

# BCHAC

A0049447S



**Newsletter Volume 15 Number 5  
June - July 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

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**Visitors are always welcome.**

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## **CLUB PERMIT SCHEME**

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Tony Easton—0418 173 255

**Everyone has a photographic  
memory.  
Some just don't have film.**

## **Front Cover**

Tony Cuzzupi's 1992 Toyota MR2 Targa Coupe at Apex Park

## **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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

My how quick the months go by we are nearly halfway through the year.

The discussion in the last month has been the AOMC insurance scheme, we had 6 committee members attend the presentation at Springvale. This was very professionally presented and we now need to decide whether it is of any benefit to our club. At our last meeting we were entertained by a speaker although a bit lengthy she gave us some very helpful information on snake bites and first aid.

I have just returned from the club's rally to Ocean Grove this was a very enjoyable well organised event. The numbers were down due to sickness and prior to the rally Irene unfortunately fell down some steps and has broken 5 ribs. She is hospital but the reports I have received indicate that she is not a happy patient and wants to come home. On behalf of the club I wish her a speedy recovery. We have a visit to the Wonthaggi Special school on Wednesday the 21st May this is before the newsletter is distributed but I am hoping we have a good number of cars and bikes as the kids are busting to crawl all over them.

Regards Keith Tonkin

## FROM THE EDITOR

This is my first solo attempt at the newsletter as editor, and I'd like to thank former editor Ray Watson for all his hard work over the years and for all his guidance and tuition during the handover period. It's a steep learning curve but I'm getting there with help from Yvonne Thompson [she can expect more phone calls over the first few issues].

The Newsletter will only ever be as good as the articles you submit, so I'd like to remind every one if emailing an article send it as a word file, anything from 50 to 500 words long and attach photos in JPEG format. For members not fluent in computer jargon I'm more than happy to receive stories in hardcopy and photos which I will return the following meeting.

Peter Mattea

## **General Meeting at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club 1st April 2025**

**Meeting opened** at 7:30 PM

Keith acknowledged the custodians of our land.

### **Attendance and apologies**

As recorded

**Visitors** - Nil

**New Member** - Nil

**Guest Speaker** Dennis Moss - Vietnam Veteran

Dennis spoke of his training in preparation for his role as a Forward Scout in Vietnam. Dennis interacted with members who had served during those years. Members applauded Dennis and agreed for him to return and continue with his experiences in Vietnam.

**Minutes** - Circulated in Newsletter

Moved Brian Asbury 2nd Clive Kilgour carried

### **Business arising from the previous minutes**

Brian advised he and Keith are to meet with Shirley Egan from Bass Coast Shire 12:30 pm 2/4/25 to inspect and discuss sharing shed space.

### **Correspondence**

20/3/25 3GG Show n Shine

24/3/25 AJG (Gallagher) Shed contents cover enquiry

24/3/25 RACV re Grant Application

Moved Brian Asbury 2nd Red Rodgers Carried

### **Treasures Report.**

Dianne Adams advised the financial report details can be viewed by arrangement with the secretary

Accounts to be paid include \$211.50 Dianne Poowong Postage Newsletter & \$69.95

Yvonne Biscuits

Moved Dianne Adams 2nd Jack Moyle Carried

### **Events**

Yvonne reported on past events and reminded members of up coming events including; Harewood Heritage House day, Visit to the Carters, Easter display day and Ocean Grove weekend.

### **Newsletter**

Peter announced the 19th May was the closing date for items to be included in the Newsletter.

Keith congratulated Peter for his first Newsletter publication members responded with applause. Peter requested photographs sent for publication in the Newsletter should be in the Portrait format.

### **General Business**

Keith congratulated Sheryl Mark on 45 year service with Wonthaggi Hospital, members acknowledged Sheryls continued service with a round of applause.

Keith advised BCHAC was no longer eligible for Community Grant. Brian investigating eligibility to an Annual Event Grant and or a 4 year Show n Shine partnership with Bass Coast Shire. Brian to apply for a Bendigo Community Bank Community Grant when applications open in May.

Keith nominated Jack Moyle to be the first member to write an item about his involvement with the club for next Newsletter.

Graeme Wagland announced Rex Davie will turn 90 next week and Jack Moyle next month everyone sang happy birthday to them.

**Next Meeting**                      6/5/25                      **Meeting Closed**      8:40 PM

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. A0049447S

## **General Meeting at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club 6th May 2025**

**Meeting opened** at 7:30 PM

Keith acknowledged the custodians of our land.

**Attendance** and **apologies** as recorded

**Visitors** - Nil

**New Member** - nil

**Guest Speaker** - Cheryl Connolly HealthGuard First Aid

Cheryl provided information instruction and demonstration on basic first aid, defibrillator and snake bite treatment. Followed by members questions and response from Cheryl. Keith thanked Cheryl for a very informative presentation and extended an invitation to return. Members showed their appreciation with applause. Keith announced the club presented Cheryl with a \$100 cheque.

**Minutes**      Brian apologised for not having the minutes

### **Correspondence**

29/4/25      RACV re donation success \$1500 donation

28/4/25      RACV re donation application

24/4/25      Gallagher Quote Shed Content Cover & copy of currant Public Indemnity Policy.

24/4/25      3GG South Coast Radio Invitation for an interview

16/4/25      AOMC MembershipPlus Seminar Attendance Registration Form

15/4/25      Bass Coast Shire Confirmation of \$1100.00 Smarty Grant

Moved      Brian Asbury                      2nd      Eddy Jackson                      Carried

### **Treasures Report.**

Dianne read the financial report which can be viewed by arrangement with the secretary.

Note: report attached to minutes.

### **Reports –**

### **Events**

Judy reported on the success of past events including visit to the 'Carters' which promises to bigger and better next year. The Easter Display with 40 cars attending was a

great display for the public. Keith mentioned whilst it was a great turn out there are so many more members who didn't attend with their cars. Keith reminded members of their obligation to attend three meetings or events. Judy continued with upcoming events including the Ocean Grove weekend, National Heritage Day, Special School morning tea and a country run with our motorbike members joining us.

Pete reported four members went on the last Sunday of the month ride.

### Newsletter

Peter confirmed 19th May is the last day for sending items to be published.

### Membership

Yvonne advised members membership renewal forms will be sent out next Monday

### General Business

Brian asked members if they objected to providing other club members with their contact details - there were no objections. Red Rodgers suggested each member be provided with a list of members and their contact numbers - Yvonne to arrange.

**Next Meeting**      24/6/25      **Meeting Closed**      9:10 PM

## TONY'S TOYOTA MR2 COUPE

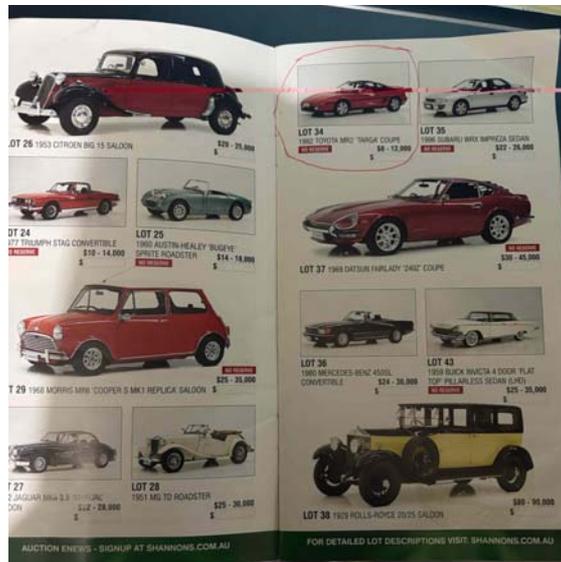
At the Easter display day I was asked why did I purchase a Toyota MR2.

The story goes like this, my wife Teresa used to hide the Shannon's auction booklets when they arrived in the mail from me hoping I would not remember that an auction was due.

But I would remember that one was due, and I would ask Teresa when I got home from work did we receive the Shannon's auction catalogue she would answer yessss !!! and go to get it from where she had put it aside, this happened basically every time an auction was due.

One night I got home and there was the Shannon's auction catalogue opened up on the kitchen island bench with a Toyota MR2 circled in red. On asking why she had circled the MR2 she responded, that's the car I have always wanted and I would like you to buy that one for me, you have your cars so now I want mine.

I must admit that as far as I remember from when that particular model first come out Teresa mentioned that she loved the styling of them and every time she saw one she would say she would like one of them. So it was off to the auction on the night of the Shannon's auction hoping to get it for her. I must admit on the night when I went down and saw the vehicle it was in showroom condition the car had only done 50000km and looked like new, I opened the boot and it still had that new car smell, it would definitely be the car to buy if you wanted one. When the bidding started, I had a figure in mind to go to but that was quickly reached and so I had to keep bidding until I won it, I wasn't game to go home without it. The thought that ran through my mind was if I don't buy it for her, I



probably had bought my last car that I would be allowed to buy and HAPPY wife HAPPY life. We went down to pick it up a few days later from when we got there and she saw it for the first time you could not wipe the smile from her face.

I must admit when I finally was allowed to drive it I was quite surprised on how well it drove, the handling, the ride, the braking, it is one of the best balanced cars I have driven and being in the motor car game all my life I have driven a lot of different cars. So guys remember Happy wife Happy life. Tony Cuzzupi.

## MOTORCYCLE RUN 27TH APRIL

The boys helped Col celebrate his birthday with a ride through Archies Creek, Mill road to Bass, Glen Forbes, Nyora, Poowong and lunch at Korumburra. Leongatha, Meeniyan, Walkerville & home. Good day had by all.



Editor, sorry I couldn't make this one - bad back

## BBQ AT CARTER'S FARM

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May the weather was good to us albeit a little warm! A good turnout of club cars with about 30 members enjoying bbq, salads, sweets & chatting before adjourning to the games arena.

Archery, golf, horseshoes & bocce were all fiercely contested, particularly the golf playoffs between Richard & Peter.

Door prize – Julie

Archery – Red

Horseshoes – Penn

Bocce – Bev

Golf – Richard

A fun day had by all!



# EASTER DISPLAY DAY - APEX PARK

The weather was perfect on the Easter Saturday as 40 odd cars and bikes assembled on Apex Park. Lots of interest from the public and we may have picked up a couple of new members. The sausages and coffee went down a treat.



Photos by Dianne Adams

# JACK'S STORY

Barb & I joined the car club when it was a subsidiary of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club. In 2005 it formed its own identity as the Bass Coast Historical automobile Club (BCHAC) and I had the privilege of being President for five years; 2012 & 13 and then 2016,17 & 18.

Our vehicles are:

a 1954 Chevrolet, *Belair* which we have owned for sixty years; it was an American Embassy car used as a courtesy vehicle for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, driven then by Sgt. Spittall from Dandenong. He purchased the car after the Games and after his early death my friend who lived next door to his widow told me that it was on the market.



I went to look at it and when Mrs Spittall opened the garage doors I said 'I'll take it'. She replied 'you haven't started or driven it yet' I said 'that's fine, I'll take it!' She said 'You cannot take it today, my husband would never take it out dirty, I will have it washed & serviced & you can pick it up next week'.

It has travelled a genuine 130,000 miles and the cushions that Barb and I bought to sit on at the '56 Olympics are in the car.

In 1994 we (Barb & I) purchased our 1979 280-Ce Benz coupe; one owner, low mileage.



In 1955 we (Dad & I) purchased for our Carrying business a new 5 ton 1955 AR-160 International truck from John Birch who was then the local International agent. Later when I had it fitted it with a 180 black diamond engine Les Chapman (father of BCHAC member Ross) tuned it for me at his Kongwak garage. We (my son John & I) are re-painting it in it's original C.O.R. (Commonwealth Oil Refineries) colours; red, white & blue.

In 1970 we (Barb & I) purchased new from Vern Curtin the Wonthaggi Dodge & Chrysler agent and father of BCHAC member Judy Jamieson, a 760 eight ton Dodge truck for our Carrying business. It was serviced by Jim Leeson (late member BCHAC, former treasurer & husband of Anne). It has only done 80,000 miles and is still in use.



We (Barb & I) have owned two 1969 John Deere tractors; 2120 & 1020 models, for over fifty years John and I re-built them in 2018. The 1020 is in daily use

We (Barb & I) also have a 1954 grey Fergie tractor bought in 1956 from Huther's 'South Gippsland Garage' where it was traded by Marty O'Halloran (grandfather of BCHAC vice president Pat Kennedy). It is still in regular use.

We (John & I) are presently working on a local ex-farmer's 1946 Studebaker ute.

Our daily driver is a 1999 S320 Benz



Jack Moyle



# CALENDAR

## June

1st June	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
3rd June	General Meeting Wonthaggi Workmen's Club Graham Street Wonthaggi 7.30pm Dinner prior to meeting	
18th June	Tooradin Sports Club Recreation Reserve South Gippsland Highway Toorading 12.30pm Lunch	Yvonne 0414590632
24th June	Committee Meeting Wonthaggi Workmen's Club Graham Street Wonthaggi 7pm	FYI
29th June	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

## July 2025

1st July	General Meeting Wonthaggi Workmen's Club 7.30pm Dinner prior to the Meeting	
6th July	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
16th July	Pub Lunch to Mirboo North Mirboo North Hotel, 70 Ridgway, Mirboo North Lunch 12.30pm—meet at Venue	Yvonne 0414590632 Judy 0419371441
27th July	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

## FOR SALE 1961 Vauxhall Cresta

19,900 miles!!! Two Tone Blue and White, all original condition except for a replacement exhaust. Top running condition on Club Plates. Engine Number BAX141553.  
Original purchase documents are available as is a 4-digit South Australian number plate (3887) \$14,500, call Brian 0356722002 at Wonthaggi

## AOMC MEMBERSHIP PLUS INSURANCE SCHEME

On behalf of Keith and the sub committee assessing the merits of AOMC MembershipPlus Insurance Scheme I wish to express how pleased I was to have a great BCHAC representation to the AOMC seminar on Saturday afternoon thank you Keith and Sue Tonkin, Yvonne Thompson, Colin Graham and Ian Stevenson for your commitment.

The club is very fortunate to have such dedicated committee members. The sub committee will consult and make a recommendation to Committee which will be conveyed to members at the next General Meeting.

BRIAN ASBURY Secretary

## THE MAFFRA SHED

The Maffra shed was built by 1945 as a vegetable dehydrating factory to supply rations for our soldiers during WW2. It had several uses over time, including a period of being unoccupied.

Following several grand prix visits to the town up to 2004, a group of locals got together and formed the Gippsland Vehicle Collection museum. They were able to lease the shed from Murray Goulburn and after completing restoration work, started their displays. The group were able to purchase the shed in 2018 and on the 24<sup>th</sup> November this year they will celebrate 21 years of displaying all manner of transport related items. This includes cars, trucks, motorbikes, machinery and models. The displays are changed every few months.

The shed has an asbestos sheet roof which, after 80 plus years, has started to leak and is in need of replacement. On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the shed was reopened after having 23 percent of the roof replaced, this work was made possible by a grant from the Wellington shire. Further efforts to obtain any form of government funding are ongoing. The repair cost is estimated at \$1,200,000. and museum volunteers are busily raising funds. Total raised to date is \$400,000 Lets hope they succeed because nobody would like to display their pride and joy in a shed with a leaking roof.



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