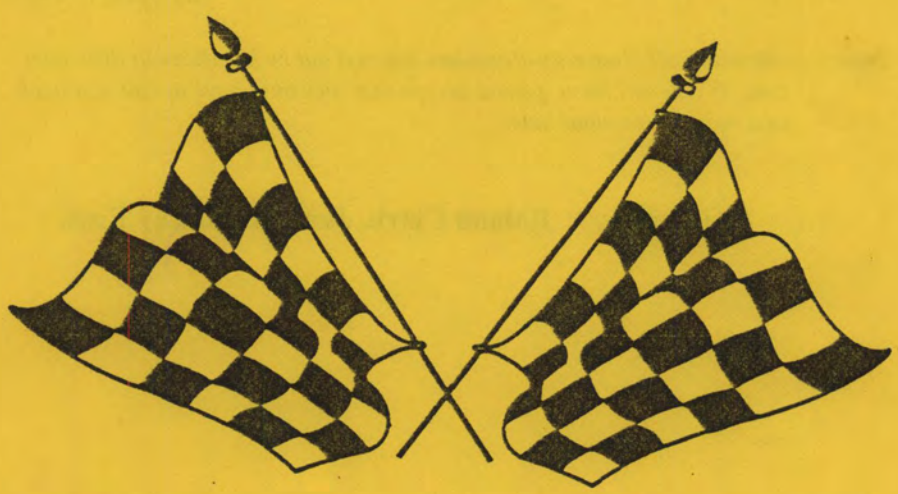
top gear

THOROUGHBRED SPORTS CAR CLUB

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER '96



1996 Committee

President	**Michael Ryan**	(H) 832 1808 (w) 292 8464
Vice-President / Social Co-Ordinator	**David Muir**	(H) 413 1692 (w) 748 4377
Secretary	**Val Dixon**	(H) 419 3528 (w) 777 7980
Treasurer	**Barbara Muir**	(H) 413 1692 (w) 439 8511
Competition Secretary:	**Steve Hammond**	(H) 896 0608 (w) 791 0053
Editor:	**Stephanie Clark**	(H) 899 1205 (w) (045) 77 4577
Plate Registrar:	**Roland Clark**	(H) 899 1205 (w) (045) 77 4507

Note: these are all Honorary-Positions, carried out by Members in their own time. If you call them, please accept that they may have to call you back at a more convenient time.

Life Members: **Roland Clark, Jim Peters, Ray Ross.**

C O N T E N T S:

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thoroughbred sports car club

INCORPORATED AS AN ASSOCIATION
Registered No.: Y15083-35

TSCC is affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport

OBJECTS OF THE CLUB

"Fostering a better acquaintance and Social-Spirit between the various owners of Thoroughbred Sports Cars in Australia."

"To help and advance Thoroughbred Sports Car Owners and Ownership."

"To establish and maintain, by example, a high Standard of Conduct, and a Respect of the Laws of the Road."

General Meetings of the Club

Held on the second Wednesday of each Month, commencing at 8:00pm, at the Ryde RSL Club, (Bowling Club Rooms), 724 Victoria Road, Ryde.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the 1996 Club Year!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two Club Members to the Committee for the first time. They are ***Val Dixon*** (Club Secretary) and ***Steve Hammond*** (Competition Secretary).
Please join me in wishing them well, and in giving them every support over the ensuing twelve months.

You will no doubt be aware that I have fulfilled the role of Competition Secretary for the past two years. This year has presented me with the opportunity to lead the Club as its President during 1996, the Club's Fifteenth-Year; and, I feel privileged to do so.
My thanks go to those Members (particularly Chris Johnson and Jim Peters) who have supported me to accept the nomination for the role of President, or who voted accordingly.
[Question: does 'elected un-opposed' mean that nobody else wanted the Job?????]

Your 1996 Club-Committee recently met to formulate the **Club-Calendar** for 1996.
It includes a range of general Social-Activities aimed at increasing Club Member-Involvement.
These activities provide everyone associated with the Club the opportunity to participate, as well as the opportunity to showcase some of the excellent Cars owned by Club Members.
The Calendar also includes a comprehensive range of Sporting-Events, that now include Supersprints at Eastern Creek and Wakefield Park.

To those Members who have not been particularly active of late, I hope to see you at some of the Meetings and Events scheduled for this year.
Last year, as a result of initiatives of the 1995 Committee, the format of the Monthly Meetings regularly included a Member's presentation or chat on a topic of their own choosing.
As this was not limited to 'car-type stories', it certainly added some interest (and in some case lots of laughs) to the typical Meeting.
This year we will continue with this initiative.
The Club is also in the process of acquiring a combined Video/TV Player, for use at Club Meetings, and other Events.
Your support of the Meetings is important; and I encourage you to attend and participate.

Finally, on behalf of the 1996 Committee, I would like to thank the **1995 Committee** for their efforts and initiatives during 1995.
Additionally, if you have any suggestions or issues you would like to discuss, I am most happy to hear from you, anytime. Please feel free to call.

I look forward to seeing you at the first Club Meeting of the year, on *Wednesday, 14th February.*

Regards:
MIKE RYAN.

TROPHIES

PERPETUAL

*** CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR ***
[Awarded for attending the most Events]
Donated by: ***Clive Sanderson*** *[dec.]*

*** DON MacDONALD MEMORIAL TROPHY ***
[President's choice of Member who has made the most significant contribution to the Club during the Year]
Donated by: ***John Burton and Lester Gough***

*** SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIP ***
[Awarded to the 'Outright-Winner' of Sporting Events]
Donated by: ***Castrol***

*** CLUB-CAR DISPLAY ***
[Awarded for the 'Best-Presented Car'.]
Donated by: ***John Thompson Sports Cars***

*** CITIZEN KANE AWARD ***
[Awarded for the best 'Top Gear' article, written by a Club Member; as voted on by fellow Club Members]
Donated by: ***Jim Peters***

[The Winners names are engraved on these Trophies.
They retain them for the up-coming Year.
They receive an individual Trophy, which they then retain.]

SPORTING:

*** SPORTING CHAMPIONSHIP ***
[Two Trophies: one each for 'Open' and 'Closed' Sections, for the highest Points in each Section.
The overall highest Score receives the afore-mentioned 'Perpetual Trophy'.]

*** MOTORKHANA/GO-KART CHAMPIONSHIP ***
Two Trophies: one each for 'Ladies', and 'Outright'.
If the times are equal, there will be a Trophy for the 'Men's Section', and both winners will receive 'Outright' Trophies.

*** BEST PERFORMANCE BY A NEW MEMBER ***
[Chosen by the Committee Members]

[The Committee may, at its discretion, award additional 'One-Off' Trophies for the Year.

COMPETITIVE EDGE

Welcome everyone, back from the Festive Season. I trust you all had a very well-earned rest.
For those of you who don't know, I am the new Competition Secretary.
I'm very excited about 1996 with the Thoroughbred Sports Car Club; this year promises to be one of the best years for the Club.

This year the Club celebrates its **15th Anniversary**; and the ***'Victorian-Tour'*** organised for that will be nothing short of fantastic.

The Competition Events this year have been slightly changed.
We have adopted the **Cams NSW Supersprint Calendar** as our own.
Their Calendar this year offers a huge variety of Circuits: Amaroo, Eastern Creek, Wakefield and Oran Park.
The last Event at Oran Park is on the GP Circuit, which will be new to some of us, I'm sure.
[All of them are new to me, having only competed in one Supersprint before, at Oran Park.]

So, if you are contemplating attending any Events, then you better get your Car into gear!!
The first one is scheduled for mid-March, so **G-O-T-A-H-A-G!!!!**
[Get-Out-There-And-Have-A-Go!!!!]

Superb fun will be had by all the Family at the two **Motorkhanas** planned for this year.
Any one from the age of twelve can compete, (provided they can control a car of course!)
These Events are really for everyone; everyone is equal.
[If I remember rightly, a certain *Val Peters* in a Fiori gave the Field a big 'shake-up' last year!]

Something popular from a few years ago has been revived.
Yes, the **Skid Cars** are back on the Programme. Anyone who has ever driven one will vouch for how much fun they are.
After all, that's why we're all in the Thoroughbred Sports Car Club: ***to have fun***, isn't it???
So, let's make this a great year; the more the merrier; hope to see you at some, if not all the Events.
[Steve Hammond]

'15th ANNIVERSARY RALLY.'

Our intrepid Leader in this venture, Les Johnson has been "firing-on-all-Cylinders", working furiously on detailing the Rally.
[What devious treks will he have us taking / What 'simple' tasks will he have us doing / What landmarks will he have us looking for? . . .]

An up-date will no doubt be forthcoming at the February Monthly Meeting.

The dates of the Rally: 3rd - 10th may, 1996.

MONTEREY MAGIC

August and ***Pebble Beach*** (California) -- they seem to be a regular highlight on my Calendar for a few years now. It really is a magic weekend for Car-Enthusiasts, whatever your taste in Automobiles.
It's best to arrive on Thursday, if possible, to enable you to see the first event of the "weekend", the 'Concours Italiana' ,on Friday. Accommodation is at a premium -- I usually book six months ahead!!, and try and stay at the Travelodge on Moran Street, Monterey. [Basic Motel, but the price is reasonable at US $95/night; and, you can walk to the Rick Cole Auction, with easy access to Bars, and Restaurants.

The 'Concours Italiana' is an all-day Friday showing, at the Carmel Valley's Quail Lodge Resort, celebrating Italian style. It tends to emphasise Display and Appreciation over Competition. It's not an Event where white-gloved Judges look for imperfections. It's quite casual; US $15 to enter, with four to five-hundred Cars and Motorbikes on Display. I even saw a Benelli like mine once, (not as good!!!)

Saturday is Race-Day, at Laguna Seca; a twisty, hilly Circuit about twenty minutes from Monterey. Racing is very orderly -- seven Races, all of ten laps each. The actual Entry to the Circuit is mind-blowing: close to four hundred Racing-Cars is normal, and every year a different Marque is featured. Last year it was Lotus, the year before Ferrari. Once it was Miller -- try finding one of those to race in Australia!
I tend to find the Racing a little "gentlemanly" -- spinning off is frowned upon apparently -- so spend the day in the Paddock, taking in the atmosphere. Entry to the Circuit is US $30.

Saturday night is the 'Rick Cole Auction' at the Doubletree Hotel, a short stroll from the Travelodge. Entry is US $10, and the Auction goes on into the morning. Again, yes, the vehicles are terrific -- exotic and by our standards, cheap -- you have to sit on your hands with some of the Lots. We usually eat in a great little eatery, the Whaler Inn; you can even take your own Australian wine (for a corkage fee). Some years we head off to beautiful Carmel, (about five kilometres South) and dine at the (original) 'Hogs Breath Cafe'; all very Southern Californian; rustic atmosphere and log fires, though the food is not gourmet. Then, after dinner, it's back to the Auction -- still going strong -- punters all a little legless (full Bar available), and lots of fast talking from the Podium. The show finishes after midnight -- a quick nightcap and five hours in the sack, because Sunday is 'Pebble Beach Concours D'Elegance Day'.

Up at six o'clock these days, because the Event is so popular. When I first started going, it was purely hard-core Enthusiasts, but over the years, it's become "Social"; a place to be seen, like Henly, or Badminton; so now it's full of what Australians affectionally call "wankers", if you know what I mean!!
The Event is still fantastic -- however, just be prepared for large crowds -- it's all blue-blazers, straw-hats, Gucci loafers,..... very 'proper'!! [Your lady will love it!] Officially the Event opens at 9:00am, but aim to be there at 7:00am, to beat the crush. The setting is wonderful: on the eighteenth green, overlooking the Pacific Ocean; absolutely one-hundred points; the depth and variety of Cars is probably unique to this Event. You will see more Special-Bodied, 'one-off Vehicles' here than any other place on Earth; believe me, I've looked!! Every year I've been, the weather has been perfect -- bright and clear after morning-fog, with moderate temperatures. US $35 to enter, and expect fifteen thousand through the door during the day. I always skip the afternoon Presentations, and head back to Laguna Seca for the afternoon's Racing, at one o'clock.

You tend to wake up on the Monday morning with an 'Automobile-Hangover'!! Maybe too many roaring Racing-Cars, and famous faces? Heck, who cares!! I go for a 'fix' every year! I really recommend you consider going once in your life. The area is magnificent; your lady will love Carmel; and it's quaint shops; and, I know some superb Bed-and-Breakfasts around Carmel, and Pacific Grove. What are you waiting for? This year it's on August 16th - 18th. See you there.
Next Issue I'll give you a rundown on the Coys International Historic Festival, at Silverstone.
Happy Motoring
[Bob Smith {also known as the TSCC's Travelling-Editor}]

TREASURER's TROVE

Financial Report for the period: 1/1/95 to 31/12/95

INCOME:			
Subscriptions:			1,143
Advertising:			252
Interest:			22
Sundry:	[Raffles, etc]		172
Cams:			198
Other:	[Deposits for '96 Rally]		400
			$2,187
EXPENDITURE:			
Bank Charges:			46
Cams:			624
Postage:	[Newsletters and Magazines]		190
Room Hire	[Club Meetings]		100
Social,	Income: 3253		
	Outgoings: 3594		341
Trophies:			272
Sundries:	Filing Fee: 30		
	Insurance: 272		
	Subscriptions: 25		327
			$1,900
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) YEAR-TO-DATE:			**$ 287**
ASSETS:			
Cash on Hand:			22
Cash at Bank,	as at 31/12/95		1,675
Deposit Maturing,	as at 25/ 4/96		568
Deposit Maturing,	as at 30/ 1//96		590
Deposit Maturing,	as at 5/ 2/96		575
			$3,430

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ADMIN 978

'TOP-GEAR' TEASERS

What 20's Car shares the same Christian-Name as a famous African Explorer?

What well-known German Manufacturer made an English Car under licence in 1930?

What English Car-Manufacturer used a BMW Engine after World War Two, as War-Reparations?

What was the name of the German Car that used the 'Wankel-Rotary'in the 60's-70's,(now out of Business)?

What very well-known English Marque used only two letters as its name, before World War Two?

What Italian Sports Car became part of Fiat in 1969?

1996 POINT SCORES

**** CLUBMEMBER OF THE YEAR ****

**** SPORTING ****

[This segment will be up-dated for each Newsletter]

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SOCIALLY SPEAKING

You will find enclosed with your copy of 'Top-Gear' a circular detailing the Club's first Event: a **'Motorkhana,'** to be held on **Sunday 18th February, 1996** ***[at Australian Butterfly Farm].***

Other dates and Events to mark down in the diaries:
the long-awaited **'Cricket Re-Match'**, between the **'Thoroughbred Teamsters'** and the **'Aston Aces'** on **Sunday 24th March, 1996** *[venue to be confirmed]*

and, the **'Thoroughbred Tennis Day'** on **Sunday 21st April, 1996** ***[Kenthurst Park]***

Birthday Greetings to:

JANUARY	
16	CHRIS JOHNSON
16	TERRY RICHRADSON
FEBRUARY	
4	MIKE RYAN
11	JOHN SUTTOR
14	VAL DIXON
MARCH	
1	ROSALEE JOHNSON
9	MARGARET ROSS
11	PAM GOUGH
21	VAL MacDONALD
25	VAL PETERS

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CHRISTMAS FUNCTION, '95

That time of the year again, when everyone has all those Functions to go to, and in which to over indulge themselves. The Saturday Night of the TSCC's Christmas Function was the first for me, and it was off to the Thoroughbred Sports Car Club's **Christmas "Ho-Down"**, at the Artarmon Inn.

To begin with, I was late; not a usual occurrence for me, but I didn't read my Invitation properly and remember that it started at 7:00pm, and not 7:30pm as I thought.
Most people had arrived by this time, and were very busy catching up with the people that they didn't see very often throughout the year; always a good time for doing so.

The time came for Dinner to be served. Most enjoyable, too.
[I had not eaten all day, so I could do the meal justice!!]
As we sat at the table, the male partners had to wear the hats with a flashing ball at the end; some flashed all night, others died quite early!!
We started with either Avacado Prawns, or a Caesar Salad; then Turkey, or Steak; and, finished off with Christmas Pudding or a Strudel; then Coffee and a chocolate, if one wished.
The wine and the chatter flowed freely, as did the 'fun and games', thanks to our Social Secretary, **Les Johnson.** [Unbelievable: I happened to be the winner of one of these Games, and received a bottle of red wine, (which has now been drunk, and quite nice it was too!!!)]

It was now time for the important part of the evening, when all the Trophies were awarded.
The winners were:

Perpetual Trophies:	
'Clive Sanderson Trophy':	***David Muir***
'Don MacDonald Trophy':	***David Muir***
'Club Display Trophy':	
'Outright':	***Lou Ead***
'Modern': [less than five years old]	***Joan Johnson***
'Sporting Championship':	***Jim Peters***
Motorkhana:	
'Men's Section':	***Chris Johnson***
'Women's Section':	***Val Peters***
Other:	
'Achievement Award' [Mexico Rally]	***Les Johnson***

The 'Official-Part' of the Evening over, it was now 'Fun-Time'; everyone getting up and dancing their little feet around the floor; (yours truly included!!). Our thanks must go to the Disc Jockey.
The warmth of the Evening was slowly making its toll on one and all, as glass after glass of ice-cold water was ordered, and downed very quickly.

Slowly the numbers started to decrease, as couples decided it was time to go, after what I'm sure was a very enjoyable Evening; thank you to one and all, for their hard work to make it so.
[I hope the Dixon's enjoyed their night, as all they had to do was go upstairs to bed, as they were the lucky winners of the night's accommodation.]

[Val MacDonald]

1995 PRIDE-OF-OWNERSHIP DAY

[Sunday, 19th November; Curzon Hall]

Dawn broke on the most important day of the TSCC Calendar:
a day in the year that all Car Club Members look forward to; a day where their **'pride-and-joy'** can be displayed; a day that was overcast with drizzling rain.

Undeterred by the weather, I set out for the thirty-minute run to Curzon Hall. Upon my arrival, I was greeted by David and Barbara (Muir) and Chris and Joan (Johnson).
David and Chris were erecting the Club-Banner in the grounds of what must be one of Sydney's best known Historic Landmarks, especially for dining (as it turned out!!!).

Only a small number of Members entered their cars in the Display:

Lou and Sandra Eid	***Triumph TR6***
Marca Eid (Lou's brother)	***Daimler 2 5L V8***
Lester Gough	***Cortina GT***
Chris and Joan Johnson	***BMW 318i***
Les Johnson	***Mustang GT350***
David and Barbara Muir	***Subaru Impreza WRX***
Adrian Walker	***Mustang***

The *'Outright Winner'* was ***Lou and Sandra Eid***, in their lovely red Triumph;
with ***Joan Johnson*** (sorry Chris!) winning the *'Modern Class'.*

[Les Johnson's Mustang was driven by his daughter's boy-friend, (Eric) as Les had entered the Aston-Martin Owners Club Display, also being held within the grounds of Curzon Hall.]

The Aston-Martin Owners Club Members Cars were:

Les Johnson	***AM V8***
Bill Koppe	***Jaguar XK 150 Drophead***
Ben Powell	***DB 2/4***
Paul Skavass	***DBS***
Lionel Walker	***DB 6***
Phil Westbrook	***DB 2/4 MK111***
Colin Wilson-Brown	***DB 6 MK11 Vantage***
Colin Wilson-Brown	***Alfa GTV 1750***

The *'Outright Winner'* was ***Phil Westbrook*** in a beautiful red (must be the in colour) DB 2/4 MK111.

It made a great sight to see the two Car Clubs together in the grounds of Curzon Hall, and although it was drizzling rain on and off, there was a lot of interest from the patrons of Curzon Hall throughout the day.
At lunch-time, the TSCC and the AMOC joined together and dined on the verandah over looking the Grounds where the Cars were on Display.

Also attending, as Spectators and/or participating in lunch, were:

Roland and Stephanie Clark
John Evans
Pam and Richard Gough; [Pat Elwin, (Pam's Dad)]
Rosalee and Sharon Johnson; [Eric, (Sharon's boyfriend)]
Michael and Vicki Ryan, and family.

A great day was had by both Clubs, despite the weather; so, if the Display Day is held at a similar venue next year, on a sunny day, it should be an Event not to miss.

[Lester Gough]

Minutes of Annual General Meeting,
[held on Wednesday, 8th November, 1995]

The Meeting commenced at 9:05pm, with Ray Ross in the Chair.

Members Present:
Roland and Stephanie Clark, John and Val Dixon, Lou Ead, Lester Gough, Steve Hammond, Chris and Joan Johnson, Les Johnson, Val MacDonald, Dave and Barbara Muir, Max and Carol Pegler, Jim and Val Peters, Margaret Ross, Michael Ryan, Bob Smith, Adrian Walker.

Apologies:
Bill Brown, Penny Creighton, Grant Liddell, Greg Richards.

Election of Officers:

President:	*Michael Ryan;*	[nominated by Chris Johnson; seconded by Bob Smith] Elected Un-opposed.
Vice-President / Social Co-Ordinator:	*Val Peters;*	[declined]
	David Muir;	[nominated by Michael Ryan; seconded by Chris Johnson] Elected Un-opposed.
Secretary:	*Val Dixon;*	[nominated by Val MacDonald; seconded by Barbara Muir] Elected Un-opposed.
Treasurer:	*Barbara Muir;*	[nominated by Val Peters; seconded by Chris Johnson] Elected Un-opposed;
Competition Sec:	*Steve Hammond;*	[nominated by Chris Johnson; seconded by Jim Peters] Elected Un-opposed.
Editor:	*Stephanie Clark;*	[volunteer; no other nominations called]

Meeting closed at 9:15pm.
[Val MacDonald]

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Answers to 'Top-Gear Teasers'

STANLEY [Steamer]
BMW
BRISTOL
N.S.U.
'SS' [Jaguar]
FERRARI

P R O F I L E: ***MICHAEL RYAN:***

[CLUB PRESIDENT,'96]

I was born in February '64, and raised in Lakemba (Canterbury-Bankstown); am the oldest of four children, and have three sisters. I attended High School at St Johns College (Lakemba).
I have two sons, **Joshua** (12years) and **Jayden** (3years), and am married to ***Vicki.*** We live in Minchinbury, which is about half-way between Blacktown and Penrith, and is the original site of the Penfold's Winery, (hence the name).

Career:
I commenced working in 1980, as a Cadet-Trainee at a Duty-Free Sales Company, working in a number of areas, until I discovered Computers! After about eighteen months on the Job (and about twelve months into Computers) I commenced the 'Data-Processing Certificate', at Sydney Technical College, which I completed in the period 1982-1984.
This led me to pursue other Career-Opportunities, and I joined Clyde Industries in late 1982, as a Computer-Operator. Numerous opportunities presented themselves at Clyde, and I developed a wide range of Experience.
I left there at the end of 1985, to join Prospect Electricity. An eight-and-a-half year stint at Prospect saw my Career progress through about four different roles. When I left, I had about eighteen people reporting to me.
In 1994 I joined the NRMA, in a Senior-Management Role, in Information Services, to lead some key Projects, introducing PCs and Office Automation to the Organisation. During this time I've continued studying, and have just recently completed a 'Master of Commerce', from the University of Western Sydney.

Interests:
My interests include listening to, and playing Music (Guitar), Water-Skiing and Reading; not to mention Cars!!! On the Car-Front, I have a Holden Acclaim for general use, and a Leyland P76 Targa Florio for Competition Purposes.

The Car, and Motorsport:
I've been progressively enhancing the P76 since I got it in 1990; a story in itself.!!
My first recollections of being interested in Cars was watching the Racing at Bathurst, from an early age and a general fascination with Motor-Cars and Bikes. I didn't actually do anything significant in this area until 1989, when I had the opportunity to drive a Nascar, at the Thunderdome, for 23 laps (a phenomenal experience) and when I returned to Sydney I got the trusty VK 6 Cylinder Commodore out, and attended one of Peter Finlay's Driving-Courses at Oran Park. I met Les Johnson and Lester Gough at a Supersprint at Amaroo Park in 1991 (I think) and promptly became a Member of the TSCC.

In a nutshell, there you have it:
[Mike Ryan]

Adrian Walker Dip.Tech.(N.S.W.I.T). Degree in Business F.A.I.M.

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Disclaimer:
Any opinions published in this Newsletter should not be regarded as being the opinion of the Club or Committee, which also cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of any information in the Newsletter, which is published in good faith as supplied to the Editor.

Articles are invited, and should be sent (or faxed) to the Editor for Publication, showing the Name and Address of the Writer.

------CLUB REGALIA------

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