

BCHAC

A0049447S



Newsletter Volume 16 Number 4
April - May 2026

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
Dianne Adams	Yvonne Thompson	Colin Graham
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 VC Commodore parked near the old Wonthaggi coal mines

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

We are coming up for our third meeting at the Golf Club and the small problems we have encountered have been resolved.

At the March meeting we were fortunate to have some history of the Wonthaggi Hospital presented to us from our member Clive Kilgour. This information was very informative and appeared to be enjoyed by the members present at the meeting.

Regretfully I would like to inform all members of the Club of the passing of Rex Davie aged 91. Rex and Joan have been active members of the Club for many years. Rex was always willing to take on any task and give it the full 100% it required. His club vehicle was a Mercedes convertible which he presented at many rallies. The Club would like to pass onto Joan and their two daughters our sincere condolences.

I mentioned last month about the Club Easter Display which is only two weeks away, please remember to attend and show off your cars.

The Show N Shine sub committee has had its first meeting and a progress report will be given at the April meeting.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Keith Tonkin President.

FROM THE EDITOR

I would encourage members to take their 'pride and joy' to our Club Display Day at Apex Park on Easter Saturday, it's a great day out and showcases our club to the general public being in the centre of Wonthaggi. This is probably the biggest event in the year for our club so shine up that chrome and lets make this event a big one we can all be proud of.

I'm a big fan of the Club Permit Scheme, (I see it more of a privilege) which lets us run our older vehicles on the road. There's an important notice on page 8 which all Club Permit holders should take notice of so they can keep using their Club vehicles legally after the 30th of June.

Lastly I'd like to call upon the membership to put pen to paper and send me a story for our newsletter, putting more stories in will make it a more interesting read. If you need help putting your story together see me at a meeting, I'm more than willing to help.

Peter Mattea

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc. A0049447S

General Meeting at Wonthaggi Golf Club 3rd March 2026

Meeting opened at 7:30pm

Attendance and apologies - as recorded

Visitors Jozef Kozina and Carl Seyfort introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting. Eddy Jackson's visiting UK inlaws were welcomed.

New Member both Carl & Jozef were given a membership application pack to complete and return.

Guest Speaker - Clive Kilgour

Clive gave a very interesting talk commenced by describing his collection of cars including a number of MG's and a Morgan and went on to provide an insight into his career commencing as an accountant in Echuca Hospital and a part time dairy farmer on the weekends. Later in 1977 Clive moved to Wonthaggi where he served the Wonthaggi Hospital as CEO for 28 years retiring at the age of 55 to become a full time farmer. Clive advised in 1908 Wonthaggi was mainly a tent city with the first hospital being a tent hospital which tended to patients from the coal mines. In 1928 a permanent hospital was constructed some of which still exists today.

Members acknowledged Clive with a loud round of applause.

Minutes from the previous meeting -

Brian read and moved the minutes from the previous meeting to be accepted seconded by Jewel Huntriss - Carried

Business arising from the previous meeting - Nil

Correspondence

2/3/26 Wonthaggi Workmens Club dealing offer to return

Moved Brian Asbury Seconded Marj Wagland carried

Treasures Report.

Dianne Adams detailed the clubs accounts, copy attached to the minutes. Members can view the financial report by arrangement with Brian Asbury (Secretary).

Events Report

Judy reported on past events including Valentines Day and the Wooden Boat Regatta at Inverloch before detailing up coming events including the Easter Saturday Display day at Apex

Park and a three day getaway at Marysville in May details circulated to members. Events to be detailed in the Newsletter.

Peter Mattea advised in addition to the last Sunday of the month ride he was organising a two day run on the 21st April staying overnight at Yea visiting the Motto Guzzi Museum and returning on the 22nd April.

Newsletter Peter advised 23rd March was the closing date for items to be included in the newsletter once again requesting members to contribute to the newsletter.

Membership Yvonne announced one new member and two potentials in the pipeline.

General Business

A number of members commented on the clubs WhatsApp. Peter Mattea confirmed the installation and use of WhatsApp was published in the last Newsletter. Brian advised notification will be included in every newsletter for the next few editions explaining the intention of using WhatsApp.

Keith advised he will be nominating for the position of President at the AGM. Keith also announced Pat Kennedy will not be continuing as Vice President due to various commitments and encouraged members to think about nominating particularly the ladies.

Keith advised of the first Show and Shine committee meeting to be held Tuesday 10th March, 5:00pm at the Golf Club.

Keith once again encouraged members to get their cars out of the shed and bring them along to the Easter Display day Saturday 4th April, 8:00am at Apex Park.

Peter Mitchell advise he and Tracey have done some preliminary research into club clothing and expected to have samples and costs at next meeting.

Tony Cuzzupi advised he has a number of cars on red plates all with different dates for registration renewal. Can the club enquire with AOMC or Federation for the renewal date to be the same for all his cars. Yvonne indicated VicRoads are considering if personalised plates can somehow be included in the Club Permit System and suggested waiting to see what comes out of that.

Meeting Closed 8:39pm

Next Meeting 7/4/26



Planning a road trip within regional Victoria?

Book in for your FREE tyre and safety check!

We specialise in tyres whether it be vehicles, 4WD, caravan/camper, trailer or trucks.



Tyrepower

**GET THE POWER OF AUSTRALIA'S
BIGGEST INDEPENDENT**

78 Watt Street, Wonthaggi | 5672 5760
www.tyrepowerwonthaggi.com.au

VALENTINE DAY-FEBRUARY 14TH

Our annual social outing to Inverloch, established many years ago ,I forget exactly when, but the club was still meeting at Archies Creek then !

An evening to spend with that special one in our lives and acknowledge their love and forbearance. The weather was perfect to get the Chrysler out, take the side curtains off and enjoy the warm breeze. Eighteen club members turned up, set up their tables and chairs and as always chatted and chatted !!

Various foods were ordered, predominantly Fish & Chips, but Hamburgers and Pizzas on the menu too, David & I opted for Thai Spring Rolls & Curry Puffs. Some sweet things handed round, supplied by various members, to finish off.

It was great to see Yvonne & Irene back with us both looking well.

It cooled off and so signaled time to head home, thanks to all who attended, it's a relaxed & stress free evening to be enjoyed with good friends.

Judy Dewar



INVERLOCH WOODERN BOAT REGATTA

Sunday 15th February '26 ten members in seven cars [better make that eight cars as Brian Davidson informed me that I had better count his modern car also] met up under the wonderful cypress trees to relax and enjoy a few hours of chatting and going to the beach to watch the boats off and on the water.

Thank you to Yvonne and Judy for organising the day and thanks to Geraldine for the morning tea.

Dianne Adam



COWES FOLK, CRIME FICTION & CLASSIC CARS

Glenn and I made the permanent seachange to Cowes over two years ago. Leading up to our move from the Dandenong Ranges to the island, we joined BCHAC in late-2022, warmly welcomed by Daryl Minter (sadly no longer with us), the committee and members.

We love being part of the club as much as we love our island life. Unfortunately, our jobs, particularly Glenn's which involves commuting, and the need for quality time with my ageing parents and our family in Melbourne and Traralgon has gotten in the way of us attending as many club runs and gatherings as we would've liked. Highlights of being with BCHAC so far are the friendly people, picturesque Kernot Store run last year, monthly meetings with an interesting array of speakers and memorable Christmas lunches. We're looking forward to loads more fun outings with the club and our classic car.

Glenn and I are childhood sweethearts, coming up to forty-one years together as a couple. Over the decades, our motto towards collectibles has been to "have them for a good time, not necessarily a long time." So we've had the pleasure of motoring in a variety of cars. A lot of Holdens – including an EH each when we were young marrieds – along with a 1969 MGB, 1973 Series I Jaguar XJ6, 1978 Jag-Daimler and modern S-Type Jaguar.

While planning our island move, we cleared our shed of collectibles in readiness for one special cruiser for around the island and coast. And then we found her... a 1966 Ford Thunderbird Landau.

We bought the T-Bird in mid-2023 in nearby Warragul. After a hair-raising test drive as passenger in the "wrong side" of the car, Glenn quickly adapted to our first left-hand drive vehicle. I'm pretty happy to be passenger and navigator, but just might take the wheel sometime soon.

What you probably didn't know about the two of us is that we're crime fiction buffs. A hefty proportion of what we watch is crime series and films, everything from cosies to courtroom dramas and heart-pounding psychological thrillers.

My addiction to the genre started as a little girl, as did my dream to be a crime writer. Glenn has always supported my passions. But I never expected that we'd recline in bed night-after-night, both reading crime novels. That changed in 2014 when my debut rural thriller TELL ME WHY was published. Now that it was a "real book" with a proper cover and bearing my name, Glenn read it... and enjoyed it so much that since then he has read all of my books (to date, I've published five thrillers and two collections of short crime stories) and works by other great crime writers.

My new release is standalone psychological thriller WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW. Its launch at Phillip Island Library on 31 January 2026 saw friends, family and fans – from hereabouts and afar – pack the house and make it a fantastic day. Readers, especially locals, are getting a kick out of this book's island setting. It feels familiar to them, some thinking it's Phillip Island, others French Island. The location of Wyebo actually sits between those two places and it's fictional, though inspired by our



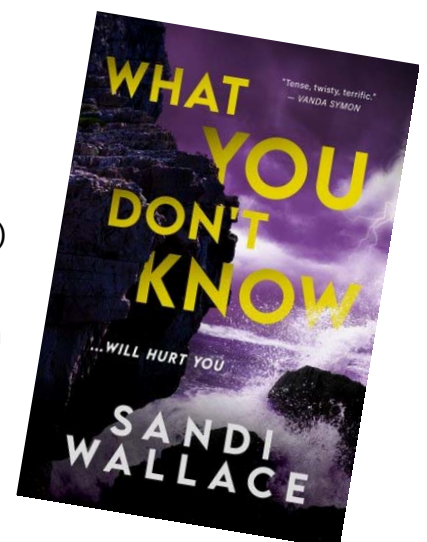
Glenn, Sandi and their T-Bird on Churchill Island

seachange... And I must say, thankfully, Glenn and I are living our island dream a whole lot more sedately than the characters do in my book! (If you'd like to know more about my work, please visit www.sandiwallace.com.)

So that's us. Glenn and Sandi Wallace. Cowes folk, crime fiction and classic car buffs. Proud BCHAC members.



Launch of Sandi's new thriller at Phillip Island Library



RENEWAL NOTICE

At the beginning of May you will receive in the mail your Annual Renewal Notice. We have been made aware that our obligation under the CPS (Club Permit Scheme) is to advise VicRoads of anyone who has a vehicle on Club Plates and is not a financial member of the Club as at 30th June 2026. Therefore we are not able to extend the payment time to 90 days as we have done in the past. Thank you for your understanding.



BASS COAST HISTORICAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB Inc.
P O Box 687 Wonthaggi 3995
Reg. No. A0049447S

1st May 2026

Invoice

«Initials»«SURNAME»
«POSTAL_ADDRESS»
«SUBURB»

Membership Renewal 2026-2027

PLEASE NOTE : PAYMENT REQUIRED ON OR BEFORE 30TH JUNE 2026

Membership subscriptions for the year ending 30 June 2027 are now due.

Amount due \$50.00.

As recorded at the February 2026 Committee meeting and the April 2026 General Meeting fees for the ensuing year are to be \$50.

Payment should be made by bank transfer to BCHAC Inc. Bendigo Bank, BSB 633 000 Account 1313 59663, or by cheque to BCHAC Inc. P O Box 687 Wonthaggi Vic 3995.

Please ensure membership number is included with bank transfer.

Cash payments can be made at monthly meetings.

Deferred payment option is available by confidential arrangement with Secretary or Membership Registrar.



Vale Rex Davie

It is with great sadness that I notify club members of the passing of Rex Davie on the 9th March 2026. Rex & Joan were long time and highly respected members since 2010. Rex had been unwell for some time resigning in 2025 and will be missed by club members. Rex & Joan attended and enjoyed most meetings, tours and events. Our sincere condolences to Joan, family and friends.

LADIES LUNCH

I wanted to acknowledge the personal contribution, that our long time members Rex & Joan, made to our club over many years.

Rex & Joan hosted the first "ladies lunch" at their home in San Remo, all of us taking a plate to share whilst Rex took the boys off for a pub lunch. They duly returned in time to help dispose of all the homemade desserts.

This routine continued for some years until the number of ladies exceeded the space available. So, Rex took it upon himself to hire the Newhaven hall every year. He & Joan set up all the tables & chairs, Joan with the assistance of Marj Wagland did a wonderful job decorating the tables, they always looked beautiful, and to cap it all every lady had a delightful handcrafted gift. (Joan & Marj are both gifted patchworkers)

Again we provided the food and the boys went off for lunch only to return for the desserts. This was a yearly event funded by Rex until it became physically too much for them to handle. As you all know we continue our annual ladies lunch in a rather different format & sadly the boys miss out on the yummy desserts!

So our loving thanks to Rex and Joan for their years of friendship and personal effort, greatly appreciated by all of us, this is what our club is all about, not just "Cars"

Judy Dewar

WhatsApp

As you are aware messages are sent from time to time to all Members by me on the Club phone and in the past by Daryl Minter. As explained in the previous Newsletter and at the last General Meeting using Messages (the green one) is very restrictive, cumbersome and time consuming.

I have set up a BCHAC WhatsApp page to send out messages to all Members in a group format. WhatsApp is stand alone and easy to install on any smart phone, there is no need to be on any other social media, it is safe with content encrypted. I can assist you with installation if required. Once you have installed WhatsApp or you already have it please contact me on 0411 237 840 (my personal number).

I am heartened by the number of Members (71) who have accepted an invite to join WhatsApp.

While some Members will be using WhatsApp between family and friends or other groups as a 'chat' group. Our use is, as mentioned earlier, to send messages out to all Members as a group. Please DO NOT REPLY to messages as every Member in the group will receive it. If you need to comment please contact me on 0411 237 840.

I thank you for your cooperation and patience and yes there will be hiccups along the way, we'll sort it as we go.

Brian Asbury
Secretary

CALENDAR

April 2026

4th April	Easter Display Day (BCAC Cars Only) Apex Park Wonthaggi Cars to be in situ no later than 8.30am please follow parking attendant's instructions re position etc. Food will be available from Lions and there will be a coffee cart on site	
5th April	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
7th April	General Meeting 7.30pm Wonthaggi Country (Golf) Club Dinner prior to the Meeting 6pm	
12th April	Colin and Juanita Carter 255 Walkerville Road Tarwin Lower for lunch BYO Food, Chairs and Picnic Gear. Also a salad or your favourite dessert to share BBQ available. Par 3 Golf Course, 5755 Bass Highway Inverloch 10.15am for Coffee	Yvonne 0414590632 Judy 0419371441
26th April	Pub Run to Thorpdale Hotel—Travellers Rest 2 Station Street Thorpdale Meet at Venue for Lunch at 12 midday, We have not organised morning tea for this run if you require it, please make your own arrangement	Yvonne 0414590632 Judy 0419371441
26th April	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858
28th April	Committee Meeting 7pm Wonthaggi Country (Golf) Club	FYI

MAY 2026

3rd May	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
5th May	General Meeting Wonthaggi Country (Golf) Club 7.30pm Dinner prior to the Meeting 6pm	
15th May to 18th May	Marysville Weekend For Accommodation details please contact Judy we will provide a run down sheet closer to the date	Yvonne 0414590632 Judy 0419371441
17th May	National Motoring Heritage Day TBA	
31st May	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

1980 Holden VC Commodore

The car was purchased by my father in law Eric Hammam on the 7th of July 1980 from Boyanton Motors in Bentleigh. During Eric's ownership he travelled 160,000 kms mainly commuting to work and a few trips to Sydney and the Gold coast. The car was well looked after and serviced by Eric who was a mechanic. It was always parked in the garage at night and from the mid 90's it hardly left the shed, it was covered over and the battery disconnected on a trickle charger.

When Eric passed away the commodore was handed to Lorraine and myself, the car had been sitting for so long the tyres were like bakelite, the brakes and cooling system needed a complete overhaul and it needed a good wash and vacuum.

The commodore is a great cruiser and always gets attention at the petrol station and like when it was owned by Eric it spends a lot of time parked up in my shed under a car cover with the battery disconnected.

Back in 2024 the commodore took out Best Original car at our Show and Shine in Dalyston, Eric would have been proud.

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

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) \$14,000,
call Brian 0356722002 at Wonthaggi
1989 Toyota Celica Automatic
Show room condition. RWC, currently on
club plates \$10,000
Call Peter on 0474 181 182



Newspaper of Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc
If undeliverable, please return to P O Box 687 Wonthaggi
3995

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



COWES & WONTHAGGI



THE PARTS PROS!

**YOUR LOCALLY OWNED
AUTO STORE**

10% OFF

YOUR PURCHASE

Valid only at Autopro Cowes & Wonthaggi for Members of the Bass Coast Historical Automotive Club. Not redeemable for cash, maximum discount \$50. Expires Wednesday 1 December 2021.

*% Off regular ticketed price. Store stock only. Excludes gift cards, navigation, GoPro, installation, advertised lines, in store specials.

COWES
1/154-156 Thompson Ave
Ph: 5952 1448
sales@cowes.autopro.com.au

**OPEN
7 DAYS**

WONTHAGGI
4 Murray Street
Ph: 5672 3333
sales@wonthaggi.autopro.com.au