "The future's not ours to see." What's that? Yes, you're right, of course, it's Doris Day, not Dorothy. I've seen her picture in a magazine, and I wouldn't want you to tell Ethel I said so, but she's a nice piece of baggage.

Ah - I hear Dan Loughlin's Tempo Matador coming - he'll be bringing me this week's magazines, as well as the ETA peanut paste and Swallow and Ariel biscuits that I've had on order. It will be a busy night for me - I wouldn't want you to tell my other customers that I said so, but I like to read all the magazines through on the night they arrive, so that I won't miss out if any of them sell out on the first day. Well, it's been nice chatting with you. I'll see you the next time that you're in town!

\**Que Sera, Sera* (Whatever will be, will be)

*FOOTNOTE: When the Holden Station Sedan was released in 1957, Jack Butler traded his sedan on the first one in the district, caramel brown with a white top. He replaced it a year later with a two-tone pink FC Station Sedan. His prosperous days were over in the mid-sixties when a supermarket was opened in the nearby big town of L-, and while his shop has survived as a convenience store, he had to make his 1966 XR Falcon wagon last ten years. His new house has recently been restored by some people with 1950s nostalgia.*

**Marius Venz**



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Olympus Mens Jacket Style 1513

- 320gm 3-layer performance softshell fabric (outer 95% polyester 5% elastane; inner 100% polyester bonded fleece)
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**Vest** Colour: Slate Sizes 8 - 22

Olympus Ladies Vest Style 2515

- Same fabric as Jacket above
- Light water repellent and wind resistant finish
- 2 side zip pockets and 1 chest zip pocket
- Shaped back tail for added warmth and modesty
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