





THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE THOROUGHBRED SPORTS CAR CLUB INC





ABOUT OUR CLUB



Calender

The <u>Official Calender</u> is published on our web site. Print a copy to keep in your historic log booked vehicle.

Club Meetings

<u>Club meetings</u> are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month except December and January at Carlingford Bowling Club.

Club Objectives

- To foster a better acquaintance and social spirit between the various owners of Thoroughbred Sports Cars in Australia
- To help and advance Thoroughbred Sports Cars in Australia
- To establish and maintain, by example, a high standard of Conduct and a Respect of the Laws of the Road

Club Shoppe

Visit the <u>Club Shoppe</u> and make sure you are dressed properly for the next event.

Correspondence

All correspondence to The Secretary, TSCC P.O. Box 1318, Mona Vale, NSW 1660

Email: secretary@thoroughbredsportscarclub.asn.au

Incorporation

TSCC is incorporated as an association; Registered No. Y15083-35

Affiliation

TSCC is affiliated with CAMS Limited

Committee

The contact details of the <u>Committee</u> are published on the web site.

Membership Forms

Membership Forms can be downloaded from our web site.

All new members must be proposed and seconded by financial members

Website

www.thoroughbredsportscarclub.asn.au

Contributions to the Webmaster:

webmaster@thoroughbredsportscarclub.asn.au

Top Gear

Top Gear Magazine was <u>first published</u> on 1st September 1981 by the Club. There is no connection or affiliation with the British based Top Gear magazine first published by Immediate Media Company on or around October 1993. Current and previous editions may be downloaded here.

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Aston Martin Editor:

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Administration

Annual Awards

CAMS

Club History

Club Plates

Membership Forms

Pointscore

Sporting

Disclaimer:

Any opinions published in the Newsletter should not be regarded as being the opinion of the Club, of the Committee, or of the Editor. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of any information in the Newsletter, which has been published in good faith as supplied to the editor.

Articles are invited and should be mailed to the Editor for publication showing the name and address of the author

Top Gear has been continuously published since September 1981.



TOP GEAR MARCH 2014

CUL DE SAC

JOHN SLATER

Welcome to the March edition of TG.

It now feels like 2014 has properly begun with the Bathurst 12 Hour in January, the Phillip Island round of the World Superbike Championship in February and most recently the Clipsal 500 in Adelaide and the first F1 round.

I was pondering the issue of complexity and red tape in our daily lives as I watched the fiasco that is the new V8 Supercars Safety Car restart rule in operation at the Clipsal. Lets see, line astern, no weaving, 60 kph irrespective of what the car in front does until the lead car comes to the Acceleration Zone and....utter chaos.

So now, in addition to being able to be able to drive seriously fast, a driver needs to be able to drive seriously slowly to make sure he doesn't breach the rules. As for the infringement by Red Bull when the Controller touched Whincup's car......I imagine these rules are what would happen if a Senate Sub Committee were briefed to write a set of rules for a motor race. As for F1sorry, where was I?

When enthusiasts get together, much as though we all pretend the value of our cars is secondary, we either think or talk about values a great deal. Increasingly, the mainstream "classic" car magazines are devoting more space to covering this.

We have seen some astonishing prices being paid for cars recently which has caused me to ponder whether this is a bubble or a structural shift. Here are a few of my thoughts.

Cars are no longer as all consuming to youth as they once were because:

- They no longer represent the sole means of mobility, escape and social interaction – the internet now provides this and
- They are no longer needed for, er, getting to know one another better.

- Roads are too crowded and too heavily policed for motoring to be much fun
- Modern cars do everything better and last longer than old cars

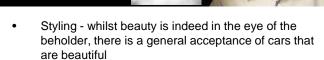
So as the need has changed, so has fashion. Modern cars are so competent, well equipped and reliable that to be worthy of special attention old cars now have to transition from transport and need to a mix of transport and art and mostly the latter.

My thesis is that the cars that have managed this are no longer being valued as transport, they are being valued as art or artefacts. Cars that have made this transition need to have one or more of the following characteristics, the more boxes they tick the more desirable.

As every manufactured good made is now commoditised, exclusivity is increasingly valued. This transcends age and utility. Why would anyone buy an expensive watch when we all have a phone? Because a watch is now purely jewellery and has been for some time – more on this later.

To work out if your car, or one you are considering purchasing, may have some long term investment value that will outlast changing demographics, score each category out of 10 and then add up the result. These are in no particular order.

- Recognition and Pedigree famous marque, racing heritage helps most
- Performance in its contemporary environment, the better this is the more value is attached
- Rarity fewer cars chased by more buyers
- Cost Expensive when new, normally means expensive now



- Innovation in some significant area
- Special history

You can place any car in this matrix and guess it's desirability. Old Ferraris meet pretty much all of these bar innovation, as does a D Type Jaguar. My XK120 misses on rarity but ticks most of the others maybe a 7-7.5, alloy cars are much rarer and so they score an 8.

My Fiat 2300S was expensive and rare but has the wrong badge, no racing pedigree and is not a styling tour de force, so maybe a 5.5. A Porsche Speedster fits all bar innovation but scores well enough, particularly rarity and recognition, in all of the others to be highly sought after, so an 8. And so on.

This is not intended to be definitive, just a little fun.

Elsewhere in this issue are reports on the recent Wednesday Run organised by Jeremy and Julie Braithwaite and a report on the Classic Rally Club 20th Anniversary. I was sorry to miss this event having participated in my first, what was then, Repco Mountain Rally in 1993 in my Alfa Giulia 1300TI, which I still have.

The Clubs first official Coffee and Cars were held in appalling weather on 16th February and good weather on 16th March in conjunction with the Porsche Club at Reflections Cafe at Rookwood. In addition to the regulars, Jeremy and Julie, Gary and Wendy Maher, and Jim Catts attended the first one and Tammy Demopoulos bought Theo along to both.

Tammy is seeking a cure for HSV and Invicta watch collecting and thinks a Labrador puppy may assist.

The shed tour was fantastic, thanks Terry.





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ALL THE REGULAR STUFF:

Please click on the pic

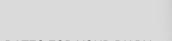
ABOUT OUR CLUB



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



CUL DE SAC



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



PARTING SHOT



COMING EVENTS

APRIL WEDNESDAY RUN

SYDNEY RETRO SPEEDFEST

REAL HOTELS, UNREAL ROADS

MAY WEDNESDAY RUN

LADIES LUNCH

RESTAURANT NIGHT

FORSTER WEEKEND

EVENT REPORTS

WOLLONDILLY WANDER

CLASSIC RALLY CLUB 20TH

VALENTINE BOWLING CLUB

SHED TOUR

ARTICLES

THE CLUB'S HEART & SOUL

CLASSIC CARS & SEIKO COLLECTABLES

IN THE SHED

This month In The Shed looks at:

KONRAD DOVER'S VINCENT BLACK SHADOW



JIM CATT'S BARN FIND 911 SOFT WINDOW



Deadline for Contributions

Please submit all contributions by the 20th of the month of publication.

Thus contributions for the next Top Gear are due by 20th May



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BARRY FARR



Here we are in March already, a month I personally look forward to each year as motor racing returns to our screens. Seven's coverage of the Clipsal 500 gets better each year & a quarter of a million spectators can't be wrong, in effect voting it one of the best sporting events in Australia, now with five manufacturers represented, each putting up a good showing over the weekend. Quite an eye opener though for new boy Swede, Robert Dalgren & what a performance by the 20 year old Scott McLoughlan, who's lifted Volvo to a higher plane altogether. Then he proved it wasn't a one-off, winning the Melbourne GP support race program. He certainly knows how to give it some jandal!

Daniel Ricciardo couldn't have had a better start with Red Bull Racing. He was in superb form all weekend through practice, qualifying & the race itself. Vettel should be worried. Let's hope Red Bull overturns Daniel's disqualification on appeal & that he does not get hobbled as the season progresses.

Change inevitably brings change - I must say John Slater's format of Top Gear has brought significant praise from members. It's hard to imagine building on the innovative & comprehensive style Jeremy Braithwaite produced but working together they have achieved an excellent result. Speaking of change, I was saddened to lose Darryl Pike as Secretary whose recent health issues have forced him to pull back. At the same time, I am grateful to Vicki Bell for temporarily undertaking the role at the March meeting & very pleased that Maree Dawes has agreed to take up the role.

From the February meeting Minutes & feedback, I am pleased to see the first meeting of the year was well attended as was the first Wednesday run of the year out Camden way. Thanks go to Jeremy for chairing the meeting in my absence & to the speakers Malcolm Stephen & Gary Maher & to both Jeremy & Julie for organising the run. The March general meeting was also well attended & it was fascinating to listen to Bob Riley relating his experiences in the London to Sydney rallys way back in the 60s & 70s.

The recent trip Dott & I undertook to visit family in Hong Kong also encompassed our first visits to Beijing & Macau. The size of Beijing takes a while to get your head around, 20 million people, 5 million vehicles, the Great Wall that stretches 8000kms, the Palaces, Temples & Squares that cover many square kilometres & of course the huge upmarket shopping malls & 5-star hotels reflective of the westernisation in recent decades. As a younger man, I never envisaged being permitted to visit there but having now been I would recommend going just for the opportunity to walk the Great Wall of China. You may not want to do it in -13° temperature like us, nevertheless we were lucky as the season's first snowfall happened just a few days prior which made it even more breathtaking.

The Portuguese/Chinese island of Macau, the gambling den of the Chinese with higher turnover than Las Vegas is also worthwhile visiting especially to walk the old town precinct of churches, temples & cathedral & to consume a few of the delicious Portuguese tarts.

Even better, visit during the GP weekend on the sensational Guia Street track that commences right in front of the ferry terminal.

Now back to onshore activities. A small group of members who prefer to rise at dawn on Sundays, joined some Porsche Club members over breakfast at "Reflections" Rookwood on the 3rd Sunday of both February & March. If you like an early start, just let John Slater know that you wish to join in.

At the time of writing this I'm really looking forward to the rest of this week as Dott & I will join the run to Lake Macquarie tomorrow & then there's the Shed Tour on Saturday. Lastly, on behalf of all members, our best wishes are with both Adrian & M-L who have had to endure extensive hospital stays but will hopefully be back on the road again soon.



Dott and Barry had no trouble with crowds



TOP GEAR MARCH 2014

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26th April

25th May

5th & 6th July

31st May & 1st June



The official diary of the club is published on our web site on two pages:

- Official Calendar
- · Other Events Calendar

There is a Print option on this page. Members with historic registration are reminded to print the calendar and keep a copy in their glove box.

We have also introduced a new Cover Sheet this year which you can also print.

Event flyers are emailed to the membership as soon as they become available



29th & 30th March	Auto Italia Weekend in Canberra
12 th April	Sydney London Marathon start organised by Les & Roselee Johnson

4 th May	Sydney RetroFest. Historic F1 at Eastern Creek organised by Colin Allerdice

CRC Autumn Challenge

Ladies Lunch organised by Vicki Bell.

Forster Fun Day organised by Jim Peters

Barry Ferguson Classic Rally

17 th & 18 th May	Real Hotels, Unreal Roads weekend
	away organised by Stephen & Jill Knox

 may	Ladico Lanon organicoa by viola

21st June	Restaurant Night

17 th August	Shannon's Display Day organised by
	Adrian Walker

31st August	All British Day at the Kings School
	organised by Terry Daly

19th October Sydney Gold Cup. Picnic at the Polo

31st Oct to 9th Nov THE BIG TRIP

16th Nov POO Day organised by Terry Daly

6th Dec Xmas Presentation Dinner

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held at Carlingford Bowling Club on the second Wednesday of each month, excluding January and December.

Most people get there from 6pm to enjoy dinner and a chat. The meetings start at 7.30pm. Dates for the next few months are:

- 9th April
- 14th May
- 11th June

WEDNESDAY RUNS

Wednesday Runs are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Dates for the next few months are:

- 16th April organised by Les & Roselee Johnson
- 21st May organised by Jelly Van Dyk
- 18th & 19th June organised by Jack & Jenny Jones

.COFFEE 'N CARS

The next breakfast runs are:

- 18th May
- 15th June
- 20th July

CAN YOU ORGANISE AN EVENT?

If you would like to organise a Wednesday Run get in early for 2015 as all the 2014 events are taken. If you have another event you would like to organise please call the Social Director Jeremy Braithwaite on 0416 222 112.



EVENT FLYERS























EVENT REPORT BY PHIL LONGFIELD:

THE WOLLONDILLY WANDER

The first Wednesday run of the year saw some 31 TSCC members (and a couple of invited hangers-on) assemble at Penrith Maccas for their Wollondilly Wander.

Once under the M4 the Mulgoa Road morning traffic was cleared we were able to give the cars their head on the run through Wallacia, Silverdale and on to The Oaks. Despite the overcast skies, the 90kph speed limit gave ample opportunity to admire some impressive rural properties on the way to the morning tea stop at the Wollondilly Heritage Centre and Museum in The Oaks.

Following the obligatory jam and cream scones (yum) with our coffee we were ushered into the Museum's presentation room where the Centre's Trish Hill gave us an informative talk on the history of the Museum and surrounding district. The focus of the presentation and a DVD was the Burragorang Valley prior to being flooded in the late 1950s by the construction of the Warragamba Dam. This was particularly interesting for one member who had a 41 year career with the Water Board/Sydney Water! The presentation gave us a great appreciation on what a wonderful piece of rural landscape - and a great drive - the valley must have been. It also leads us to ponder on the chances of being able to construct such a dam these days!!

Under threatening skies we set off east to our lunch venue at Camden's Trattoria La Vigna. The rain started just short of Camden town centre but was still light enough in the restaurant's car park to raise the convertible roofs and repair an errant windscreen wiper on a particular old Italian super-car - Oh the joys of old cars!

From the comfort of the restaurant we observed some poor deluded soul (sorry Gary) - a gentleman with impeccable taste leaving a note on the Volvo's windscreen asking if the owner was interested in selling!!

Following a fine lunch with plenty of chat we left in the increasingly heavy rain for the home run. Many thanks to Julie for organizing the first "gentle" Wednesday run of the year, and I'm sure on behalf of the rural community I can thank the TSCC for organising an event which these days is guaranteed to bring rain!



EVENT REPORT BY PHIL LONGFIELD:

THE WOLLONDILLY WANDER



EVENT REPORT BY JEREMY BRAITHWAITE:

CLASSIC RALLY CLUB 20th at Mudgee

What a hectic couple of weeks!

Julie had organised the Wollondilly Wander and we left early the next morning in the GTR and joining the Van Dyk's in their 911 for the recce for the Big Trip. Back the following Wednesday after 2,205km and some absolutely fantastic roads for the get together we have once a month in the Hawkesbury – one free night at home – and then off to Mudgee for the Classic Rally Club 20th Anniversary weekend.

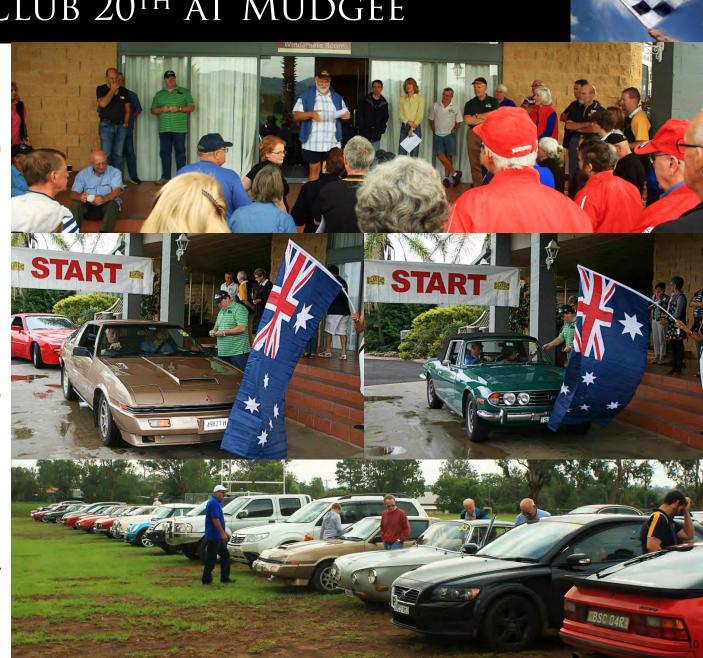
The format of the weekend was an optional run up the Putty Road to Mudgee on the Friday, registration and scrutineering, then drinks followed by a buffet dinner at the Parklands Conference Centre which was the venue for the weekend.

The Rally organised by Gary and Wendy Maher and their Bathurst based mate Jeff West took place during the day on the Saturday. Those not on the rally did a wineries tour and amazingly were still standing by the end of the day.

There was a Gala Dinner on the Saturday night with a black and white chequered flag theme.

We only realised that we hadn't prepared for the dress code at our dinner on the Wednesday night; a quick call to Julie at Hawkesbury Embroidery in North Richmond saved the day and we picked up our matching white polo shirts neatly embroidered with crossed flags on Friday morning. My Julie found some chequered flag material and retrieved her sewing machine which gets used about once a decade on average! A lot of curses later a belt and a very smart cravat emerged. Phew..

It absolutely bucketed down all the way to Mudgee. We lunched at the Monkey Creek Cafe between Bell and Lithgow. There should have been a great view across the Grose, but it was all in cloud and mist. Food was great, service was a bit slow, but the waiter redeemed himself by being knocked out by the Starion which was born before he was.



EVENT REPORT BY JEREMY BRAITHWAITE:

CLASSIC RALLY CLUB 20th at Mudgee

Drinks on the Friday were great and we caught up with a lot of people we hadn't seen in the two years since we last did a rally.

Laurie and Fran Bromley were there in their Stag and were great company as usual. They did put the roof up for the weekend!

Saturday dawned cloudy but the rain had mostly disappeared and we ran the event on pretty dry roads. Our organisers were a little concerned by the state of some of the dirt roads and had stayed up late the night before hatching contingency plans which were unveiled to us at the briefing.

They didn't need them and all the roads were passable if a lot rougher than they had been before all the rain. Lunch was at the Dunnedoo school and we all parked on the playing fields in a long line before heading back to Mudgee.

Julie's navigation was right up to scratch and we cleaned the day with the exception of the rally radar which was put down as a driver's error... I'm normally reasonably good at spotting people standing on the side of the road pointing radar guns at us, but was completely caught out by somebody prepared to use one from inside his car. His brain must have been completely frazzled by the end of the day – but he did catch out most of the field.

We'd entered in Tour and had a straightforward run which saw us back in the motel room in time to watch the first V8 race in Adelaide and put our feet up before the dinner.

The CRC did a great job. The room looked superb. Each table had black and white balloons, and each table setting had an embroidered CRC 20th badge and a black band around the napkin.

The big screen displayed a slideshow with 6,000 images of all the cars and people who had made the CRC the success story it is over the last 20 years. Quite a few pics of Chris and Deb Hallam in their XK120 – which they missed as they are still in Canada.



EVENT REPORT BY JEREMY BRAITHWAITE:

CLASSIC RALLY CLUB 20th at Mudgee

There were a number of cars with a long history in the club actually in the ballroom with us; the V8 Tiger was started a couple of times to add to the atmosphere.

There was an excellent account of the last 20 years of the CRC before founding President and member #1, Geoff Bott was asked to come forward. He was made to sit on a chair while a number of speakers extolled his virtues and sang his praises.

We probably first met Geoff in the JDCA, and he was a regular in the HSRCA in his rare and distinctive JandS Hunter. More recently he ran a Jaguar XJS in Targa events, which late last year was swapped for a Nissan R32 GTR. He was actually competing at Mt Baw Baw in the car while we were in Metung on our recce.

Ross Warner, who was such an excellent speaker at our February meeting, had composed a song called Rally Man which he then sung to the tune of Billy Joel's <u>Piano Man</u>. Quite amazing performance and if someone recorded it I'm sure it would go viral on social media.

A leisurely start on Sunday morning, breakfast in town and the road home was dry to Lithgow. We stopped at Pie in the Sky at Bilpin and collapsed in front of the TV to watch the rest of the Clipsal V8's which James Courtney won in a very close tussle with Craig Lowndes after Whincup had been nobbled with an unwarranted drive through and Jason Bright destroyed the second car in two outings – the first being the R8 at the Bathurst 12 hour. What a weekend!

The next rally on our Calendar is the Autumn Challenge on 27th April which will start and finish at Doyalson on the Central Coast.

Click on the links for the <u>flyer</u>, <u>supplementary regulations</u>, and the <u>entry form</u>.

We'll see you there!

Jeremy



EVENT REPORT BY VIC CLARKE:

VALENTINE BOWLING CLUB

Wednesday Run to Valentine, Lake Macquarie, 19 March 2014 Organised by Kevin & Robyn Leggott

The day started with glorious sunshine from the usual meeting point at McDonalds Mount Colah.

We drove up from the city and after getting through the usual traffic at Chatswood were second to arrive and got our coffee early ahead of the queue.

The car park soon filled up with John Bailey's Ferrari adding a splash of colour in Lamborghini orange, on its first run out with the club.

We all setoff just after 10.00am with the suggestion to take the Pacific Highway at Berowra to join the freeway at the Hawkesbury River. Whilst we arrived early we were last to depart after applying the sunscreen for what was definitely a hood down day.

Taking the Pacific Highway appealed and we decided to continue all the way to join the freeway at Kariong, having not driven this road for some time. Whilst the change from 80 kph down to 60 kph speed limit has taken some of the fun out of this stretch of road, we enjoyed the 26 km run with not a single car in front of us for the whole distance!!

We arrived at the Valentine Bowling Club at a beautiful location overlooking Lake Macquarie just a little after 12.00pm, the rest of the attendees having already settled into full conversation, including those who had joined us at Valentine coming from the surrounding area.

The club was busy with a Bowls Competition about to start but the service and meals were excellent – a great choice of location. The light lunch Chicken Caesar Salad looked like a substantial meal and the Schnitzel was something else entirely.

As usual great company and conversion and a chance to meet some more of the club members.

On leaving we had a look at Kevin and Robyn's new Porsche Cayman, I have always liked mid-engine cars. Jane's comment was that she approved of the luggage space – the larger hold in the front for her luggage and anything else she buys whilst away on a trip.

Thanks to Kevin & Robyn for organising a great day out. Vic Clarke



John Bailey has been trying to buy this car for a decade. The only Ferrari 575M in Lamborghini chrome orange, John imported matching hides from Italy and also changed wheels and callipers. Beautiful!

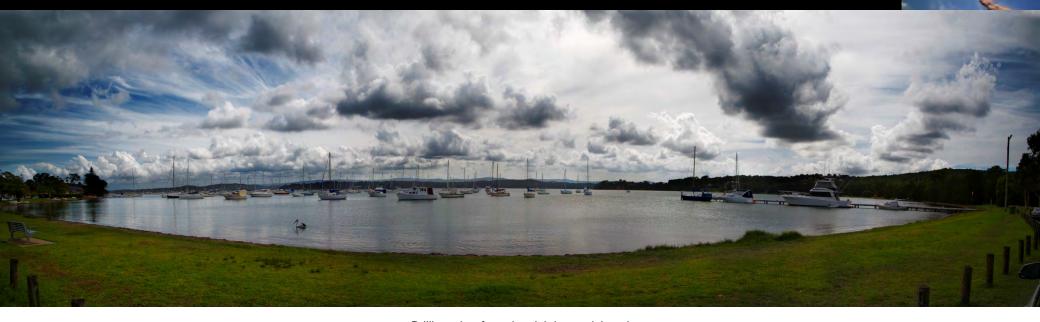


Attendees in no particular order: Vern & Wendy Kelly Julie and Jeremy Braithwaite Bruce Griffiths & Barbara Midgley Colin Watts & Ian Hutchinson Lisbeth Allen and Ian Norman Robyn & Peter Wards Stephanie Clark & friend Laurie & Fran Bromley Rob & Kay Finney Kumiko Yamamoto Robyn & Terry Daly Roslyn, Roselee & Les Johnson John & Val Dixon Barry Farr & Dott Forester Vic & Jane Clarke Keith & Carol Reynolds John & Sue Burton Kevin & Robyn Leggott John Bailey Grant Liddell & Penny Creighton



EVENT REPORT BY VIC CLARKE:

VALENTINE BOWLING CLUB



Brilliant view from the club house (above)
Old Pacific Highway (I) The Bromley Stag (c) The Finney NSX (r)











15

A 7am start at Rosie's café at Galston didn't deter any of 86 starters for the bi-annual Shed tour. Fog and mist hung in the air and the first drive to Radnor Rd was driven in heavy fog. However, before proceedings started Terry Daly presented everyone with a limited edition Ferrari 250 GTO TSCC bottle opener especially designed and produced for the day. Terry also introduced the five Shed hosts for the day and handed out instructions on how to get everywhere. In the meantime, everyone enjoyed a bacon and egg roll and some fabulous coffee. If you are ever in the area Rosie's is a great place to stop for breakfast or lunch and Dino, the owner, makes a mean cup of coffee.

The first Shed belonged to Mike and contained some 1920s Fiats, four lovely Jaguars including a extremely well restored Mark 4 and a Series 2 E-type. It also contained a few other English cars and a restored truck.

By now the numbers had swollen to 93 as the Braithwaites and a few others joined the cavalcade. However, there was as much attention being paid to the cars on Mike's lawn as to the cars in his shed. The TSCC convoy included a 1923 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, a 2014 Rolls Royce Wraith, a few Aston Martins, a Ferrari or three, an NSX, John Moody's National Concours winning Jaguar E-type as well as Mike Branson's S1 E-type, a couple of Jaguar Mark 2s, Lionel's XK140, a de Tomaso, about 5 Porsches, a Nissan GTR, a 1948 Caddy, a Lotus Elise and a bloody Volvo p1800, etc etc!

The cavalcade then travelled along 11km of beautiful country roads to the next shed, the last 2 km was on loose tarmac or gravel as the sign read. The shed (or sheds) contained nearly 50 cars in all states of repair, the highlights being a BSA car, a Singer Le Mans, a Jensen CV8, two Daimler SP250s (one awaiting a major restoration), many other Daimlers, some Lanchesters etc etc. And I should not forget the 20 odd collector bikes!

The sheds are housed on an allotment that had a magnificent view of Calabash Bay.

The property is self sufficient and generates it's own electricity through a combination of windmills, solar panels and batteries. A big thanks to Warren and Christine for hosting the TSCC.

The Congo line of cars then travelled along 20km of rural country roads to the Glenhaven where the host was TSCC member Ben De Boer. Ben designed and built this house himself with a garage large enough to contain eight cars. Ben gave a little talk about each Mercedes and the A model Ford that was on the hoist. My choice was the white 1959 300. A very gracious car for it's era. Thanks Ben.

The next shed was only 6km away and that was another TSCC member, John Bailey. However, to get to John's place you had to travel approx 3km along Derriwong Rd. It's speed limited to 50 kph and is policed heavily by the local Highway patrol. Why, I don't know as the road contains very few houses and has orchards on both sides. Seems like a good revenue raising area to me!

On arrival at John's place I received a phone call from John. He was at a tyre repair place as his beautiful Shelby Mustang had a puncture and the new Mustang doesn't have a spare or a repair kit. However, it turned out to be the perfect opportunity for Jeremy to get a group photo of the shedisti!

John then gave a talk on his passion for Mustang's and invited everyone to lift the hood's or sit in any of the cars. Everyone then proceeded to John's second shed for a look at his collection of Ferrari's. A Lamborghini Orange 575M, a bright yellow 458 Italia and an unusual blue F430 Scuderia. John has a taste for bright and different colours on all his cars. Thanks John for opening your sheds to the TSCC Members.

The final shed on the tour was the writers. It was approx 7km from John's and contained a few additions for the day. Paul, the owner of many unique muscle cars offered to bring around four for the day..

The first car was the Allan Moffatt GTHO Phase 4 Falcon, the second was a Phase 3 GTHO with just 43,000 km on the clock, the third was a 1969 Shelby GT500 which was the subject of a 100% restoration over a 10 year period, and the final car was a late model Shelby GT500 Super Snake. The Phase 4 has never been restored, has full history and has travelled only has 4,500 km since new. It was never reaced due to the Supercar scare of the seventies.

The shed itself contained two E-Types - the most beautiful car ever produced- (in the writers humble opinion! – Ed), three Aston Martins, a couple of Mustangs, A GT40R, and several Lotuses. Roger Morgan was on hand to talk about the famous Lotus Elite that was raced so successfully by Leo Geoghegan in the early sixties.

Lunch was a BBQ and drinks with the Slater brothers doing the cooking and the Demopoulos' ably assisting. Forty kilos of steak was to be cooked but only Peter Van Dyke managed to eat the allocated half kilo per person. As I write this I'm still having steak for Lunch and dinner! Overall, the weather was perfect (thanks Vern), the five sheds and the hundred cars were all fabulous and by all accounts everyone had a great SHED TOUR.





TOP GEAR MARCH 2014

EVENT REPORT BY TERRY DALY:









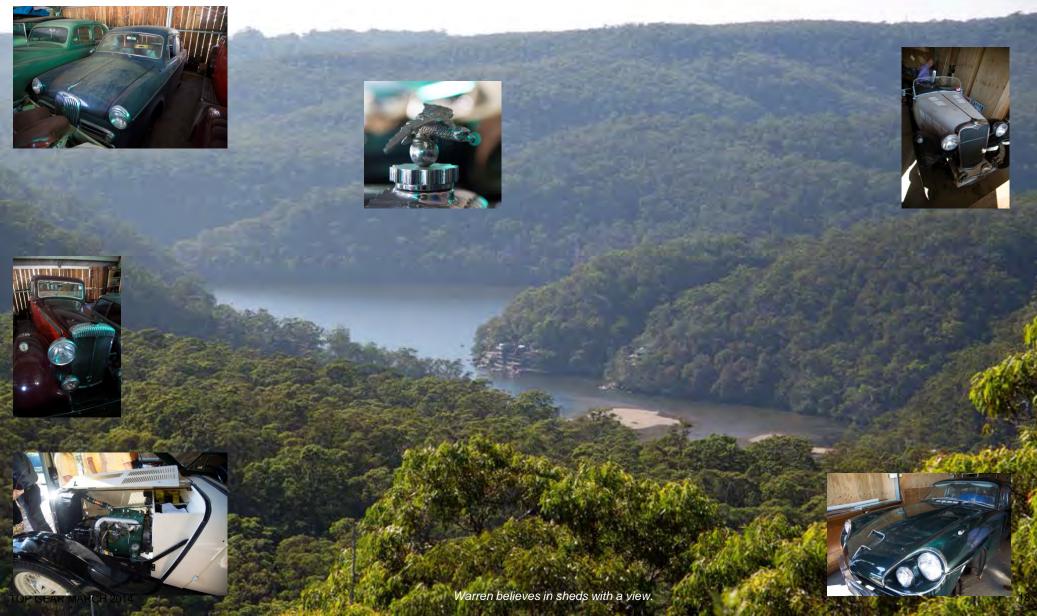




Mike's was the first shed
A really interesting range of machinery including
this early Fiat and a pair of Jaguar's











Ben de Boer's magnificent collection of Mercedes Benz





























John Bailey's Mustang collection

Wonderful attention to detail











Back to Terry & Robyn Daly's for a great BBQ lunch, some refreshments and more surprises

What a day!





THE CLUB'S HEART AND SOUL

BARRY FARR

What does the heart and soul of the Thoroughbred Sports Car Club look like?

Having met the majority of our 100 members and shared many social occasions with members and their partners, I can honestly say the soul of the club is the membership base. The make of vehicle or even the number of vehicles a member owns does not influence other members' interactions with fellow members and that's the way it should be. It is a fun club that revolves around the social interaction of members who have a common interest in taking great pride in their vehicles and just love to get on the open road and use them.

As to the heart of the club, obviously the vehicles come into play, but do you know which marques excite members the most? You will no doubt, have your own perceptions and personal likes and dislikes. Most of you are aware that the TSCC was formed more than 30 years ago by some Aston Martin owners who wanted to go in a different direction from the Aston Martin Owners Club at that time. These days of course, the relationship between the two clubs is strong as evidenced by joint club runs and events in recent years, very much fostered by ex-President Terry Daly.

So how many Astons do we have in the club? In fact, what's the most popular marque in the club? How many marques are represented in our club?

There are 65 marques represented across our club membership whose ownership exceeds 300 vehicles

Jaguar has the highest representation with 48 cars

Next highest representation is the Ford/Shelby Mustang with 22 cars

Third highest ranking goes to MG with 20 cars

The balance of the 'top 10' are Mercedes-Benz 18, Porsche 17, Triumph 15, BMW 12, Honda 11, Ferrari 9 and Aston Martin with 8, just making it into the top 10

The next 10 are Mazda 8, Lotus 7, Nissan and Volvo with 6 each, Alfa Romeo 5 and on 4 are Audi, HSV, Mitsubishi, Morris Mini and Subaru

You probably, like me, are surprised with some of the stats and also like me, say to yourself 'yes, I wish I had a as well'. My conclusion to all this? We are a group of motoring enthusiasts who are lucky to belong to such a club as the TSCC where not only can we enjoy the delights of our selected vehicles but regularly get close to and admire a wide variety of fellow members' vehicles whilst at the same time enjoy each others company. Perhaps we have the best mobile motor museum in the world!





TOP GEAR MARCH 2014

CLASSIC CARS & SEIKO COLLECTABLES A GREAT COMBINATION BY MIFF JAMES



I normally introduce myself at my regular Collectors Anonymous meetings by saying "My name is Miff James and I am a collector". My interest in watches started in my late teens when my father bought me an Omega Seamaster, a watch I still wear today, and so began a life time passion for horology – the science of measuring time.

Classic cars, in fact the motoring industry generally, and watches have been traditional partners for over 100 years and this subject alone would fill the largest of coffee table books. Great watches and their brand names have been created to celebrate motoring events from Formula 1 to the great rallies and to honour specific marques across all the great luxury and supercar brands. Like the great car events and marques they celebrate, these watches have been created in their honour by the great Swiss makers – Chopard, Heuer, Tag, Breitling to name a few – and rarely come cheaply.

In 1970, on a family holiday in Fiji, I bought a Seiko divers watch. I would learn later that this model watch, the 6105 – 8000, would become collectable and today is worth today 6 or 7 times what I had originally paid for it. The watch made a statement. It was big, it was bold, suggested I was a waterman, I wore it surfing right through the 1970's and it is responsible for triggering my interest in the Seiko brand.

Seiko is one of the largest watch companies in the world with a history dating back to 1881. Amongst the general population, a Seiko watch is usually perceived to be an inexpensive, albeit, reliable brand. Those in the know however would name the Grand Seiko and Springdrive as two examples of the excellence and innovation coming out of this Japanese marque. Seiko was also the first watchmaker to launch quartz technology but my interest has always been in their automatic chronographs, in particular, their classic vintage chronographs first launched between 1969 and 1971.

For those who collect Seiko watches, the chronographs from this period have developed something of a cult following. In 1969, Seiko's modern approach to production challenged the tradition bound Swiss. In this vear. Heuer and Zenith developed automatic chronographs and both claim to be first to market – a feat long debated for 40 years. Alongside these illustrious and famously storied movements, housed in some of the most desirable vintage watches around comes Seiko who had developed and launched their 6139 movement automatic chronograph in their 1969 sales catalogue. The Seiko 6139 movement and its successor, the 6138 movement, were no less significant than their Swiss rivals and infinitely more obtainable. Over 15 years, I have collected almost 20 watches from this era, and with mint versions selling on average from between \$300 and \$800, they are affordable, easy to service and can be worn daily, unlike some of their more delicate Swiss cousins.

The 6139 is Seiko's first automatic chronograph movement. Over a 10 year production run it came in a range of dial colours and case styles. However in the ranks of 6139 devotees one model is more famous than the rest: the 6139-6002 "Pogue".



The Pogue is named after Col. William Pogue, an astronaut and former Thunderbird pilot who was a member of the 1973 Skylab 4 mission. On this mission he wore the distinctive yellow dialled 6139 along with his NASA issued hand wound Omega Speedmaster, so his Seiko became the first automatic chronograph in space. He used his 6139 to time engine burns and scientists were interested to see if this automatic watch would selfwind in zero gravity.

The Pogue 6139 received so much notoriety that in 2008 when Col. Pogue pulled his Seiko 6139-6002 out of the safe and sent it to auction, it sold for \$6000. Cheap for a bona fide space watch but an excellent return on his \$100 retail purchase price.

This first series of 6139 watches were done with flair. They sported a famous blue/red bezel popularised by the Rolex GMT Master, had a clever inner bezel for time measurement and a single sub-dial at the 6 o'clock position which measured 30 minute intervals. They also displayed the day and date. They were also larger in diameter and thicker in case construction than most other watches of this era and this appealed to many people looking to make a statement.





TOP GEAR MARCH 2014

CLASSIC CARS & SEIKO COLLECTABLES A GREAT COMBINATION BY MIFF JAMES





The successor to the 6139 was the 6138, launched in 1970. It became the most versatile and popular of the Seiko watches of the time. This new model had 2 subdials – the 30 minute register plus an added 12 hour register - and very quickly developed a strong cult following. Various case and dial variants earned nicknames amongst collectors.

The "Panda" dial 6138 below is a highly sought after model, as is the "Bullhead" above. The Bullhead 6138 is considered one of the coolest of these Seiko chronographs with its crown and chrono pushers at the top of the case which bears a vague resemblance to the horns of a bull.



6138 – "Panda"



The other great Seiko watch from this period is the 17 and 27 jewel automatic Bell-Matic chronograph alarm.



The Bell-Matic first launched in 1966, some 60 years after the world's first alarm watch was introduced onto the market. The second generation of Bell-Matics launched in the early 70's was a 17 jewel automatic chronograph and then in the mid 70's was upgraded to a 27 jewel watch and this later model is highly sought after by collectors.



27 Jewel Bell-Matic

These elegant and classically styled watches had a chunky case that appealed to many watch wearers. Along with my collection of Seikos I have other watch brands but there is something appealing about the style and affordability of the Seiko automatic chronographs from this era.

It is not that they are particularly rare but like most collectables, it takes time to find mint original examples. They are easily serviced by your local watch repairer, parts are readily available, they represent great value for money and not everyone knows about them and with collectables, it is sometimes nice to fly under the radar.

IN THE SHED

COMPILED BY JOHN SLATER

My Vincent Black Shadow

My late brother bought the bike in pieces as a "basket case" in 1975. Many parts were missing, and it had no front end.

Over the subsequent years he sourced most of the missing parts, and started restoring them.

When he died in 1983, I inherited the bike which was still in pieces, apart from the engine/gearbox unit which had been totally reconditioned and re-assembled with new parts. Most of the other bike parts had been restored though.

As the Vincent had many unique features – no frame (everything bolts onto the engine/oil tank bolted on top which acts a the "universal frame member"), cantilever rear end, twin brake drums on back and front wheels, and the special "girdraulic" front suspension system, to list a few – and was totally unlike the other bikes I had (a 1960 Triumph Thunderbird 650cc, and a 1972 Norton Commando Interstate 750cc), the Vincent was put in the too hard basket as I had no time, no money, and most importantly no idea where to start! As the bike has been sitting untouched for some 30 years in boxes in my garage, a lot of the paintwork and chrome had deteriorated.

Late in 2011, I decided I had to get the bike together and on the road before I got too old to ride it, and thus joined the NSW Vincent Owners Club, where I met an enthusiast who owned his first Vincent at the age of 16, and has owned various Vincent models throughout his life ever since. 60 years later, at the sprightly age of 76, he still has a few different models, in various stages of repair, and is consequently a font of knowledge. Fortunately he offered to come around to have a look at my Vincent and give me some advice.

That was in January 2012, and since then he has been coming round on most Saturday mornings, mentoring me, teaching me, and helping me put the bike together – for which I am greatly indebted.





The Vincent fired into life for the first time In January 2014 (almost 2 years to the day since we started putting it together, and some 40 years since it was acquired in pieces). It started easily on the fourth kick, and started very easily thereafter, but wouldn't run smoothly or rev freely. After eliminating other options, I have just had the magneto totally overhauled, and the engine now not only starts easily, but is also running properly. I have yet to test ride it!

Before riding it, the engine now needs to be properly tuned, and various other minor issues need to be sorted out, but it shouldn't be long now before another classic is on the road!

Details of my Vincent are:

1953 Vincent Black Shadow Series C 1000c V twin Very original all round – have even retained the 6V electrical system.

The Vincent was the fastest motorcycle you could buy in its time, and an "off the shelf" model was capable of 125 mph. It has always been considered the Rolls Royce of motorbikes.

The Vincent held the world motorcycle speed record for many years.

The Vincent motorcycle company in Stevenage, England ceased production in 1955, and since then the value of their motorbikes has been increasing. The Vincent is a true classic and has always been sought after by collectors.

My passion and interest for British bikes, complements my similar feelings for classic British sports cars.

The 2003 Jaguar XKR convertible I have had for the past 2 years replaced the 1969 Triumph Spitfire Mk3 I owned for 33 years, and also the 1963 Sunbeam Alpine Series 3 I had prior to that.

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Konrad Dover



OP GEAR MARCH 2014

IN THE SHED

Compiled by John Slater

















IN THE SHED

COMPILED BY JOHN SLATER



Jim Catts: Reinvigorating a Barn Find 1967 911 Targa Soft Window



When I bought my first Porsche, when I was about 25, I bought a 2.7 Litre 911 Carrera. Like most enthusiasts I thought that Targas were a Porsche that only hairdressers or architects would buy, and they'd be bought for all the wrong reasons and then not properly maintained.

So I'd never really liked the idea of a Targa, new or used. Then one day out of the blue my son found a little Targa for sale in Newcastle that was a complete car with only a few owners. I went to have a look at it and thought, I have to have that!

We originally were going to give it a quick makeover and sell it, but it was so good that we've kept it. All we've done is restored the upholstery and given it plenty of polish and detailing, and it keeps winning 'Wash and Polish' in the Concours and everyone loves it.

Nobody loves it more than me, however; it's tight as a drum and drives beautifully! Thus began my love of Targas.

We've never really had an early car, so I thought that I'd better get a skinny bumper Targa and maybe make a speedster or hotrod out of it. I started thinking about and researching it, and eventually came across the soft window Targa. I learned that 1967 was the first year of the Targa and '67 and '68 were the only years when soft windows were made, so I decided that that was the model to get.

I found this particular car when speaking with a fellow enthusiast collector in Melbourne. It's a left-hand drive car which, when it first arrived in Melbourne from America, was driven into the shed in which I first saw it, and left untouched for twelve years. It took me twelve months to decide, but when I saw the owner again I bought it and it was delivered to Autohaus.

I received the car as you see it now and Autohaus got to work learning about it and getting it running.

Their job with the car was to develop a complete and nuanced understanding of it which would then form the basis of future decisions about what to do with it. They were to get it running and make sure that everything was working and safe. I wanted to do a lot of the work on the car myself, so we were really developing the groundwork for the project and making a critical start.



IN THE SHED COMPILED BY JOHN SLATER



They flushed the fuel tank, rebuilt the carburettors and cleaned the lines, fixed linkages and bushes and got everything running again. The engine's actually in good condition considering that it hasn't been run in so long, and once it was running they were able to run through the gears and make sure that the clutch was operating correctly and generally get everything moving again.

We discovered that the master cylinder had seized and the pedal was going to the floor, so we fixed that and replaced some of the linings to make sure that everything was going to work well and run reliably.

I was happy with the car it's now a process of research and decision making; deciding which direction to take with it.



It's been a pleasant surprise, this little car. We keep finding out good things about it as we work through it, including learning things about these cars which we didn't know when we bought it.

I believe that Targas as a model are going to become very collectable. Only about 400 soft window cars are believed to remain in existence, and more people are catching on to them and developing an interest in them.

I have mixed feelings about what to do with it. Some people recommend repairing any rust and faults, detailing the interior and keeping it as an original car because it's such a complete and original example. Restoring the car would make it prettier, but less original and could spoil it.

I haven't decided if I am going to take that approach, but I'm thinking that I'll keep it as original as I can, and paint sympathetically where necessary. I need to do the roof because I want to be able to use the car but that's not going to be practical if I have a roof that leaks like a sieve.

I'm visiting the Porsche factory in a few weeks time, so I've organised a meeting with the Porsche Classic department to get to the bottom of the car, ask a lot of questions and get their opinion of which direction to take.

I will keep you posted on progress.

Jim Catts

CLASSIFIEDS



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Parting Shot



