



Auto Torque

The Official Newsletter of
The Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge Inc.

Website address: autocollectorsmurraybridge.com

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2020 edition



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OBITUARY from The AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB of MURRAY BRIDGE Inc

VERNON KEVIN GRAETZ

BORN - 24th January 1939

DIED – 4th September 2020

Vernon Graetz was a well-known local character, truly involved in all facets of community life in Murray Bridge and districts.

Vernon for much of his working life, was a vehicle salesman for local businesses, and in his spare time was also involved the buying, selling and restoring of classic/vintage vehicles.



Vernon Graetz & Dave Davis cutting ACCMB 20th Anniversary cake.

Vernon was involved in many charities and clubs, including Rotary, Legacy, Murray Bridge Pistol Club (Life Member), “4 Ways” dance band as a drummer/singer, including in later years, using these talents at Resthaven, singing to the residents, right up to the week before his death, a most dedicated “Santa’s Helper” for 40 yrs., and of course not forgetting his beloved Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge Inc (ACCMB)

It was Vernon’s dream, his enthusiasm and a love for cars, that led him to call a series of public meetings in late 1971 and early 1972, of interested people, also with a passion for cars, trucks and motor cycles, in fact anything with 4 wheels and an engine, along with the view of investigating the possibility of the formation of a car club for Murray Bridge and Districts.

The investigations by Vernon regarding the formation of such a club, “rolled on towards the end”, and on Wednesday 29th March 1972, the inaugural meeting was held in one of Dutton’s buildings, in a room previously used by the late Mr. Eric Doecke, (former Mayor of Murray Bridge) for his butcher shop, and was attended by 12 men, 3 ladies and 4 children.

A club was born, but it wasn’t until a competition was held to formalize its name, that on the 9th May 1972, it was christened as “The Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge Inc.

A committee was formed, and Vernon Graetz was elected as the Inaugural President and Co-founder of the ACCMB Inc.

This new club, the pride of Vernon and his committee, boasted a founding membership of 53 members in (1972), and like the waves of the ocean, the ACCMB Inc gained momentum as it rolled along, with current membership in 2020 being 300, with as many vehicles being used, restored and unrestored.

In later years, Vernon and wife Cecily were awarded Life Membership of the ACCMB Inc and have remained members, right up to Vernon’s death.

Past Presidents, Life Members and current ACCMB President Mr. Claude Minge, Management Committee and Members wish to say thank you for your foresight in 1971/72, and pay tribute to Vernon’s long-standing commitment to the ACCMB Inc over the past 48 ½ years and extend their deepest sympathies to Cecily and Families.

(Thank you for the article and photos which were supplied by Graham Edwards.)

AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB

P.O. BOX 869, MURRAY BRIDGE, 5253

ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS 2020/2021

PATRON	Bob Hunter	12 Sturt St., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 321603
PRESIDENT	Claude Minge	65 Swanport Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 322229
VICE PRESIDENT	John Courtney	52 Torrens Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 324107
SECRETARY	Brenda Cowie	79 Tumbella Dve., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 310151
ASST SECRETARY	Paul Geiger	59 McHenry St., MURRAY BRIDGE	82 656991
TREASURER	Jan Hall	23 Ida St., MURRAY BRIDGE	0438607116
ASST TREASURER	Darren Fountain	88 Thomas St., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 134292
REGISTRAR	Jamie Brine	12 Old Swanport Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	0408894854(a.h.only)
ASST REGISTRARS	Kym Schubert	56 Old Swanport Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE (Mob)	0400773110
	Darren Fountain	88 Thomas St., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 134292
RUN COORDINATOR	Jan Hall	23 Ida St., MURRAY BRIDGE	0438607116
PUBLICITY	Graham Edwards	113 Standen St., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 321175
MEMBERSHIP	Trevor Wehrman	30 Florence St., MURRAY BRIDGE	0437815782
POINTS SECRETARY	Val Wade	7 Bywaters Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 310987
WEBMASTER	Pieter Kriel	autocollectorsmb@gmail.com	
		19 McAnaney Rd., LANGHORNE CREEK	85 469292
EDITOR	Yvonne Mach	296 Adelaide Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 326024
ASST EDITOR	Peter Mach	296 Adelaide Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	85 326024
COMMITTEE	Terry Mabbitt, Paul Geiger, Darren Fountain, Bruce Phillips, Peter Mach, & Murray Lutz		
CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT COMMITTEE:	to be formed.		
HALL REPS.	Darren Fountain, Jan Hall and Terry Mabbitt.		
FEDERATION REP.	Jamie Brine	AUDITOR	Sandra Burgess
LIBRARIAN	Peter Kiely	PROPERTY OFFICER	Bruce Phillips
CLUB HISTORIAN	Elaine Bretag	PUBLIC OFFICER	Brenda Cowie
	Club Fees	Membership \$35 (including children up to 16 years)	

****(No change to fees for 2020/21, making membership in our Club most cost effective) ****

ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE RELEVANT OFFICER

OUR COVER PICTURES:

Top: Vernon & Cecily Graetz enjoying lunch on Middleton Pub Run 2015 (Left). Vernon & Cecily Graetz attending Pizza Night 2019. (Right)

Bottom: Vernon Graetz enjoying red wine and chatting to past member Maureen Freak at Langhorne Creek wines 2008. (Left). Vernon & Cecily Graetz with their 1936 La Salle Sedan. (Right)

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	WHO, WHAT, WHERE
2020		
Complete by 31st October	The Any Time You Like Run	Roy & Elaine Bretag
Complete by Nov 30th	Mal Fountain Run	Darren Fountain
Oct 6th (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
Oct 14th (Wednesday)	Patron's Run	Bob Hunter
Nov 3rd (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00p.m.
Nov 10th (Tuesday)	Committee Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
Nov 15th (Sunday)	Vernon's Memorial Run	Jan Hall
Dec 1st (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
Dec 6th (Sunday)	Christmas Party - Palmer	ACCMB Committee
2021	No General Meeting in January	
Jan 15th (Friday)	Pizza Night	John & Vicki Courtney
Feb 2nd (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
Feb 5th (Friday)	Cruise Night	Jan Hall
Mar 2nd (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
Mar 9th (Tuesday)	Committee Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
Mar 14th (Sunday)	Sausage Sizzle	Terry & June Mabbitt
Mar 24th (Wednesday)	Ladies' Day	Brenda Cowie
Apr 6th (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
April 24th to 25th (w/end)	Pinnaroo Campout	Alan & Marlene Hagger
May 4th (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
May 15th (Saturday)	Karoonda Run	J. & V. Courtney, G. & M. Edwards
June 1st (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.
June 19th (Saturday)	Presentation Dinner	ACCMB Committee
July 6th (Tuesday)	Annual General Meeting	Clubrooms – 8:00 p.m.

(For more information on any of the above, please contact the Club Secretary

President's Report



Our club held a belated AGM on September 1st at our Johnstone Park Clubroom. This meeting was previously scheduled for the first Tuesday in July but cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions. These restrictions have become part of daily lives for the past six months causing many of our planned events to be cancelled. Fifteen months ago, our year as a car club commenced as a normal year with monthly meetings, club runs etc. We were successful in holding various functions and very fortunate in having a huge success with the Twin Bridges Rally in October. In March 2020 COVID 19 regulations were implemented by the government which closed our clubroom, cancelled meetings and a general public lockdown was imposed upon us. Our social activities, our interaction with not only the general public but also our families and friends changed. Those changes to our daily lives are far from being back to normal and it is not known if, or when they will return to normal. In the meantime, we have been required to adjust our lives to a new "normal". As a club we readjusted to the way we collected our subs, renewed our membership, log books, etc. and I thank all club members for adapting to these changes. The meetings at our clubroom are limited in seating capacity and under the supervision of our COVID 19 marshal. Club runs will have limitations on where we can gather for meals and bookings will be required to guarantee a venue. This may be a challenge at times but I am sure that we can adapt to making this year a success. On a positive note, we can be thankful that S.A. has been spared from the continued COVID 19 lockdown and restrictions that Victoria has experienced and continues to endure.

Another impact of COVID 19 has been the limitations on the number who can attend funeral services. As a club, our members were restricted in attending the service for Neil Kaak who died on the 5th May. His service was postponed until 7th August in the hopeful anticipation of restrictions being lifted but to no avail as those restrictions continued. Those same restrictions impacted the funeral service for our late life member, inaugural Club President and founder Vernon Graetz who died on 4th September. His service was held on September 10th at Christ Church Lutheran, Murray Bridge and the majority of club members viewed the service via live streaming. Vernon had a lifelong passion for small and large cars. The small cars were Dinky toys, Matchbox toys etc. as well as having various makes and models of drivable cars over the years. Vernon had a longstanding request that my 1924 Nash Hearse was to be used for his funeral service. Thankfully, after much tweaking of the fuel system and even more swearing the Nash performed the task of transporting Vernon from his residence to the Church without any dramas. We have diagnosed the Nash has recovered from coronavirus symptoms previously experienced at Neil Kaak's service! Some of Vernon and Cecily's vehicles also followed in the cortege, namely, the 1936 Cadillac LaSalle, 1981 Bentley, 1975 Mercedes Benz 450SE (now owned by Bob and Gloria Neindorf) and VW Combi van. Although his health issues had been challenging over the past months, COVID 19 restrictions placed even more pressure on him to remain isolated. Let us remember Vernon for his long and active involvement with the ACCMB since the formation of the club in 1972.

As we face the year ahead, I ask that we all stay positive about our club's future. Be positive with planning club runs and events as there are ways and means of how they can be organized. Let us formulate some ideas and have some discussion regarding possible club runs for this year so that we can "enjoy our cars and socialize with likeminded people"

Claude Minge

MAGAZINE/WEBSITE ARTICLES

Would members who organize Club Runs please write a report on their run and deliver to Yvonne Mach either by post/hand delivery to the letter box at 296 Adelaide Road, Murray Bridge, 5253, or email to as a word document to yvonnemach@bigpond.com. Also, please send same to our Webmaster, Pieter Kriel, autocollectorsmb@gmail.com for inclusion on the Club Website. Coming events information and any other articles for the Newsletter should be passed on in the same way. To ensure inclusion in the next Newsletter, articles should reach the Editor **AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR** to the December meeting. Many thanks for your cooperation – Yvonne.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the latest edition of "Auto Torque".

It is exciting. Jump up and down. Ooh woops. Maybe we cannot do that. (It is not because of Covid this time either!!) Our club committee has been busy planning events, in different formats. Check out the calendar of events page and add them to your planner. There are also two runs detailed by Roy & Elaine Bretag and Darren Fountain that have completion dates by the end of October and November respectively. They are great fun to do.

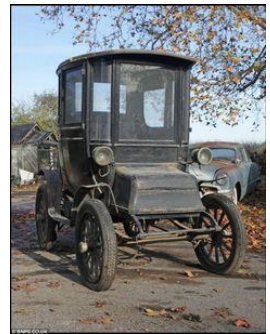
It is therefore time to get our vehicles dusted off, and back on the road again. The best part is, we can get out and about, chat and catch up again at long last. Yippee. The weather is warming to entice us all out of hibernation, the plants are flowering and the grasses are green. A beautiful scenario to brighten our souls.

Safe and Happy driving to all.
Yvonne

THE LATEST ON OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Our New Provisional Member are:

- Paul & Kate Calnan – 1964 Holden EH Wagon.
- Johannes & Diedre Robat – 3 x 1966 Valiant VC Sedans, 1962 Valiant S Series Sedan, 1939 Packard 170 110 Sedan.



Achieving Full Membership:

- Timothy Stroh & Bianca Hosgood – 1959 F600 Ford Truck, 1951 BSA Bantam D1 Motorcycle, 1958 Bantam D3 Motorcycle, 1962 Renault Dauphine Gordini Sedan.
- Chico Batic – 1982 BMW Baur Convertible.
- Jason Kaak – 1979 Falcon XD Hearse, 1979 XD Fairmont Sedan, 1973 Ghia Motorhome Bus.
- David Smyth – 1978 Ford XR8 Tickford Sedan.

Congratulations to you all. We look forward to your continued company at meetings and events.

Trevor Wehrman (Membership Officer)

PROCEDURES FOR ORGANIZING CLUB RUNS

Anyone organizing a Club Run is responsible for supplying relevant information about the coming event for the Newsletter prior to the event. They are also responsible for a Run report for the Newsletter following the event. (This can be delegated to another person – but the organizer is responsible for getting the article to the editor). Please note that there are available spaces, in the Club Calendar, for members to offer their services in organizing a Club Run.

COMING EVENTS!

THE ANY TIME YOU LIKE RUN

(Round trip approx. 140kms)

Because of crowd restrictions due to Covid 19 virus, we thought that we could still have a car run, so contact some of your friends (at this stage max 10 people), we have set the route, and to make it a little more interesting we have some questions to be answered along the way. Now wait for a nice day and go for a drive in your old vehicles. Starting point is up to you.

Leave Murray Bridge via Mannum Rd, turn left to Palmer Rd.

(1) Name of Transport Co on left on Palmer Rd?

Turn onto Hillview Rd (near Pallamana airport) at the end of Hillview Rd

(2) Name all roads on sign post?
.....

Turn left on Pallamana Rd, then veer left at 5-way junction onto Schenscher Rd, stop at the Monarto Lutheran Church on the right.

(3) When was this church built?

Continue on Schenscher Rd, cross Old Princes Hwy to Monarto South. The Monarto South War Memorial Hall is on the right.

(4) Who laid the foundation stone at the hall and when?

Continue along Ferres McDonald Rd across railway line to turn right into McLean Rd.

(5) Name of business in grey shed on the right?

Continue on McLean Rd then turn right onto Ferres McDonald Rd.

(6) Name of National Park and Protected Bird?

Cross over freeway and continue on to Langhorne Creek Rd at "T" junction turn right towards Langhorne Creek.

(7) What year was Bleasdale Winery established?

In Langhorne Creek.

(8) Name of Church and year established?

Continue on towards Strathalbyn, turn left onto Leslie Rd, then right onto Davidsons Rd, then left onto Milang Rd, continue into Milang.

(9) What was the original name of the Milang railway station and when was it built?
.....

(10) What is the population of Milang?

Coffee and or lunch breaks as you require. Return home at your leisure. Hope you had an enjoyable day out. Return questionnaire to roy.bretag@bigpond.com

Please complete this run by the end of October 2020 to be included in the Run Attendance Book. Thank you from Roy & Elaine Bretag.

MAL FOUNTAIN 2020 PANORAMIC OBSERVATION RUN

This year's Mal Fountain Run has been modified for Covid 19. A Panoramic observation run, it can be done at any time over the next four months, to be completed by 30 November 2020. For most questions, you do not even need to get out of your car. You will need a camera or mobile phone to take a picture.

This is a Trophy Run. Points for the trophy will be awarded as below,

- Photograph of cars at panoramic location up to 25 points
- Quiz sheet up to 90 points
- Use of a vehicle of interest 10 points (photo)
- Small groups of members doing the run together 5 points (in line with the current Covid 19 restrictions applying at the time of the run) (Photo)

Please check that events are not on at the Mannum and Palmer Ovals before starting the run.

Name

Vehicle driven today Total Kms. Travelled

Done jointly with fellow club members.

Leave Johnstone Park, right onto Adelaide Road, down the Main Street and over the old Bridge, turn left onto Karoonda Highway. Just past the Bowhill turnoff turn left into Sunnyside Lookout. When parked safely, please answer the following questions.

1. Name 2 Sunken
2. Not good for collectors' cars
3. Yummy
4. Another Sunken
5. Photograph opportunity 1 if you wish.

Exit lookout left and proceed 20kms. to Mannum. Travel past Ferries and shacks to Bolto Reserve. Please select a safe scenic location for photo opportunity 2. Exit Bolto Reserve crossing the mighty Murray on the 6. Ferry.

Left onto Berryman Ave., left onto North Tce., to Mannum Oval. When parked safely please answer the following questions,

7. Where can you get moss rocks and retaining walls from?
8. What are the names of the netball courts?
9. Select of scenic location for photo opportunity 3 if you wish

Exit North Tce., straight onto Ram Rd., left onto Randell Rd., continue 13kms. to Palmer. As entering Palmer take Olive Grove Ave., to enter Collier Park. When parked safely, please answer the following questions,

10. How long can you camp for?
11. Can you have camp fires?
12. How much does camping cost?
13. What Club Sponsor?
14. How many fence posts around the oval?
15. Select a scenic photo opportunity 4 if you wish.

When complete, please enjoy your travel home.

Please select your best panoramic photo showing the car you used or the group of cars and members that attended. Please remember to social distance at all times and follow any current Covid 19 restrictions. Please return this quiz sheet with your photo to Darren Fountain. The winner will receive a trophy at the next Presentation Dinner.

Darren Fountain 0419 941 119

PATRON'S RUN

(Wed 14th October 2020)

It is proposed to hold the 2020 Patrons Run on Wednesday 14 October. Our Patron, Bob Hunter will lead our group from our Clubrooms at Johnstone Park to Strathalbyn. We will be visiting Ben Finniss Classic Cars. It is proposed that our group will then travel a short distance to a lunch venue, where we all can enjoy lunch together, before travelling home at our leisure.

Confirmation and further details regarding the outing and bookings will be advised at the October General Meeting.

Bob and Lyn Hunter.

VERNON GRAETZ MEMORIAL RUN

(Sunday 12th November 2020)

On Sunday 15th November 2020, there is a Memorial Run in memory of Vernon Graetz.

Leave Johnstone Park Clubrooms at 9:00 a.m. and head for Langhorne Creek. We will have late smoko, early lunch BYO at Frank Potts Reserve Langhorne Creek.

There is a booking at Rusticana Wines and Newman's Horseradish for 11:30 a.m. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Cellar Door will only be able to seat 12 patrons at a time for tasting of their wines and other culinary condiments. I am sure we will all have a taste in due course.

Please contact Jan Hall on 0438 607 116 if attending.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Sunday 6th December 2020)

The ACCMB Committee is proposing to hold our club Christmas Picnic at Palmer. Catering of the meal, will be provided to our club members on the day, by an outside volunteer group. As planning progresses, more information will be given at the club meetings.

Brenda Cowie (Club Secretary.)



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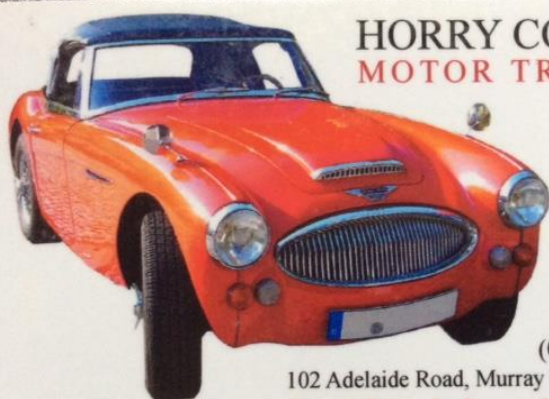


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Run Reports

DRIVE YOUR OLD CAR DAY 1/9/2020.

September 1st is recognised as the first day of Spring so it is an ideal time to bring your historic vehicle out of winter hibernation. This year it was also an ideal time to bring it, along with the owners, out of Covid-19 hibernation, as we had not had a "proper" run since March. So once again we accepted the invitation from the Gawler Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club to attend their "Drive it day" at the Bethany Reserve.

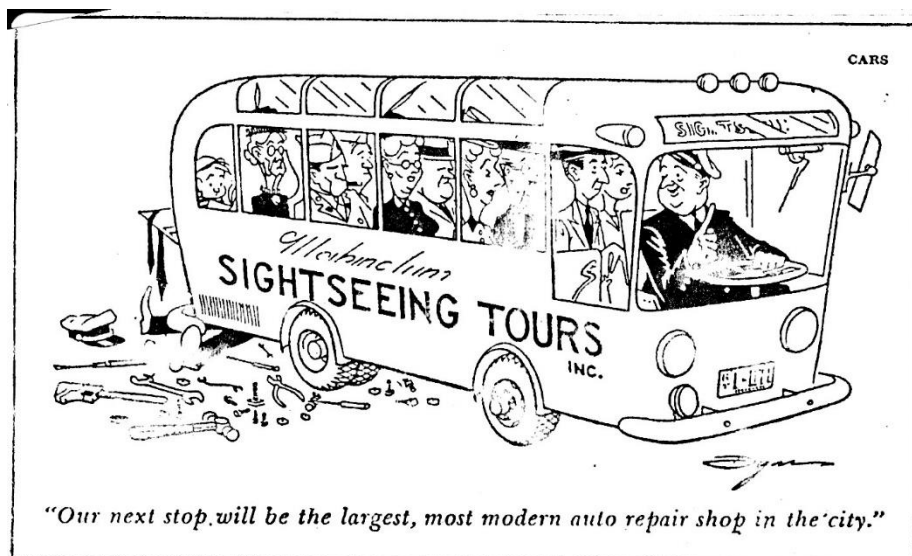
10 vehicles and an enthusiastic group of members departed our clubrooms, along with another three vehicles that joined in along the way or met us there. We took a little bit different route this year, out the Mannum Road, then turning up the Milendella Road past Apamurra, to eventually meet up with the Angas Valley Road and over the hills to Mount Pleasant. It's a really nice little drive. The "pit stop" at Mount Pleasant also provided an opportunity to visit the bakery to sample their wares. It was a bit busy though, as a number of other vehicle enthusiasts were also present, some obviously also heading to Bethany, but a number of others simply out to enjoy the sunny spring weather.

After leaving Mount Pleasant, we again presented the opportunity to lose a few of our participants and were not disappointed. Just before Bethany, Paul Wade was seen scratching his head, muttering "I was tail end Charlie, but now I have all these cars behind me. How did that happen?" Fortunately, we all arrived at Bethany despite the navigational mishaps, to be cheerfully greeted by the Gawler Club blokes, who relieved us of the Covid-19 tracing forms and directed us to suitable parking spots.

As in previous years, a wonderful array of interesting vehicles awaited our inspection. I believe a record 220 historic vehicles were present at this 14th. running of this event, but it is the variety of those vehicles that surprises us each year. Vehicles ranging from a 2CV Citroen, Model T Fords, Ford and Bedford trucks, through to a pair of very impressive Mk. IV Jaguars and an equally impressive Ferrari 365 were presented around the reserve, along with almost everything imaginable in between. Surely something for everyone's interest.

A leisurely lunch on the lawns in the bright spring sunshine followed, along with a good chat with other friends and acquaintances. Very pleasant. Then it was time for another viewing of the cars, just in case we missed something! Finally, time to head back over the hills to home. Thanks, must go to Alvin Jenkin and the Gawler Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club for another top day. Well done.

(Report supplied by Run Organisers John & Vicki Courtney. Thank you.)



Deepest Sympathy

Is extended to club and family members who have experienced the loss of loved ones.
Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time.

We are saddened by the passing of our Life Member,
Vernon Graetz on 4th September 2020. Our sincerest
sympathies go to his wife Cecily and his family members.
Please refer to the separate Obituary article in this edition
of the magazine.



We are also saddened by the passing of our club member Lois Piltz. Our sincerest sympathies go to her
husband Murray and their family.

Our sincerest sympathies go to Dennis and Elizabeth Barp, and their families, following the recent passing
of Dennis's mother.

Our sincerest sympathies also go to Jerry and Kerry Wilson and their families, following the recent
passing of Kerry's Father, Mr Anderson.

Our sincerest sympathies go to Joan Davis and her family, following the recent loss of her daughter
Joanne.

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



ACCMB CAR BADGES \$15 each



2006, 2007, & 2017 Twin Bridges Rally Car Badges —\$5 each



HAT / LAPEL BADGES \$5 each

See — Roy Bretag or Graham Edwards at any ACCMB Meeting night

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