

ISSUE 266

The Wheel



Southern Tablelands
Heritage Automotive Restorers Club Inc.

August 2025



Southern Tablelands Heritage Automotive Restorers Club, Inc.

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Bank Details: STHARC BSB 633000 Account 164876989

Club Meetings

WHEN: 7pm; 2nd Thursday of each month (except January)

WHERE: Girl Guide Hall, Erin St, Queanbeyan.

Contributions should be submitted **before the 22nd of the month** for the following month's issue. Articles covering events, members' experiences, automotive/mechanical items or photographs welcomed. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or modify any section of any article submitted for publication.

The opinions and views expressed in the articles published in The Wheel are wholly those of the respective authors, not necessarily those of the Editor, or the Committee of the Southern Tablelands Heritage Automotive Restorers Club Inc. **Previous copies of The Wheel** are available from Australian National Library, Call No N796.70994WHE

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From the President's driver seat

Hello STHARC Members,

I start this missive with an open call for someone to nominate as our next treasurer (at a minimum). Our next meeting will also be our annual general meeting in which all committee positions will be open for renewal. While I encourage everyone to consider any of the office bearer positions, we will struggle as an incorporated club if our treasurer position cannot be filled. This does not require any accountancy or bookwork experience, merely a methodical approach to maintaining our club's finances. One thing about which I am quite sure, is that our outgoing treasurer will remain on hand to ensure the next person gets all the support and guidance to take over the reins in a smooth manner.

Our July meeting was very well attended which, when one considers the cold and dark night in the middle of winter, shows how our members are interested to be a part of our fraternity. As at that meeting, about 75% of members had renewed their membership. Our secretary made a poignant point that while that is above that seen in previous years at that juncture of a new fiscal year, it still meant that a quarter of our members were still behind in their payment. Remember, that if you do not pay your membership you will lose access to our communication, and you will not be legally allowed to drive any historic plated vehicles (regardless of when its registration falls due).

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From the President's driver seat

I must (again) give our collective thanks to Rebecca Templeton for her presentation on organ donation in Australia. Not only did she present the facts clearly and educatively, but her family's personal story provided a poignant message to us all. The life changing/giving opportunities really hit home when it is shown how the process makes a difference to someone you know and their wider family. One of my paternal grandmother's favourite sayings was that *pockets are not sown into shrouds* (meaning that you can't take your money with you when you die). With that in mind and on the subject of organ donation, I am reminded of the ancient Egyptians who stowed the dead's vital organs in canopic jars for use in the afterlife. More than 4000 years later those organs remain unused. Please don't let your organs go to waste as you can't use them after you have passed away – the Egyptians tried and failed. Remember that age is no barrier and the wisest of us knows not when nor how soon our own time will come. I recommend you do not wait until it's too late, and become a recognised organ donor now and discuss that decision with your family.

Lastly, on a happier subject, I am writing this just prior to our club run to Robertson. I am looking forward to the social aspects of this event and revisiting a part of the southern tablelands to which I have not been for a number of years. I believe that Rosalie will present our trip at a future monthly meeting. Remember that anyone can help plan and coordinate a club run, and the events team are always open to new and exciting ideas.

Yours fraternally,
Bruce Legge
President

Editors Notes: Sandra, Marion & Rhonda

FRONT PAGE

Bill Grzeskowiak's Black 1990 DA - LTD

Open Day at Landra Castle and Mt Oriel Homestead near Greenthorpe on Sunday the 8th of June 2025.

I took a photo of my Black 1990 DA - LTD, with the home in the background.

There were approximately 300 people which visited the property that day.

I urge everyone that hasn't visited the Homestead and castle, to do so. It's definitely well worth it !!!

Story by Bill Grzeskowiak



3 Pearson Rd, Greenthorpe NSW 2608. 0629 4500 Fax 0629 4200 Email printing@homesteadpress.com.au

STHARC GENERAL MEETING

Queanbeyan Guide Hall 10th July 2025

The meeting commenced at 7.02 pm. The President welcomed members to the meeting and reminded them to place their phones on silent and to sign the attendance book.

Attendance and apologies as per Attendance Book.

Visitors: John Balkos (1971 Honda Z 50; Toyota Town Ace) introduced himself to the meeting, indicating an interest in joining the club, and was welcomed by the President.

New Members: On the Committee's recommendation, members unanimously approved the membership of David Welsh, Eric Darling, Zoe Azzopardi and James Tough.

Minutes of the 12 June 2025 meeting accepted (moved Bruce Legge; seconded Ray Malam).

President's Remarks: The President noted that 2025/26 membership cards were available for collection at the conclusion of the meeting. He noted that the Duty of Care document prepared by Tony Brown had been revised in light of comments from members and was now called "Guidelines for Participation at Club Events and Club Runs". The revised draft had been circulated to Members and the Committee recommended its adoption. Members unanimously endorsed the guidelines which will now be dated 10 July 2025 and posted on the website. The guidelines will be a 'live' document, evolving as required. The President thanked Tony for his excellent work in preparing the document for STHARC. The President also reminded members of the club's Annual General Meeting in August, encouraging all members to consider nominating for a Committee role. In particular, the club will require a new Treasurer this year; this is a critical role, but is not onerous and the new occupant is certain to receive excellent handover support from the current Treasurer.

STHARC GENERAL MEETING

Queanbeyan Guide Hall 10th July 2025

Treasurer's Report: Since last month, income has comprised membership fees and raffle proceeds. Expenditure has comprised printing and postage of *The Wheel*; name badges; payment for apparel; and an \$800 donation for the annual use of the Guide Hall (for which the club has received a letter of thanks from the Guides). As of 10 July, 73 % of members have renewed their membership (indicating that 24 members have yet to renew); owners must be a financial member of a club for their vehicles to be registered. Report accepted (moved Bruce Legge; seconded Darryl Bourke).

Secretary's Report: The club has received hard copies of the Coota Hoota, Bike Torque and Crankhandle. Electronic copies of the Klaxon and Dinkum Oil, as well as information on the Bay to Birdwood Rally and Terribly British Day have been forwarded to members. Report accepted (moved Bruce McCarron; seconded Alan Boyd).

Registrar's Report: The Registrar noted that Services NSW, in collaboration with their Victorian and ACT counterparts, are starting to attend car club events, issuing defect notices where cars are found to be non-compliant.

Events Report: On behalf of the Events Team, the President reported: Club weekend at Robertson, 19 – 20 July; final details have been advised by e-mail to those attending;

July morning tea at the Michelago Café and General Store, 10.00 am Friday 25 July;

Saturday 9 August, 2-5pm, soup and scones Winter Warmer at Rosalie's house; please contact Rosalie if you can assist with catering;

August morning tea, Sutton Bakery, 10.00 am Friday 29 August;

Saturday 6 September day trip to the Cooma Motor Museum – meet at the museum at 10.00 am - and lunch at the Cooma Ex-Services Club; and

Sunday 14 September, Classic Cruise to support Camp Quality; let the Events Team know if you are interested in forming a STHARC team to enter this event.

STHARC GENERAL MEETING

Queanbeyan Guide Hall 10th July 2025

Editors' Report: On behalf of the Editorial Team, Rhonda Ahearn encouraged members to continue submitting articles to *The Wheel*, including articles on their first car.

Property Officer: Mike Oborn noted that he was currently holding a run out of old stock – details will be included in the next *Wheel* - and that the new apparel was expected to be available from September.

CACTMC Delegate: Chuck Landwehr noted that next year Wheels will be relocating from the Queanbeyan Showground to Thoroughbred Park as the latter event is substantially cheaper to rent. CACTMC is planning a car show in conjunction with the Hall markets.

CHMC Delegate: Alan Boyd reported that the 2025 CHMC AGM will be held in Cowra on 25 October and that STHARC member, Rod Luke, attended the CHMC Rally in Dubbo in March with his 1982 Daimler.

Christine Hillbrick-Boyd, CHMC Secretary, reminded members that the CHMC publication Dinkum Oil (circulated to members) contained valuable updates on information from Transport NSW. She also noted that police are increasingly checking that cars registered under the Classic Vehicle Scheme are not modified; modified vehicles need to be registered under the Historic Vehicle Scheme. Christine noted that, unfortunately, no club had volunteered to host the 2026 CHMC Rally. A CHMC survey about the rally will be forwarded to STHARC members shortly; members are encouraged to complete and return the survey to provide CHMC with guidance on this matter. While it is not viable for STHARC to host a Rally in this region, the club has twice previously hosted the CHMC October meeting and Christine hopes we could do so again in the future.

Raffle: Four raffle prizes were won.

Next Meeting: 7.00 pm Thursday 14 August 2025

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

STHARC GENERAL MEETING

Queanbeyan Guide Hall 10th July 2025

Guest Speaker:

Rebecca Templeton gave a very interesting presentation to members on organ donation, noting:

There are 18,000 people in Australia currently waiting on an organ donation and transplant numbers have been declining;

In 2024 there were 527 successful donations from 183,000 deaths;

Family consent to donation is required even for registered donors and consent rates are higher where the family is already aware of the donor's wish to donate;

Donations save lives; one donor can potentially save up to seven lives;

There is no age limit on donors;

It takes only a few minutes on-line to become a registered organ donor.

The President and club members thanked Rebecca for her interesting and thought provoking presentation.



Club merchandise for sale

Contact Mike Oborn 0492 945 986



Full zip fleece vest - \$26ea



1/2 zip fleece jacket - \$28ea



Full zip fleece jacket - \$30 ea



Polo shirts—\$20ea



Wide brim hats- \$10ea

Club merchandise for sale

Contact Mike Oborn 0492 945 986



Mens long sleeve shirt - \$36ea



Ladies short sleeve shirt -\$24ea



Ladies 3/4 sleeve shirt - \$24



T shirts—\$10ea



Plate tags & badges

Various prices

EVENTS August 2025

Thursday 14th August

STHARC general and Annual General Meeting Queanbeyan Guide
Hall 7pm

9th August, Saturday 2pm – Winter Warmer

Winter Warmer at Rosalie Ryan's place at Mt Campbell Estate. Fire, scones and soup!

You are invited to the Ryan's residence at 14 Staunton Place, Goo-gong to enjoy an outdoor fire to warm your bones, a cup of soup to warm your soul and scones because they are just good! Please email events@stharc.org.au if you can bring a soup or a batch of scones. If possible, please bring soups in a slow cooker so we can plug in and serve.

Morning Tea 10.00 am

Friday 29th August

Little Sutton Bakehouse

1 Victoria Street, Sutton

EVENTS September 2025

Thursday 11th September

STHARC general meeting. Queanbeyan Guide Hall 7pm

Saturday 6th September—daytrip to Cooma to visit the Cooma Motor Museum and lunch. Meet at the Motor Museum at 10am, lunch will follow at the Ex-Services Club.

Option of a Birdsnest Clothing Store visit in between the Museum and lunch for those ladies interested.

Sunday 14th September - Classic Cruise

 START: National Arboretum @ 10am

 FINISH: Lake foreshore near Questacon @ 11am for a Show and Shine

10th annual Classic Cruise supporting Camp Quality. You can register online at classiccruise.com.au. The requirements are that you need to raise a minimum of \$25 for motorbikes and \$50 for all other vehicles. STHARC can register as a team, we need to register our vehicles individually and then we can follow the instructions to create a team. If you're interested, let Rosalie know or email events@stharc.org.au

Morning Tea 10.00 am

Friday 26th September

To be advised

FINAL NOTICE – 2025 - 2026 **Renewal**

**Your membership renewal fee was due
on 30 June 2025.**

**RENEWALS RECEIVED AFTER 30 JULY 2025 WILL
INCUR A LATE FEE OF \$10.**

**Any members who have not paid their renewal by
30 September 2025, will be asked to re-apply for
membership to the club.**

UNFINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP
= non-compliance to your conditional registration
and = No Third Party Insurance





**SOUTHERN TABLELANDS HERITAGE AUTOMOTIVE RESTORERS CLUB
INC**

**NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE POSITION –
2025/2026**

COMMITTEE POSITION

NOMINEE..... Signature.....Date..../..../2025

PROPOSER.....Signature.....Date..../..../2025

SECONDER.....Signature.....Date..../ / 2025

ACTION BY SECRETARY:

DATE RECEIVED/..../ 2025

MEMBERSHIP CHECK:

ELIGIBILITY OF NOMINEE:...FINANCIAL FULL MEMBERYes / No

ELIGIBILITY OF PROPOSER...FINANCIAL FULL MEMBER Yes / No

ELIGIBILITY OF SECONDER: FINANCIAL FULL MEMBERYes / No

SECRETARY.....Bruce McCarron.....

Signature..... Date/..../2025

Positions available:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Events Director, Registrar.

**Nomination form(s) to be received by the Secretary
no later than Thursday 14 August 2025**

CHILLY WHEELS & WARM COMPANY

MORNING TEA/CAR CLUB RUN TO TARAGO

Saturday, 21st June dawned with a bite in the air, the mercury plunging to a bracing -7°C in our region. Such conditions might have discouraged the faint-hearted, but for our car club, it was merely a call to don an extra scarf and embrace the adventure ahead. After all, what could be more invigorating than a shimmering winter morning drive, the countryside dusted in frost, and the promise of good coffee at the end of the road?

A contingent of 22 members fired up their engines, and as the convoy set out, we were joined by several more members along the route. By the time we reached Tarago, our numbers had swelled to a remarkable 32—a testament to the enduring appeal of a club that thrives on shared passions of classic vehicles, a chance to socialise and coffee.

Despite the café being filled, the staff welcomed us with warm smiles and a practiced efficiency. In no time, our coffees began to appear at tables, and the bacon and egg rolls proved a universal favourite—a perfect antidote to the lingering chill. The café also boasted homemade sausage rolls and several baked sweet treats on display.

On this occasion, several classic cars graced the convoy. Notably, we had a pair of Volkswagen Beetles who made the run: Ringo, the 1970s blue Beetle lovingly maintained by Chris and Alan, and Ian's 1970's tan beetle. We almost had a third Beetle in the lineup, but alas, Rosalie decided to leave hers tucked up at home at the last minute—perhaps daunted by the frost or simply preferring a cozier ride. Still, two out of three isn't bad, especially considering how these iconic cars once navigated the snows of German winters.

Joining the Beetles were a medley of other classics and modern club favourites. From a stately Mercedes Benz to a fiery Celica, an eclectic gathering that reflects the diverse and wonderful interests of our club members.

We may have started the day shivering, but we ended it with warmed hearts and full tummies.

CHILLY WHEELS & WARM COMPANY MORNING TEA/CAR CLUB RUN TO TARAGO



CHILLY WHEELS & WARM COMPANY

MORNING TEA/CAR CLUB RUN TO TARAGO

ATTENDEES

Jimmy and Lynn Howard
Steve and Rhonda Ahearn
Keith and Janice Bateman
Ray and Barbara Malam
Malcolm and Hazel Roxburgh
Mark and Bernie Wyatt
Tony and Christine Brown
Rosalie Ryan
Ian Robinson
John Kaczmarek
Rod Luke
Shaun and Anne Read
Russell and Kerrie McKinlay
Bob McKay
Cheryl Mullesham
Allan and Chris Boyd
Barry Stewart
Dave and Ali Arton



CHILLY WHEELS & WARM COMPANY MORNING TEA/CAR CLUB RUN TO TARAGO



How a 1970 Dodge Challenger healed a broken heart

By Steven Rankine

Love, Loss & Plum Crazy

They say love finds you when you least expect it. For me, it roared in on four wheels, wrapped in gold paint with a seized 426ci Hemi under the hood — a 1970 Dodge Challenger that would become my first true love.

The timing wasn't ideal. My father had just passed away, and I was consumed by grief. In a moment of desperation and retail therapy, I found myself drunk and scrolling eBay while on RAAF training at HMAS Cerberus. One miscalculated bid later, I woke up with a hang-over *and* an email congratulating me — I'd just won the auction.

Panic set in. I was a junior technician, barely keeping a house deposit together, and had just committed to buying a muscle car I'd only ever dreamed about. My plan was simple: meet the seller, offer a polite bottle of wine, and pull out of the purchase with some dignity intact.

But fate had other plans...

At a panel beating shop on the north side of Spencer Street in Melbourne, I met an old Italian man who introduced me to the angel. As soon as I laid eyes on her, disaster struck — I fell in love. The wine was handed over without a word, and I bolted to the nearest bank to withdraw the funds and hire a trailer.

How a 1970 Dodge Challenger healed a broken heart

By Steven Rankine



How a 1970 Dodge Challenger healed a broken heart

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She was far from stock: gold paint, a green interior, carbon fibre front end, line lockers, tubbed rear wheels, and a 426ci Hemi locked solid from years of abuse. But to me, she was perfect — a bruised and battered beauty rescued from the drag strip.

Over the next five years, I began restoring her between a garage and an aircraft hangar at RAAF Base Tindal. I replaced the aftermarket panels with factory sheet metal, sold the old engine for nearly what I paid for the car, and dropped in a 318ci Fireball V8 to bring it back to its original spec. The tubs were brought back to factory width, the interior swapped from green to classic black, and she was repainted in her rightful colour: **Plum Crazy**.

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How a 1970 Dodge Challenger healed a broken heart

By Steven Rankine

She even made it to my wedding as my chariot — although not without drama. After failing the pits due to a non-compliant exhaust, I discovered a VicRoads loophole that allowed driving under permit, and we made it happen.

These days, the old girl lives a quieter life. She rests in her shed, slowly defrosting between family trips to the servo and back. She's no longer a drag car — she's part of the family.

Her story is simple. Two American owners, then two Aussies. But her soul? That's eternal. She gave me healing when I needed it most, and in return, I gave her a second life.



