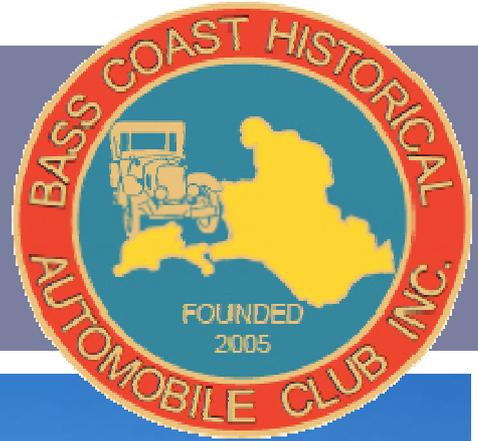


BCHAC

A0049447S



**Newsletter Volume 15 Number 6
Aug - Sept 2025**

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club

Was established in 2005 and offers members friendship, restoration advice. Our mid-week, weekend and annual events offer something of interest for all the family.
Meetings 1st Tuesday of every month except January.

BCHAC Inc, PO Box 687, Wonthaggi, 3995 Email - bchaclub@yahoo.com | Website - www.bchac.com.au
Visitors are always welcome.

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
Keith Tonkin	Pat Kennedy	Brian Asbury
0438 577 367 s-tonkins@live.com.au	0438 230 422 patkennedy1969@gmail.com	0411 237 840 the secretarybchac@gmail.com

TREASURER	MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR	CPS REGISTRAR
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0408 504 828 erikekemail@gmail.com	0414 590 632 domzoo1@bigpond.com	0402 957 170 quambi555@bigpond.com

EDITOR	EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR	EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR
Peter Mattea	Yvonne Thompson	Judy Dewar
0421 832 858 bchaclub@yahoo.com	0414 590 632 domzoo1@bigpond.com	0419 371 441 judydewar23@gmail.com

	CLUB PERMIT SCHEME	
AREA	NAME	NUMBER
Leongatha	Colin Graham	0402 957 170 (CPS REGISTRAR)
Wonthaggi	Graham McBain	03 5672 4232 0457 158 760)
Wonthaggi	Brian Davidson	03 5672 2002 0429 722 002
Grantville	Tony Easton	0418 173 255
	SAFETY OFFICERS	
San Remo	Graeme Wagland	0408 996 672
Kilcunda	Jason Sach	0425 462 789

Safety Officers are able to sign normal renewal forms

Front Cover

Peter Mattea's 1987 Honda GB400TT on the road to Loch.

DISCLAIMER

The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc., its Officers and Committee cannot be held liable for any errors and/or omissions in articles, reports, notices, advertisements, comment and advice of events that are published in this Newsletter in good faith.

ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I submit to you my President's report for 2024/2025 a club is only as good as the committee and our club would not run as well if we didn't have the expertise of our committee members who go above and beyond.

Brian our secretary is the backbone of our club, together with the rest of the committee who each hold important jobs, keep the club running successfully.

To the members of the club who have supported me and helped me in many ways I thank you all.

Financially the club is in a good position and we have been able to give donations to local charities. During the year we had a range of different speakers and we are able to donate to their various organisations.

Again we have had numerous very interesting and successful rallies to many different locations. Thank you to Judy, Yvonne, Irene and David for organising these rallies.

Unfortunately there have been some members who have had health issues in different ways. Thankfully they are all on the way to recovery. On behalf of the club members I would like to pay respects to Daryl Minter who passed away at the end of last year.

Again the future of the club is in a good position for the coming year let's hope the Show & Shine is successful. Let's not forget that the club remains as a social club and we have a purpose by running events from which we are able to help those less fortunate in the community at the same time promoting our club. Please support everyone in the club and don't let it become a cliquey club.

Finally Sue and I wish everyone good health and let's look forward to a successful and happy New Year.

Many thanks

Keith Tonkin (President,)

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, winter has well and truly arrived, the last month or so has been cold and wet good for the farmers but time for a little maintenance on our vehicles so we can enjoy the spring weather just around the corner.

I've been looking through the members list and it looks like we have about 15 members with motorcycles and some members with multiples totalling 33 motorcycles in our club. I would like to remind our members with bikes we have a regular ride on the last Sunday of the month, meeting at Fincher Street 9:30 for a 10:00 start. It would be great to see some new faces there, we ride a fairly modest pace and keep to the back roads as much as possible, we always stop some where nice for coffee and a good chat [about bikes or saving the world].

I look forward to meeting you on the next ride.

Peter Mattea

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. A0049447S

General Meeting at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club 1st July 2025

Meeting Opened at 7:30pm

Keith acknowledged the custodians of our land.

Attendance and Apologies – As recorded

New Members/Visitors – Robert Lavin introduced himself to the meeting. He has a MX5 1994 that he is restoring, an 84 Cressida that he is planning to sell and a 2009 Cab Navarra. Keith welcomed him to the group and asked members to introduce ourselves, reminding us that we are a social group and should be welcoming to all new comers.

Guest Speaker – Shirley Egan from Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) Shirley introduced herself as the Community Strengthening and Grants Officer who works with lots of community groups in various ways such as training programs to support groups; graphic design training; community leadership program; grants program among others. The Grants Program is to assist and encourage ongoing community events and fundraising. She has a budget of \$294,000, subject to budget approval, divided into two grants. Firstly a Quick response Grant for up to \$2000 and Major Community Grants between \$5000 and \$10,000 per year. These grants help fund equipment, events, minor capital works and other programs such as work-shops, building extensions. There is also \$40,000 Climate Action Grant. All not for profit groups are eligible to apply. Those successful have conditions to agree to and any unused money is to be returned to the shire. All applications are done online and Shirley referred to the BCSC webpage and recommended we look at Engage Bass Coast to find out anything happening in our area. Keith thanked Shirley for speaking to us and for all she's done for our club and expressed how great she is to work with.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Read by Marj Wagland

Moved by Marj Wagland 2nd Red Rogers Carried

Keith thanked Marj Wagland for recording the minutes in Brian's absence.

Business arising from the previous minutes

AOMC MembershipPlus – 6 members attended the AOMC presentation. It seems that AOMC wants too much information if we were to get our insurance through them. We would have to notify AOMC of any event who would then notify the insurer who would have to approve the event. Currently, we have no such problem with our current insurer. Committee recommends that we don't join AOMC insurance scheme at the moment and review in twelve months. Our current insurance is \$400 dearer. We would continue with AOMC membership.

Question asked regarding the difference between AOMC and Federation as we used to belong to Federation but changed to AOMC. David Dewar explained that Federation and AOMC both keep an eye on new regulations regarding the permit scheme. Grants can be applied for through Federation but AOMC does not have a grants scheme.

Correspondence

23/5/25 AOMC membership renewal

19/5/25 General Property Insurance Quote # QN007640145-1

18/6/25 Leonie Bendigo Bank - VISA Card

18/6/25 Trish Bendigo Bank Assist with grant application

11/6/25 Poster print quote

25/6/25 Gallagher Letter of acceptance - Shed contents cover.

25/6/25 BJS letter rejecting quote for shed contents cover

Moved Marj Wagland 2nd Peter Mattea Carried

Treasurer's Report

Dianne Adams provided the financial report, details attached to minutes and can be viewed by arrangements with the secretary.

Moved Dianne Adams 2nd Clive Kilgour Carried

Dianne thanked everyone for their best wishes and for helping out during her recent ill health.

Reports

Membership

Yvonne advised that all members should receive a mailout including Notice of AGM, proxy voting form and a list of current members. She asked that we checked the list and let her know of any inaccuracies. We have one new member and to date, only 30 members not yet paid. Yvonne advised that there was a box of past rally badges for anyone who wished to have one.

Events

Judy welcomed Dianne back and reported on the following:-

Past Events

Lunch at Tooradin Sports Club was a roaring success.

Coming Events

16th July– Lunch at Mirboo North Hotel. Meet at venue 12.30

August – Sunday lunch. Venue TBA

September – Graeme Talmage is organizing a rally with another car club and invites us to join them for lunch at the Cape on 17th September. More information to follow.

Motorbike Group

Peter reported that the Sunday run was a great day despite the early morning drizzle. Five riders enjoyed the day together.

Editor

The closing date for the next newsletter is 21st July 2025. Peter urged members to submit club stories to help fill some blank pages.

Show and Shine

Keith showed two new examples of roadside signs as previous signs had been too cluttered.

The sub-committee has selected one of the signs with a few changes. The sub-committee is still working on different classes of vehicles. Sponsorship is in hand but local estate agents will be approached for sponsorship. All planning is going along well.

General Business

Question from floor - What does our insurance cover? Yvonne explained it is a \$20 million Public Liability and covers all our events advertised in our calendar and newsletter. At all events members are required to sign in. Our monthly raffle money helps to pay for this insurance.

Question from floor – Is committee considering joining Federation? Committee is considering making the change.

Buy, Sell or Give Away

None

Door Prize

Member 30 – Colin Carter.

Meeting Closed

8.40pm

Next Meeting

5th August 2025

Notice of 2025 Annual General Meeting

**Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc.
PO Box 687 Wonthaggi 3995
Reg. No. A 0049447S**

**To be held at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club at 7:30pm on the 5th August 2025.
This will be followed by the General Meeting.**

To approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.
To receive and adopt the Annual Report from the President.
To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts for the year ended June 2025.
To elect new committee members of the club for the year 2025/2026
To confirm or vary the amounts of annual subscription fees.
To transact any other ordinary business (to be notified in writing to the Secretary prior to the 29th July 2025).

Nominations of candidates for election to Committee are to be delivered to the Secretary, BCHAC Inc, PO Box 687 Wonthaggi 3995 by 29th July 2025

If you are prepared to be nominated, or wish to nominate a person, please complete the Committee Nomination Form provided in the mailout.

All nominations must be proposed, seconded and signed by the nominees and candidates. All candidates and nominees must be financial members.
Proxy voting is allowed on Proxy Form provided.

Brian Asbury
Secretary

DASHBOARD DISTRESS

I have a 1978 CL Valiant. I am wondering if it is possible to request some help in the newsletter please? I just saw the car sale adds and thought there may be someone out there able to assist. My question is;

I was wondering if there is someone who can or knows someone who can remove and reinstall a dashboard (includes windscreen and heater etc.) in a 1978 Valiant Regal. Its a bit above my pay grade.

Josh Kilgour 0402443511. Happy to pay the going rate.

Fred Webb – Wonthaggi engineer and business-man

Fred Webb was a business-man and engineer who in the early 1950s ran a fleet of school and mine buses and had his own workshops and mechanics in Wonthaggi. He is remembered today by Webb's Shed in McKenzie Street which he donated to the local secondary college.

The mountainous mullock dumps that stood at the local mines then were formed when the overburden and low grade coal and slack was piled into big heaps. In time the mullock dumps caught fire by spontaneous combustion and formed 'burnt' or red stone which was widely used on the roads throughout the district.

Fred Webb had the rights to the stone dumps and built a crusher to crush the large red stone to a suitable size for the roads. At the time he had an early Rolls Royce car (late 20s early 30s I think) and he took the motor out of the Rolls to power his stone crusher. When some Melbourne people heard about the early Rolls they came to Wonthaggi to see Fred about selling it to them. In the long run he sold them the car, removed its motor from the crusher and after putting it back in the car the new owners drove it back to Melbourne.

Fred then fitted a new motor to the stone crusher and when the running track at the MCG was being constructed for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games Fred was contracted to supply the finely crushed red stone needed for its completion.

Local tip-truck owners carted the crushed stone to the MCG working virtually 24 hours a day. The truck owners were paid per yard and as tip-trucks then were only 6 to 8 yards, not like the huge ones of today, to carry more stone they put on what were called 'hungry boards'. These were 6 to 8 inch boards bolted to the top of the tipper body that let them get a couple of extra yards on each load. Some trucks of the 1950s were quite slow so Les James from Inverloch put an overdrive gearbox in his 50s Austin tip-truck for the long runs to the MCG.

Fred Webb also had a very nice 1946 Mark 4 Jaguar at the time. It had large chrome headlights and wire wheels but only a 1½ litre motor so he fitted a Holden 6 cylinder motor to give it more power to pull a trailer.

Good people, good times and the good old days.



Jack Moyle

Credit - vintagelorryshop.etsy.com

The First Electric Taxi in London

According to The Science Museum, the first electric taxi was the work of Walter Bersey and appeared in London in 1897. A whole lot earlier than you may have thought. With a top speed of 9-12mph, this would have also been a lot slower than the taxis of today, meaning that passengers would have to be prepared for a somewhat lengthy journey! During this time, cars were only gradually being introduced in the city due to the Government's 'Red Flag Act' which ruled that any vehicle which was not a horse-drawn carriage must be led by a man carrying a red flag to warn pedestrians. This was later repealed in 1896, which allowed such vehicles to begin a gradual introduction to Britain's roads.

The Bersey taxi was one of these, known as the "Hummingbird" due to its distinctive electric hum, and the yellow and black design. The cab featured electric lighting inside and out and was capable of carrying two passengers.

Scotland Yard licensed these vehicles under the condition that:

- Each vehicle had a driver
- Drivers could stop the carriage when requested
- They could be turned within a small space

They could climb London's steepest hill, Savoy Hill

History of the First Electric Taxi

Though the Bersey taxi remains one of the earliest and therefore oldest taxis to take to London's streets, it was unfortunately not the wisest in its time. Due to the limited technology available at this time, there were some limitations to its use. Batteries had to be regularly replaced using a hydraulic lifting system, which took 2-3 minutes at London's only charging station. Electricity was also rarer to come by, which meant the company had to endure the expense of producing their own. The Bersey taxi made its debut at the South Kensington motor show in 1896, with a fleet of 12 unveiled before these took to the road in 1897. The cabs undertook the London-Brighton race as part of their launch, though reports stated that the taxis were unable to complete the 60-mile journey and had to complete part of it by train.



Half a year later, the noise of these cabs intensified posing another issue, and subsequent vibrations caused damage to the glass plates, while the tyres soon wore out due to the cab's two-tonne weight. This often resulted in breakdowns, showing the greater efficiency of the more traditional horse-drawn cab. Sadly, the Bersey cabs disappeared within two years, as the city of London accepted that the time just wasn't yet right for electric taxis.

JUNE MOTORCYCLE RUN

There were five riders at the starting point, John Hague, Peter Todeschini, Colin Carter, Glen Pascoe and myself it was a little damp and by our 10:00 start time the drizzle was persistent, so we kept chatting for another half hour or so and the drizzle stopped. We headed down the Loch Road to Archies Creek then took Mill Road to Glen Forbes, Almurta and I pulled up on the side of the road heading towards the Gurdies because the sky to the north where we were heading was black as, so a quick change of plans and we were heading east through Woodleigh, Moyarra and on to Korumburra.

The roads had been dry since Archies Creek but it was cold so we had lunch indoors to warm up, hot pies and coffee went down well. The winter sun came out after lunch which made for a pleasant ride home, all up 120 kms and an surprisingly good ride for winter.

Peter Mattea



CALENDAR

3rd August	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
5th August	AGM & General Meeting Wonthaggi Workmen's Club Graham Street Wonthaggi @ 7.30pm Dinner prior to meeting	
17th August	Willow Grove Run to Topsy Heiffer, 14 Willow Grove-Moe Road Willow Grove 12.30pm for lunch Meet at Fincher Street Wonthaggi for a 10.30am start	Judy 0419371441 Yvonne 0414590632
31st August	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

2 nd September	General Meeting Wonthaggi Workmen's Club @ 7.30pm Dinner prior to the Meeting	
7th September	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
17th September	Invitation to join ABCCC on their run to Gippsland. Join them at Cape Paterson for lunch at the Cape Tavern at 1pm	Yvonne 0414590632 Judy 0419371441
28th September	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

Member's List

As requested by Members present at a General Meeting we have produced an up-to-date Member's List. This list has been mailed to you along with your receipt for payment of Annual Fees, a Notice of AGM Meeting and Proxy Voting form should you wish to use it.

The list shows your Name and what vehicles you have. I would be grateful if you could check your entry and if there are any errors please let me know so that we may correct the error.

Yvonne Thompson Membership Secretary

Peter's 1987 Honda GB400TT

Back in April 2014 I went to Sydney Road Brunswick to LOOK at a motorcycle, Lorraine came with me and went into the 2 dollar shop next door (that was a mistake). I was talking to the salesman who explained they imported all their stock from Japan second hand and that most of the bikes were imported on consignment and were already sold. I inquired about a silver Honda in the window and he said it was shop stock and for sale. I went and look the bike over, the tyres were original as were the chain and sprockets, I looked at the odometer, it read 9579 kilometres (my best mate and racing partner Richard Combley had the racing number 57 and I used 99 as mine) I turned to the salesman shook his hand and said it's sold.

The Honda came with a RWC for which they fitted a new rear tyre, seeing as the bike was 27 years old they probably should have done the front tyre as well. Once I



started riding it I realised the front forks needed work as did the carby, what little fork oil was in the forks was like water so I cleaned them out and renewed the oil. The engine wasn't running smooth and wasn't idling well, it took me 3 or 4 goes of taking the carby out, apart and cleaning it before it was working properly. The GB400TT was designed as a retro bike back in the 80's by Honda to pay homage to the Tourist Trophy bikes of the 50 and 60's. It's a sweet handling bike with old school styling and modern reliability.

Peter Mattea.

FOR SALE

1995 Ford Eonovan Long Wheel Base. White Automatic No Power Steering
Registered to 15th September 2025. Engine No. FEZ 96704,
Chassis No. JCOAAASGMESL1347 Registration SPK579 Mileage 281493
Price \$2000 please call Yvonne on 0414590632.

1946 Oldsmobile Ace series 66 sedan, Built by Holden between 1946 - 1948
Good condition, Colour is parkstonian green with Leather interior camel colour,
Pearl steering wheel. 4611.9 miles on the clock.
Price \$20,000 contact Bev Kurrle on 0447 123 318

STILL FOR SALE 1961 Vauxhall Cresta

Two Tone Blue and White, all original condition except for a replacement exhaust.
Top running condition on Club Plates. Engine Number PAX141553.
Original purchase documents are available as is a 4-digit South Australian number
plate (3887) \$14,500, call Brian 0356722002 at Wonthaggi

WANTED

Trimatic in working order, call Red on 0417 592 837

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