



Auto Torque

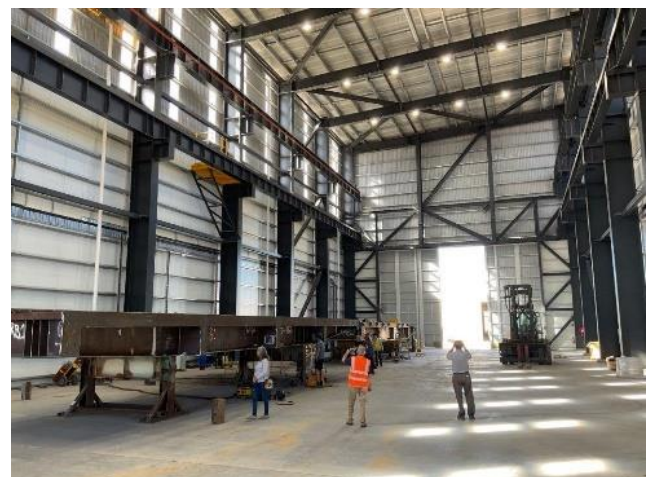
The Official Newsletter of
The Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge Inc.

Website address: autocollectorsmurraybridge.com

APRIL – MAY 2025



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AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB

P.O. BOX 869, MURRAY BRIDGE, 5253

ELECTED OFFICE BEARERS 2024/2025

PATRON	Graham Edwards	113 Standen St., MURRAY BRIDGE	8532 1175
PRESIDENT	Brian Rainey	261 Adelaide Rd, MURRAY BRIDGE	0498 323 223
VICE PRESIDENT	Claude Minge	65 Swanport Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	8532 2229
SECRETARY/ ASST. SECRETARY	Liz Minge	65 Swanport Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE accmbsecretary@gmail.com	8532 2229
TREASURER	Jan Hall	23 Ida St., MURRAY BRIDGE	0438 607 116
REGISTRAR	Andrew MacKinnon	10 Carr St., MOUNT BARKER	0492 951 087 A/Hours only
ASST. REGISTRAR 1	Tim Stroh	116 Hindmarsh Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	0428 131 383
ASST. REGISTRAR 2	David Burt	32 Willow Ave., MURRAY BRIDGE	0419 840 195
ASST. REGISTRAR 3	Jeff Schiller	32 Christian Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	0419 008 919
ASST. REGISTRAR 4	Darren Fountain	88 Thomas St., MURRAY BRIDGE	0419 841 119
PUBLICITY	Liz Minge	65 Swanport Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	8532 2229
	Di Dawson	P.O. Box 678, MURRAY BRIDGE	0408 080 124
MEMBERSHIP	Roy Bretag	P.O. Box 2124, MURRAY BRIDGE	0438 425 791
POINTS SECRETARY	Elaine Bretag	P.O. Box 2124, MURRAY BRIDGE	0409 056 158
WEBMASTER	Pieter Kriel	autocollectorsmb@gmail.com 19 McAnaney Rd., LANGHORNE CREEK	8546 9292
ASST. WEBMASTER	Yvonne Mach	autocollectorsmb@outlook.com 296 Adelaide Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	8532 6024
EDITOR	Yvonne Mach	autocollectorsmb@outlook.com 296 Adelaide Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	8532 6024
ASST EDITOR	Peter Mach	296 Adelaide Rd., MURRAY BRIDGE	8532 6024
COMMITTEE	Tim Stroh, John Courtney, Brett Zastera, Neil Burbidge and David Burt.		
HALL REPS.	Claude Minge and John Courtney.		
FEDERATION REP.	Andrew MacKinnon	AUDITOR	To Be Filled
LIBRARIAN	Peter Kiely	PROPERTY OFFICER	To Be Filled
CLUB HISTORIAN	Liz Minge and Di Dawson	PUBLIC OFFICER	To Be Filled

Club Fees Membership Fee of \$50.00 (including children up to 16 years)

****(Joining Fee for Provisional Members \$30.00 from 8/11/2022, Logbook Fee \$0.00 from 13/7/2023.)****

ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE RELEVANT OFFICER

ACCMB Life Members: † P. Kruger, †C. Zerna, †H. Zerna, E. Wehrman, † P. Wehrman, A. Hagger, M. Hagger, † M. Fountain, J. Burt, R. Burt, J. Davis, †D. Davis, M. Kuchel, B. Kuchel, S. Hoffmann, B. Hoffmann, † V. Graetz, C. Graetz, † J. Fountain, † N. Schubert, M. Schubert, K. Schubert, T. West, L. West, J. Courtney, V. Courtney, † L. Cowie, B. Cowie, T. Julian, R. Julian, G. Edwards, M. Edwards, R. Bretag, E. Bretag, D. Fountain.

Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	WHO, WHAT, WHERE
Feb. 4 th (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7 th (Friday)	Combined Cruise & Pizza Night	Claude & Liz Minge/Jan Hall
Mar. 4 th (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 11 th (Tuesday)	Committee Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
Mar. 19 th (Wednesday)	Patron's Run	Graham & Maureen Edwards
Apr. 1 st (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 6 th (Sunday)	Picnic Day	Peter & Yvonne Mach
May 3 -4 th (Weekend)	Conrod Weekend at Swan Reach, Hosted by the Murray Mallee Auto Club	Liz & Claude Minge
May 6 th (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
May 28 th (Wednesday)	Ladies' Day	John Courtney
June 3 rd (Tuesday)	General Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
June 21 st (Saturday)	Presentation Dinner	Di Dawson
June 28 th (Saturday)	Logbook & Membership Renewal Day	Andrew MacKinnon
July 1 st (Tuesday)	A.G.M. & General Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.
July 8 th (Tuesday)	Committee Meeting	Clubrooms – 7:30 p.m.

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.



Other Events of Interest

April 6 th (Sunday)	Car & Coffee	Murray Bridge
April 6 th (Sunday)	Classic River Run	
April 11 th (Friday)	SCC All Historic Mallala	Federation Website
April 13 th (Sunday)	PADARC Show N Shine	Federation Website
April 27 th (Sunday)	Cars & Coffee	Mannum
April 27 th (Sunday)	Just British Car Club Picnic	Federation Website
May 3 rd (Saturday)	Riverland West Chamber of Commerce Show & Shine	
May 4 th (Sunday)	Old Cross' Run 2025	Federation Website
May 4 th (Sunday)	Cars & Coffee	Murray Bridge
May 25 th (Sunday)	Cars & Coffee	Mannum
June 1 st (Sunday)	Cars & Coffee	Murray Bridge
June 15 th (Sunday)	Sedan Swap Meet	Federation Website
June 22 nd (Sunday)	Cars & Coffee	Mannum

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

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 autocollectorsmb@outlook.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** (25th March 2025.) to the June meeting. Many thanks for your cooperation – Yvonne.



50th Anniversary stick on car badges \$4-50 ea

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



ACCMB Metal Car Badges \$15



ACCMB Coffee Mug — \$10 each

Club Name Badges — \$20



ORDER from Treasurer JAN



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



Windscreen Stickers
LARGE Internal-External \$4-50 each
SMALL \$4-00



50th Anniversary Tawny \$12 bottle



Hat / Lapel Badges—\$5 each



Key Rings—\$5 each

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

Pictures in Stitches

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Email: picturesinstitches@gmail.com

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Contact this business to arrange our club monogramming for your club shirt and/or jumper.

Items will be picked up and delivered from depot at 19 Reserve Drive Murray Bridge 5253

President's Report



Since my last report we have had meetings regarding our venue and a couple of well attended events. Thanks to Liz, Claude, Brenda and Jan for organising the Pizza night in February. Great evening with a good turnout of members and too many visitors being the white birds with the same name as certain people who are in Canberra. March saw a great day at Bowhill looking over the engineering plant followed by lunch. Over 40 members attended. Thanks to Graham for the months spent organising the day. (Refer to run reports in this issue.)

I am disappointed that I cannot give you details of our new venue as this has not been finalised. I hope to bring you all up to date at our next meeting. For some reason this has proceeded at a slower pace than some of our older vehicles. However, things look promising, and I will be glad to get away from our dusty car park.

My Daughter and 4-year-old grandson survived the short sea cruise last month. I couldn't get over how many girls he chattered up. He asked a couple to his cabin, one to his house and a couple to the swimming pool. He would strike up a conversation with girls of any age from toddlers to grandmothers. He was still up late at night, dancing around the pool deck. I had to have a nap in the afternoon whilst he was at the pool. He is off to England to see his other grandfather next week so I will have three weeks rest.

Now for a little joke.

At a dinner for the Greens in Canberra last month, Adam Bandt's wife leaned over to Sara Hanson-Young and told her that she had bought a Parrot for Adam's birthday. She told her that the bird was so smart as Adam had taught him to say over a dozen full sentences. Sara told her that it was very impressive and said, "But you realize that he just speaks the words, and he doesn't really understand what they all mean." Mrs Bandt said, "I know but neither does the parrot".

See you all at our next meeting on the first of April. Do not forget that April fools' day only applies until 12 noon. After that the person playing the prank is the fool.

Brian Rainey
President

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

From the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of "Auto Torque".

An indicator. What a fun lever this is to have on a vehicle and those fancy flashing lights on the front and reverse of the vehicles advising all drivers approaching and following at the rear, where someone plans to drive. Have you noticed that the system is not foolproof? Probably because driving a vehicle is not foolproof either and many make mistakes, some unintentional, whilst others result from pure lack of attention or distraction. An indicator can be left on way past the manoeuvre, forgotten to be activated, or activated without enough warning time, all of which creates immense confusion for all road users. It is such a simple procedure, yet so many times, is operated ineffectively. I was recently caught out, wishing to make a right-hand turn onto a main road, and noticed the vehicle approaching to the left had indicated to turn left into the street opposite. Taking the indicator at face value, coupled by the fact the vehicle was travelling slowly, I pulled out onto the road. To my surprise, the driver never turned left and drew up close behind, tooting the horn impatiently. I was followed closely to the set of traffic lights and nervously half expected the driver to get out and berate me, which thankfully never happened. I crossed straight over at the lights and the following vehicle turned left. Did the person indicate far too soon, or had the indicator been left on since the last turn? I will never know, but it certainly rattled me. Never mind, subsequent conversations deems that this occurrence happens regularly, and one must move on and ignore these events. It just makes driving rather hazardous. Maybe I have just been lucky to date and have not experienced this previously. However, I can now understand just how accidents can suddenly happen without too much effort. Hopefully we can all avoid these instances and stay safe on the roads.

Safe and Happy driving to all.

Yvonne

THE LATEST ON OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Our New Members are: -

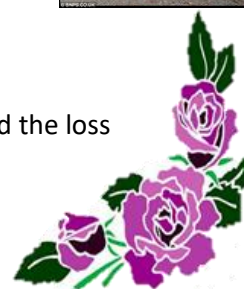
- Bruce & Judy Warner – 1944 Ford Ute.
- Eden Dickin & Ellen Trueman – 1992 FJ80 Toyota Landcruiser.

Congratulations. We look forward to your company at future meetings and events.
Roy Bretag (Membership Officer)



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences to any club and family members who have experienced the loss of loved ones recently. Our thoughts are with you all at this difficult time.



WELL WISHES



We are aware of club members currently experiencing health and wellbeing issues. We offer our wishes to you and trust you get well soon, enabling you to re-join our club activities.

COMING EVENTS!

PICNIC DAY

(Sunday 6th April 2025)

Ah. I have forgotten a small but extremely important item. The Logbook. Would members please greet us on the access road on Adelaide Road by the Truckstop Memorial to fill in the Attendance Book and collect your navigation/questionnaire sheet. Departure time is 10:00 a.m. There will be a leisurely drive at your own pace of approximately 30 to 45 minutes following the navigation sheet instructions and answering the questionnaire before arriving at the oval. Please be super mindful of the other road users during your journey and enjoy the scenery along the way. All roads are bituminised, but oops, sorry, President Brian, upon arrival, it is a short drive on dirt. Toilets, picnic area including barbeque facilities, shade, open grassed area, and plenty of parking space are available at the site. Please bring a pen or pencil, lunch, drinks, nibbles, picnic rug/table & chairs. Also bring your sense of adventure ready for some planned activities on the oval. We will probably be visited by other car enthusiasts living in the district around the Callington Oval and Recreation Park at any time throughout the day as well, as they are looking forward to our visit. Place your name on the run sheet by the April 1st General Meeting or contact run organisers, Peter & Yvonne Mach.

2025 CON-ROD Campout

The Murray Mallee Auto Club

invite your club members

to join us on

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th of May 2025

for the

**CON-ROD Campout
& Games at
Swan Reach**



Starting on Saturday morning in Swan Reach, you are welcome to visit our Mid Murray Classic Car Gallery, our local community run Op-Shop, the Swan Reach Museum or one of our shops in town, serving barista coffee. Our newly refurbished Swan Reach Hotel is a great place for a meal in the dining room enjoying the river views from the large picture windows or cliff top beer garden.

Saturday afternoon we will have a 'Meet and Greet' at 1pm in front of the Swan Reach, Mid Murray Classic Car Gallery, 16-18 Victoria St. From here we will have a tag along tour to points of interest in and around the town.

Saturday evening, we will gather for a BBQ tea, BYO your meat plus a salad & dessert to share. Bring a comfy chair & drinks, ready for an evening of mingling with fellow enthusiasts.

Sunday morning, we will gather again for the games and a morning tea. Get your club members together, your sense of humour, and see if you can win the inaugural 'Con-Rod' Trophy!

Please RSVP the number of people attending per club, for morning/ afternoon tea before 26th April, 0428641416
murraymalleeautoclub@gmail.com

Accommodation options will be listed on a separate sheet. Please don't hesitate to book into the local options available ASAP.

CONROD WEEKEND

(3 – 4 May 2025)

It is time to defend our club win at last year's event. Come along for the weekend to help represent our club at this annual competition weekend for the Conrod Trophy. Contact Claude & Liz Minge to register your interest, prior to the 26 April 2025.

LADIES' DAY

(Wednesday 28th May 2025)

Please note that this is a run that I hope ALL members will find interesting, not only ladies, so everyone welcome. There will be a quiz that will determine the "Ladies' Day Trophy".

NOTE

Meet opposite the Bunyip, Murray Cods Drive, Sturt Reserve at 9.30 AM for a 9.45 start.

We will travel on the Old Princes Highway to the Classic Motor Studio at Totness. Coffee may be purchased there for \$5.50 per cup.

- The Classic Motor Studio has a number of vehicles for sale, as well as garagenalia and other collectables. They state that they procure and sell only the finest automobiles and desired collectables. They also have an impressive display of enamel signs and are also intending to cater for functions, weddings, etc.

We will then travel to Woodside for lunch at the Lobethal Bakery.

After lunch we will go to the Karkoo Nursery at Oakbank.

- The Karkoo Nursery is housed in the old Johnston Brewery, which spans 3 acres and has some interesting old buildings. They started out as a wholesale garden centre and although still propagating many of their own plants, now sell not only plants, but pots, garden art, antique finds, clothing and home and giftware. They also serve light meals, in case anyone is still peckish, and coffee if anyone needs some to get them home.

Return home from Karkoo at your leisure.

Please indicate your intention to attend on the list at the April or May meetings or contact John Courtney on 85324107.

ACCMB ANNUAL PRESENTATION DINNER

(Saturday 21st June 2025)

‘SAVE THE DATE’

PRESENTATION NIGHT

“Christmas in July style of Dinner”

SATURDAY 21st JUNE 2025

6PM onwards

MONTEITH HALL 238 Bells Road Monteith

Names to be provided to Di Dawson – 0408 080 124 OR a list sheet will be provided at next club meeting at which time more details will be provided.

2025 / 2026 LOGBOOK AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DAY

(Saturday 28th June 2025)

This year we have decided to have a Logbook and Membership renewal day on the 28th June.

The times and location are still to be confirmed, and also if we will run it over 2 days.

The idea is to prevent the rush of Logbooks to be renewed and Membership renewals on the night of the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 1st July.

Logbooks can still be dropped off at the meeting with a Stamped self-addressed envelope with proof of membership renewal.

Memberships can be paid via EFT.

Andrew MacKinnon

Head Registrar

Membership renewal fees for 2025 / 2026 are \$50.00.

This fee must be paid by 1st July 2025.

A membership renewal form is attached to this Auto Torque Magazine for those members who receive a hard copy. For those members who receive an email copy of the magazine, your membership renewal form will be posted to you. Would all members please complete this form and return it to the club by 1st July 2025. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to Bob and Joyce Burt who celebrated a 70th Wedding Anniversary recently. Congratulations are also extended to any other Club Member and their family who have celebrated a special birthday or anniversary recently.



CLUB CLASSIFIEDS

February Meeting.

For Sale.

- Trolley Jack \$25.00, Mobile Tool Trolley \$20.00, Ramps \$50.00, 2 steel workshop bins \$5.00 each, H/Duty Axle Stand \$10.00, Toolbox \$5.00, 9Kg Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher \$50.00, 2x 4.5Kg Dry Powder Fire Extinguishers \$25.00 each, 6" bench grinder \$25.00, new set front brake discs VS Commodore \$60.00, New bottom front ball joints Toyota Coaster \$40.00. Contact Roy 0438 425 791.



March Meeting

- Jason Kaak's collection of car books and magazines. Contact Ricky 0434 945 504.

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Saturday 9am - 12am

Run Reports

MANNUM CRUISE NIGHT 17/1/2025

Vintage beauties, modern marvels and everything in between turned heads on Friday afternoon of January 17th, as an informal gathering of the Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge hit the road for a scenic run from Murray Bridge to Mannum. Suggested by John Courtney, the event brought together a small group of seventeen drivers and passengers to celebrate their shared love of automobiles, our stunning South Australian countryside and the fellowship of like-minded individuals. Mooted as a “casual get together”, it was the inaugural run of the 2025 New Year calendar, and everyone was relaxed and keen to catch up with their fellow car club members, following the short Christmas hiatus.

Most participants left from their homes in Murray Bridge and travelled leisurely along the winding Murray Bridge/Mannum Road with its gently undulating countryside. With its expansive farmland views dotted with sheep, it was noted that the paddocks were looking particularly dry, brown and dusty, providing limited grazing stubble for any livestock.

Mary Anne Reserve on Mannum’s riverfront proved to be an ideal destination, with its lush green lawns, ornate Rotunda built in 1930 and a newly renovated playground area, complete with a replica wooden paddle boat. The reserve is named after the paddle steamer of the same name and stands as a reminder of that important period in South Australian history, when river boats and vessels plied the river, transporting goods and passengers, during the 19th century.

Arriving in their well-presented 1976 Ford Fairmont, John and Vicki Courtney were closely followed by Graham and Maureen Edwards, who drove the “ever-reliable” and head-turning 1960’s Zephyr. President Brian and “first lady” Rosaria Rainey, along with their passengers Jeff and Debb Schiller, decided to travel in modern comfort and class, in their Mercedes. This was also the choice of transportation for Claude and Liz Minge who selected a C63 Mercedes AMG from their garage.

Peter and Eileen Geue in their 1965 HD Holden and Trevor and Deidre Kitto in their 1964 Holden EH Special made the journey with ease. These vehicles are a testament to a bygone but great, Australian car manufacturing industry-their 60-year-old chassis and bodies belying some human ones of the same vintage and era!

Noel Jackson and his son, who live on the other side of the mighty Murray River on the Bowhill Road, obviously drove from a different direction to we “Murray Bridgeans”.

In what could only be described as a “sedate sojourn”, Noel’s 1926 Chevrolet truck was of great interest to members and visitors alike and was no doubt an unusual and interesting sight on the ferry crossing. Meg Stephens drove from Mt Compass to join us.

After a BYO tea of pizzas, salad rolls, cold meats, desserts and “donut peaches” provided by Jeff and Debb and with appetites and conversations sated, we made our way home in leisurely fashion- reflecting on life and all its mysteries, the people and places in it, the why’s and wherefores and concluded..... we truly are blessed.....

(Thank you for this report from Liz Minge.)

COMBINED CRUISE AND PIZZA NIGHT 7/2/2025

The Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge held its annual "pizza night" on Friday the 7th February at Swanport Reserve, Murray Bridge. Fifty members, friends and family enjoyed the balmy, if somewhat cool evening and although jackets were donned as the sun fell, all those present agreed that the previous week's 40-degree heat would have made the event intolerable.

A wide variety of delicious pizzas and several platters of fresh fruit were consumed, all the while amid a cacophony of raucous screeching, an incessant flapping of wings and an unceasing cascade of tree and leaf litter from above. But do not be misled...the "raucous screeching" was not from the participants of the cruise night, but rather, from several hundred "gate crashers" in the form of the corella cockatoos that have made the lawned riverfront reserve their home for the summer. Waterbirds were also well-represented, including cormorants, pelicans and several white-faced herons. But these could not compete with the corellas, whose aerial acrobatics keep everyone amused and entertained.

The Swanport Reserve features many tall river red gum trees which provide shade, barbeques and picnic shelters, and covers over 2 acres. It was once the site of the historic settlement of Swanport. Some of the historic buildings adjacent to the reserve stand as testament to the skill of their builders, with the enduring strength evident in every stone and beam. Throughout the last century and the inevitable ravages of time, they continue to stand firm, showcasing construction techniques that have defied the ages. Locally sourced granite, river rocks and hand-hewn timbers were chosen for their ability to endure, as well as the economic factor of not having to transport the base supplies from great distances. Their durability is symbolic of the resilience of the people who built them.

Whilst many of the participants of this cruise night arrived in modern comfort, it was rewarding indeed to note the emergence of some of the older and classic vehicles which were given the chance to blow out the cobwebs and strut their stuff! Roy and Elaine Bretag for example, proudly brought out their recently restored 1925 Fiat Tourer-gleamingly resplendent in the late afternoon sunshine, it manoeuvred its way to its destination with ease. Perhaps Roy underestimated the power of the engine however, as a reliable source informed me that such a speed was reached, to dislodge Roy's beloved driving cap-which was fortunately retrieved.

Noel and Julie Jackson in their 1926 Chev truck and John and Vicki Courtney driving a black 1929 Dodge DA Sedan handled the journey well and one could have been excused for imagining these automobiles driving around during the American prohibition days. The Chev truck loaded with boot leg liquor and moonshine and the gangsters in the Dodge running protection....

Tom and Lyn West drove their 1958 Holden FC Sedan, and the swinging sixties were represented on the night by the 1961 Ford Zephyr of Graham and Maureen Edwards and the 1964 Holden EH Special of Trevor Kitto, who acted as chauffeur for the night for wife, Deidre. Not to be outdone, (and leaving their 1958 Austin Healey BN4 sports car safely garaged), Bruce and Di Dawson leisurely arrived in their little yellow "bug"-a 1973 Volkswagen which was reminiscent of the vehicle from the "Herbie" movies.

A 1977 Chrysler Charger Coupe driven by Sue Lambert and Peta Buck also provided some conversation and debate amongst members and visitors alike. It may be of interest to note that the Charger accounted for almost 50 percent of all Valiant sales when it was brought

onto the market in Australia in 1971-the same year that saw the Falcon GT-HO Phase 3 emerge. A Charger was priced at \$2,795 (now valued at approximately \$75,000) and a GT Falcon could be purchased for five thousand dollars (the current record price for one of these cars sold at auction in 2021 brought \$1.3 million.)

Mechanically, it was a trouble-free night for all of the 30 vehicles in attendance; appetites satisfied, and stomachs sufficiently filled, it was a trouble-free night; fellowship, fun and frivolity was also trouble-free-but next time, perhaps a message needs to be sent via the “bush telegraph” to inform the Corellas of a more appropriate retiring time for the evening. After thanking Jan Hall for organising another very pleasant and relaxing annual evening on the Car Club Calendar, President Brian Rainey bid everyone a safe journey home.

(Thank you to Liz Minge for this report.)

PATRONS’ RUN 19/3/2025

Wednesday – 19th March was the long-awaited day for the 46 Auto Collectors Club of Murray Bridge (ACCMB) members and guests in their 13 classic & 7 modern vehicles, to travel to Bowhill Engineering (BHE) as part of the annual ACCMB Patrons run.

Participants assembled at the ACCMB Clubrooms for the usual signing of the “Run: book, and to be given last minute instructions by the run organizers, which in this case was ACCMB Patron Graham Edwards and wife Maureen, “his financial money collector” for the day. Graham proceeded to welcome all members, old & new, along with guests Rob, Kathy, Yvonne, Bruno, Colin & Peter, and also outlined the route to be taken and distributed the “Patrons Quiz” sheets for the day, to be answered throughout the day.

With all business aside, it was time to “Start your engines” and depart to Bowhill, picking up the Courtney’s, Jackson’s, Burbidge’s and Pete Sellick, vehicles along the way. As the convoy arrived in the BHE car park, participants made their way to the front office, where they were greeted and welcomed to BHE, by HR Manager, Samantha Krollig, as the signing in of participants were carried out.



Because of the large group attending, the group was split into two tours of 23 to view the establishment. Before the group moved out into the factory, Samantha outlined the early history of BHE being a multi – generation family owned and operated business, that has been giving Australian businesses the edge since the 1970’s. it started as a small rural machinery maintenance , repair and modification workshop run by Brendon & Avril Hawkes that built its reputation by putting its clients first and always saying “yes” no matter what the challenge. This approach

was instilled in their 2 sons, Jeremy & Simon who continued to build the business into steel fabrication and construction in the early 1990’s. Today BHE continues to expand their

business into the Mining, Water, Defence and Commercial projects from an impressive modern facility in Bowhill.

Following the explanation of BHE, Project Draughtsman- Ethan Klemm joined the 1st group, before moving them out into the works area to view what buildings and projects were under construction. One of the first projects viewed was the construction of a replacement rail bridge over the Light River, weighing in at around 80 tonnes. A massive and amazing structure.

Then it was off to see what the ACCMB group really came to see, building B5 Fabrication Hall. This building is enormous to say the least, being 23 metres (7 stories) high x 70 metres long x 20 metres wide, which also includes a 16-metre crane, capable of lifting 100 tonnes. The projects underway in this building were, the new Kangaroo Island ferry ramps, and once assembled would be 10 metres x 15 metres long ramps. Wow, what a massive project & building, with ACCMB members and guests standing, looking & discussing it in awe.

Then it was onto the industrial paint shop where Patron Graham, you know the song, "Go to Graham Edwards - Go to Graham Edwards", viewed this with interest.

Now with both ACCMB groups having completed the tour of the factory, it was time to move on down the road to the Bowhill Community Complex for tea/coffee, followed by a scrumptious lunch of chicken & salads, followed by cake and a can of soft drink, all served to perfection by a magnificent group of community volunteers, where nothing was too much trouble.



During lunch, HR Manager Samantha & Project Draftsman Ethan talked and showed by way of a photo production of some of the massive productions that BHE had manufactured in the little river town of Bowhill S.A. – truly a credit to the vision of the Hawkes family and its employees.

At the conclusion of the amazing presentation of BHE products completed for distribution throughout Australia and wider, ACCMB Patron, Graham Edwards, sincerely thanked BHE & Staff, all the Bowhill Community Complex volunteers for their catering effort, before presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to BHE, accepted by Samantha and Ethan for the days event.

This was immediately followed up by the ACCMB President, Brian Rainey, who expressed his and the ACCMB sincere appreciation to Graham and Maureen for their organization of the

days outing, with all present applauding Graham, Maureen and BHE in the usual manner.

Prior to everyone leaving for home, all Patron Run Quiz sheets were collected, with Patron Graham reading out the answers to the quiz. During the reading there were many "Ooohs & Aahs" from ACCMB members. The winner of the Patron Run trophy will be announced at the ACCMB Presentation Dinner in June. Another great day out for members and guests.



(Thank you for this report and photos from Run Organizers, Graham & Maureen Edwards.)

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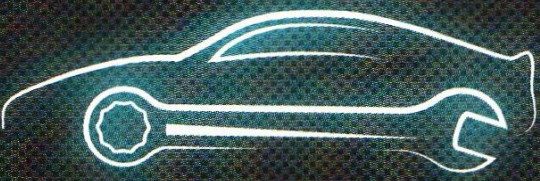
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