

RECOLLECTIONS

**Official Newsletter of the Werribee and District
Collectable Vehicle Club (Inc.)**

PO Box 841 Werribee 3030

Inc. Reg. No. A0024084P

ABN 575 840 445 12

www.wdcvc.org.au (E-Mail: - wdcvc@hotmail.com)

JUNE 2023 EDITION



Members Rides

John & Evelyn's 1960 Pontiac Parisienne

GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 28th June 2023 (7.30pm)

The Werribee and District Collectable Vehicle Club (Inc.)

Was formed in June 1991 to foster and advance interest in History, Restoration, Care and Preservation of Classic and Historic Motor Vehicles. It provides an avenue for sharing of information by owners of those vehicles. The Club is a not-for-profit organisation. We welcome as members all those interested in preservation of our motoring history. Club regularly conducts events, monthly runs for its members and assists community organisations with attendance at community events, retirement homes, parades and car shows.

The Club's recently constructed Club Room caters for a range of activities such as Club gatherings, meetings and is often our starting point for runs.

Generally our members come from those who own vehicles over 25 years old, but this is not a prerequisite for membership, anyone is welcome.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL MEMBERS HAVING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH

*Karen Ravaneschi, Lindsay Coghill, John Agosta Snr,
John Agosta Jnr, Charmaine Agosta, & Tim Christie*

If you would also like to receive a birthday shout out, email our editor Jenny (magoos_4@bigpond.com) advising birthday month for yourself and your better half)



Our best wishes to the following members. We wish you all a speedy recovery.

- Elizabeth Ryan (Improving after some Knee Intervention)
- Helen Taylor (Recovering well now at home from Hip Replacement)
- John Kirkbride (On fast track to recovery after knee Replacement)
- Elio Massari (Back onto treatments that he is handling very well)
- Mick Galea (Fully recovered from operation to remove his finger) so much so he enjoyed a few week holiday in Vietnam and he has a new dog to also fuss over and take his mind off loosing finger.
- Jenny Watt (Back in a Wheelchair after second round of surgery to repair damage caused to her ankle, but is recovering very well with help from Kevin)

GET WELL WISHES ALSO TO ANY CLUB MEMBER WHO MAY CURRENTLY BE FEELING POORLY



WDCVC Life Members

Gil Taylor (Dec)
John Agosta (Jnr)

Sandy Taylor (Dec)
Charmaine Agosta

Les Turner
Elio Massari

Editors Rant...

Every month (since October 2017) I spend my time (not for love nor money) putting together what I hope is an interesting and informative newsletter for members to keep up with what is going on, a calendar with Club events and articles of interest. But I am disheartened by the number of members that do not read the newsletter. There are the core group that read it religiously but others when asked, admit they do not.

My role as Editor/Publisher is just that. It is not my responsibility to write reports or articles for Club outings. And it shouldn't be up to our President, Club Captain, or member running event to write it. There are a few members that when asked, will happily write their story on a club run, but most folk when asked, just keep their arms by their sides. This really needs to change. If you read the newsletter, you will know that there is always an article to accompany each Club run. It does not have to be a Pulitzer Prize winning novel, or War and Peace, just your version of the day.

So next time you attend a club run or coffee morning please put up your hand up. Let myself or Colin know of your offer to write the story for the newsletter. Oh, and you could also put yourself in the running to receive the Editors Trophy at our annual Presentation night.

Rant over.

P.S. Now read the newsletter and don't forget about the competition, can you find the car part?



Above: A flock of Galahs in Vietnam for the warmer weather L-R Heather, Mark, Linda, Mick and Alf

VICROADS CONTACTS and CLUB BANKING DETAILS

VicRoads Melbourne:

Switchboard 1800 816 727,

Club Permit Scheme (CPS): 9854 2674

Web Site: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

W.D.C.V.C. CLUB BANKING DETAILS: (For Direct Deposits) GREAT SOUTHERN BANK: BSB# 814282 ACC# 10495827

ACC Name: Werribee & District Collectable Vehicle Club



Below are 2 of our Clubs' founding members Les #3 and Elio #5.



Werribee and District Collectable Vehicle Club



To attend our Clubs' 32nd Anniversary Run.
Sunday 18th June 2023

Meet at Werribee's 106 Year Old Water Tower at 10:00am

Address: [3 Tower Road Werribee](#)



On departure we enjoy a leisurely 40 min drive to Geelong's' Vintage Market for a browse or enjoy a cuppa in their Café. Address: [1 Mackey St, North Geelong](#).

Later we take a 30 minute drive to The Peninsula Hotel for lunch and cut our Club anniversary cake. Address: [195 Bellarine Highway Newcomb](#).

Lunch booked for 12:30/1:00.

For catering and Cake sizing please advise if you're attending at next meeting or Contact Colin
wdcvc@hotmail.com or 0413 884 234



Werribee and District Collectable Vehicle Club
**INVITES MEMBERS AND FAMILY TO CLUB'S 2022/23
PRESENTATION NIGHT**

Saturday 19th August 2023

6:00pm till 11:00pm

Venue: 'Chirnsides by the River'

Function Room is on 2nd Floor (Lift available)

Address: Chirnside Park 220 Watton Street Werribee

Cost: Members \$35:00/Head, Non-Members \$60/Head

We have round tables of 8 for you to make up, or take pot luck to be seated where there are openings.

Children under 16 FREE

Dress code: After 5 Attire

Event is a sit-down formal 3 Course Dinner

If you have special dietary requirement please advise Connie at time of booking tickets

- Music by Band (Frankie).
- Self-serve tea or coffee all night.
- All other Drinks available at bar prices.
- Door Prize forms part of your Ticket.
- Trophy and award presentations.
- Raffle tickets at \$2 each or 4 for \$5.
- Raffles (Total Prizes Value exceeds \$1,600) tickets drawn after presentation of Awards and Trophies.

Please book with Connie our Social Secretary at May/June general meetings or to c.m.62@hotmail.com or wdcvc@hotmail.com by June 30th 2023

All tickets must be fully paid by 19th July.

Werribee & District Collectable Vehicle Club (Inc.)

Registration Number A0024084P ABN 575 840 445 12

CONTACTS for WDCVC COMMITTEE January 2023 to June 2023

Mail to P.O. Box 841 Werribee 3030

Club E-MAIL: wdcvc@hotmail.com

Name	E-Mail	Phone
Executive Committee		
<u>President</u> Colin Pierce (Shirley)	colin@colshirl.com	9741 4085 0413 884 234
<u>Vice President</u> Daniel Smith (Amanda)	Djs84@outlook.com.au	0408 328 028
<u>Secretary/Public Officer</u> Carmel Calleja (Nick)	wdcvcsecretary@gmail.com	0424 305 721
<u>Treasurer</u> Jenny Matthews (Rod)	magoos_4@bigpond.com	0422 699 361
General Committee		
Heather O'Brien	hethaob@bigpond.net.au	0411 239 446
Connie Mallia (Ronnie)	c.m.62@hotmail.com	0439 619 083
Office Bearers		
<u>Club Captain</u> John Marks (Linda)	captnitrojm@gmail.com	0407 546 235
<u>Editor & Publisher</u> Jenny Matthews (Rod)	magoos_4@bigpond.com	0422 699 361
<u>Mid-Week Run Captain</u> Les Turner (Lorraine)		9741 6657
<u>Safety Officers</u> Elio Massari (Nancy) Charlie Cook (Lyn)		9741 6103 9741 3328
<u>Club Permit Officer/s</u> Yves Schieseck (Sandra) Wayne Rodgers (Jen) Colin Pierce (Scrutineer)	breton29@aussiebroadband.com.au waynerodgers.61@gmail.com colin@colshirl.com	9749 3376 0405 380 005 0413 884 234
<u>Regalia Officer</u> Len Mallia (Carmen)	lencar6@bigpond.com.au	0412 529 801
<u>Librarian</u> Peter Kime (Patricia)	pjkime@hotmail.com	0409 798641
<u>Web & Face Book Monitor</u> Daniel Smith (Amanda)	DJS84@outlook.com.au	0408 328 028
<u>Welfare Officer</u> Rose Ravaneschi	sirbas53@hotmail.com	0412 456 892
<u>Social Secretary</u> Connie Mallia (Ronnie)	c.m.62@hotmail.com	0439 619 083
<u>Federation Representatives</u> Colin Pierce (Shirley) Michael Galea (Linda)	colin@colshirl.com mgal6416@gmail.com	0413 884 234 0421 670 304
<u>Council Representative</u> Colin Pierce (Shirley)	colin@colshirl.com	0413 884 234



Calendar of W.D.C.V.C's Upcoming Events



W.D.C.V.C Extends an Invitation to Members of any Registered Club to attend any run or event organized by our club.

EVENT	Date	Time	Coordinator
JUNE			
Club's 32nd Anniversary Run. MEET in Carpark of Werribee's 106 Year old PAINTED WATER TOWER - 3 Tower Road. Morning Tea at Vintage Market Geelong then to The Peninsula Hotel/Motel 195 Bellarine Hwy Newcomb for lunch and cake. Contact Colin to book.	Sunday 18th	10am	Colin 0413 884 234
Casual Sunday Meeting, Cherry Street Car Park 9am-12pm	Sunday 25th	From 9:00am	John 0407 546 235
Club General Meeting (Club Rooms)	Wednesday 28th	7.30pm	Colin 0413 884 234
JULY			
Presidents Run to GISBORNE MARKET. LUNCH at Castello's Victorian Tavern 22 Aitken St, Gisborne. Meet at Mc Donalds Manor Lakes. Contact Colin to book.	Sunday 2nd	9.30am	Colin 0413 884 234
Committee Meeting 7.30pm	Monday 3rd	7:30pm	Colin 0413 884 234
Coffee Morning. Sons of Manor. Manor Lakes Shopping Centre	Sunday 9th	From 9.30am	Colin 0413 884 234
Club General Meeting (Club Rooms)	Wednesday 26th	7.30pm	Colin 0413 884 234
Casual Sunday Meeting, Cherry Street Car Park 9am-12pm	Sunday 30th	From 9:00am	John 0407 546 235
AUGUST			
Coffee Morning. The Views Restaurant Werribee South	Sunday 6th	From 9.30am	Colin 0413 884 234
Committee Meeting 7.30pm	Monday 7th	7:30pm	Colin 0413 884 234
MID-WEEK RUN & LUNCH Location TBA	Wednesday 9th	10am	Les 0408 014 358
Club's Presentation Dinner. Chirnsides on the River Function Room. Werribee Football Ground Pavilion. Contact Connie to book your tickets \$35 Members \$60 Non Members	Saturday 19th	6pm	Connie 0439 619 083 Colin 0413 884 234
Club General Meeting and Club's AGM (Club Rooms)	Wednesday 23rd	7.30pm	Colin 0413 884 234
Casual Sunday Meeting, Cherry Street Car Park 9am-12pm	Sunday 27th	From 9:00am	John 0407 546 235

The above events are in accordance with the WDCVC & Vic roads Club Permit Scheme. If you wish to use your red plate vehicle, a reminder that you will need to correctly fill in your red plate permit scheme log book and be a financial member. At the time of printing the above information was correct. The Committee may change the information at their discretion. Any changes will be published in the Newsletter / Website / Facebook.
Symbols of events are Club Runs in **Bold**, and all other runs organised by Vic roads or other clubs will be in normal font.



WDCVC minutes of General Meeting held: 24th May, 2023

Chairman: Colin Pierce

Meeting opened: 07:31 pm Meeting ended: 8:23 pm

Apologies: Helen Taylor, John Kirkbride, John & Sue Agosta, Mark Sagona, Reno Aguis, Andrew Babbage, Peter Spiteri, David Williams, Peter Kime, Mick Galea, Heather O'Brien, Mark Reilly, Alf Schembri, Bob Soulsby, Dennis O'Brien, Maria Turner, Ian Radcliffe, Linda, Frank Caruso, Tess Borg, John Marks.

Visitors: Nil **Speaker:** Nil

New Member/s: Tibor & Victoria Miskolczi, Alex Grixti, Tess Borg.

Minutes of April Committee meeting: **Moved & Accepted:** 1st Lyn 2nd Shawn

Minutes read by Carmel for Committee meeting 8th May, 2023:

Comments/Questions: Les asked the question "will the members be confided in, or is its committee decision?"

Answer: "It will be member decision that is if they want to and agree to"

Correspondence: 2 Membership renewals, Club Card renewal and one invoice.

April Treasurers Report: Read by Jenny **Moved & Accepted:** 1st Garry 2nd Elio

So far just over a third of members have renewed their membership, thank you.

Comments/Questions: Nil

President's ramblings -Colin Pierce: Federation meeting @ Bendigo went well, very nice venue, Volunteers required for the Bendigo swap meet please sign-up, information available May newsletter.

<https://www.wdcvc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/WDCVC-MAY-2023.pdf>. Rumor has it that Ballarat Swap Meet may be cancelled in the future as they are looking for new location. No news on our new club location, maybe we need to look at community location/s instead, discussions to be had with council.

Mid-week Club captain's report Les Turner: Wednesday 14th June St. Leonard's Hotel, meet at QB café 61 Thames blv for catering purpose contact Les 0408014358.

Club captain's report: **Colin for John Marks**

May, June and July. Sunday 4th June, coffee morning at QB café then over to Wyncity bowls @Wallace Ave Point Cook.

32 Anniversary run 18th June at 10am, meet at Tower Road (painted Towers), followed by morning tea, at the vintage market and then off too Lunch at The Peninsula Hotel.

Social secretary's report Connie: We have some members that are not doing well, we would like to wish them all the very best, and please remember to reach out if you need any help. Congratulations to Connie, the ladies day event was a hit, more information in the May newsletter. Annual Presentation dinner menu was read out, don't forget to buy your tickets early, any special dietary requirements to be advised in advance, payment method via direct deposit preferred please don't forget to write your name in comments, alternatively cash at next general meeting is accepted.

Editors Report: (Jenny) Don't forget to look out for the car parts in the newsletter for your monthly Mars bar prize, remember you have to be there on the night to win and collect.

General Business: Saturday 3rd June, Tracey would like a hand moving house, if anyone is able to help. Werner has informed us that magpies in the area are being illegally tagged (cruelly), please call Werner if you have any info. <https://www.wyndhamtv.com.au/disturbing-cruelty-to-magpies-unveiled/>. Holden SV6 UTE series II, for sale more information sent via email. As circulated previously trip to Gippsland in September, hotel rooms are still available if you are interested, please get in touch with Colin. Reminder that AGM is coming up soon and all committee roles/positions will become vacant, more information in June Newsletter.

Raffle Draw Winners: 1st Paul 2nd Brian 3rd David

Club Secretary-Carmel

President's Report

Hello everyone,

June is end of Club's 32 financial year and from July 1 we're beginning our 2023/2024 Club Year.

If it's slipped you mind to arrange payment of your fees for the coming 12 months you only have a couple of weeks remaining until 30th June to make payment and complete your renewal form to our Treasurer.

Our Club Presentation night Saturday 19th August is also fast approaching and we would like to see as many members and their wives/partners come along to help make your Club's night successful.

Connie along with members of committee and hardworking volunteers are working behind the scenes to put on a good night for one and all.

Tickets can be ordered with the Club Social Secretary Connie at c.m.62@hotmail.com . You can either book a full table of 8 or jump onto a table with other members.

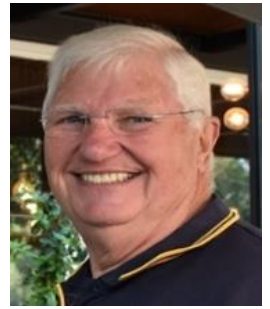
August is also Clubs AGM on Wednesday 23rd where all committee roles fall vacant. If you feel you would like to make a mark on the Club or have fresh ideas please complete a Committee Nomination Form and either send/Hand to our Club Secretary, Carmel.

Don't be too concerned about applying for any role on committee as there will be members only too willing to help you, it's not really a hard job and in the end it is your club.

Club Anniversary Run is fast approaching, Sunday 18th June, we meet up at the Water Tower at 3 Tower Road Werribee at 10:00am before heading off for morning tea at 'The Amazing Mill Markets' at 114 Bel-larine Highway, Newcomb, followed by a lunch at 'The Peninsula Hotel' (Across the road from Markets) and cutting of Anniversary Cake.

We really enjoy seeing you at our Club Events.

Prez





Club Cruise and Lunch Sunday 3rd September

Location: Great Ocean Road Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery
About 80Ks (1 Hour) Cruise from Werribee.

Address: 1200 Great Ocean Road Bellbrae (Near Bells Beach).

We depart from BP Service Station Little River at **9:30am**.

After Chocolate Factory we then Cruise via Lorne to
Winchelsea Hotel for Lunch.

About 82Ks (1 Hour 25 mins) Drive.



To Book, Contact Run Coordinator: Russell Thompson at
jemtribe@bigpond.com or 0407 420 692.

THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME.....

The Casual Sunday Morning show on May 28th 2023 was cancelled due to the weather.

There was doubt early that morning; the BOM radar showed a large rain patch moving eastwards. Would it pass by 8:00am? The answer became self-evident, and the assembled crew were debating the merit of pushing on. Then sense prevailed, and Prez Colin sent out a message of cancellation.

The crew were enjoying the vibe standing under their umbrellas or sitting in their everyday drives except Lindsay and Rose who arrived in their club classics. Then a matt black FX Holden pulled in, sporting "SR" club plates. Visitor Alan Linacre popped the bonnet to demonstrate the need for a "Street Rod" classification: a neatly fitted small block with plenty of billet aluminium around it had the crew's attention. Alan's only concern was driving a powerful light machine in the rain on the way home to Sunshine. He promised to attend in June.

Alan and hottie were the only arrivals apart from the crew, of Rose, Lindsay, John Ryan, Wayne Rodgers and the two Brians, Gosney and Daly. Luke Daly also arrived in a modern-looking Hi Ace. Linda Ho arrived with convenor JM, having agreed to cook in the absence of our regulars. Tony and Connie drove all the way from Keilor Downs after being assured that the show was "on". Connie was to be assistant cook. Wayne brought the neat little Jeep, seriously coveted by CC John.

May's show was the first time we have ever cancelled, since its inception in 2017. Ironically, Sunday's cancellation was virtually five years to the day (Calendar adjusted) since day one. (see attached poster).

A couple of members could see the success of such an event at the Hobsons Bay Mens Shed, so committee was persuaded to give it a go. The rest is history. CSM is popular, as its usually a short drive with little expense to attend and see the mates, talk cars and enjoy the variety of chariots we attract. Plus you have to be there, as you never know what machine a visitor will bring.

Thanks to the brave and loyal crew.



The Werribee And District Collectable Vehicle Club, will be holding their first monthly Casual Sunday Meeting at the car park, corner of Cherry Street and Kelly Street Werribee, Sunday 30th April From 9am till 12pm.

Feel free to come on down and have a bite to eat for breakfast and a coffee while chatting to other car enthusiasts who share the same passion as you.

Entry is free and is open to all clubs and non-club members. So, bring your pride and joy for a run and hope to see you all there.

Club Coffee Morning and 10 Pin Bowling Day Sunday 4th June

A really great turnout of 43 members to both parts of run, it makes you feel good arranging these events when many fellow members come out to play.

Some only attended morning Coffee/Breakfast at QB Café which is a Community Run Café on Thames Boulevard.

Bianca, who runs this Café along with her lovely young helpers made a special effort including producing a dedicated Breakfast Menu for our Club with a few nice images of classic cars included. Food was also nice and fresh.

The venue considered by many in attendance to be a nice place to meet up as it ticks boxes like good plentiful off street parking and Café atmosphere is open and friendly.

After filling ourselves up with Coffee we headed off to WYNCITY 10 PIN BOWLS, Point Cook, many taking various routes to get there.

During build up to the day there was a lot of trash talk between members, as last year's trophy winner was won by an ex New Zealander who saw the light and came to Werribee and joined our Club. The aussies felt they would take the interloper down this year, so we were looking forward to a great day of fun with friendly banter happening from the outset between all members.

After being fitted out and placed in teams by the Bowls Venue it was time to get started.

We also had a good group of members in background cheering on respective players and had plenty of advice to "Bowl the Ball Down the Centre" not down the gutters to bowling members, main thing was it was all accepted in good humour.

The main two protagonists who were doing most trash talk earlier were very quickly silenced as none of them were not on their game this year.

- First Game results: Highest score Rod Matthews with a score of 124. Lowest score was Katie with a score of 18
- Second Game Results: Highest score Colin Harris with a score of 126. Lowest score was Jenny with a score of 47.
- Overall winner of Game one and two: Winner of the Trophy Judy Thompson with a total score of 222. Well done Judy you really showed it's the quiet ones that you need to watch.
- Lowest aggregate score of 79 was Katie. But she really enjoyed herself and threatened to come back next time to take out the main prize.

Last years' winner Brian just cannot work out where his game fell down the year, but warned he "VILL BE BACK"

Best was that everyone who attended had a wonderful day with fellow members and friends. Let's endeavour to make our next bowls day an even bigger event.

We wrapped up our day with presentation of Winners' Trophy to Judy Thompson.





NAME	VEHICLE	NAME	VEHICLE
Colin and Shirley	1984 Statesman	Elio and Nancy	Modern
Russell and Judy	Modern	Tony and Connie	Modern (New Ranger)
Peter and Pat	Modern	Emmy and Gary	Ford 'A' Model
Colin Harris	1934 Tudor Ford	Wayne and Jen	1990 E30 BMW
Breaden Harris		Brian Cameron	Modern
Les and Lorraine	Modern	Lindsay Coghill	1983 VH Commodore
Margaret Pengelly		Werner Bernhardt	Modern
Ryan and Elisha	Modern	Daniel Smith	1986 Nissan Pintara
Charlie and Lyn	1954 FJ Holden	Rob and Annette	E36 BMW
Dennis and Josie	Modern	Tim and Debbie	Modern
Katie Galea		Rod and Jenny	1966 Mustang
Len and Carmen	Modern	Rose Ravaneschi	Modern
Ronnie and Connie	Modern	Brian and Joan	

Delage Type-S: The 103-year-old grand prix car saved by a 3D printer.

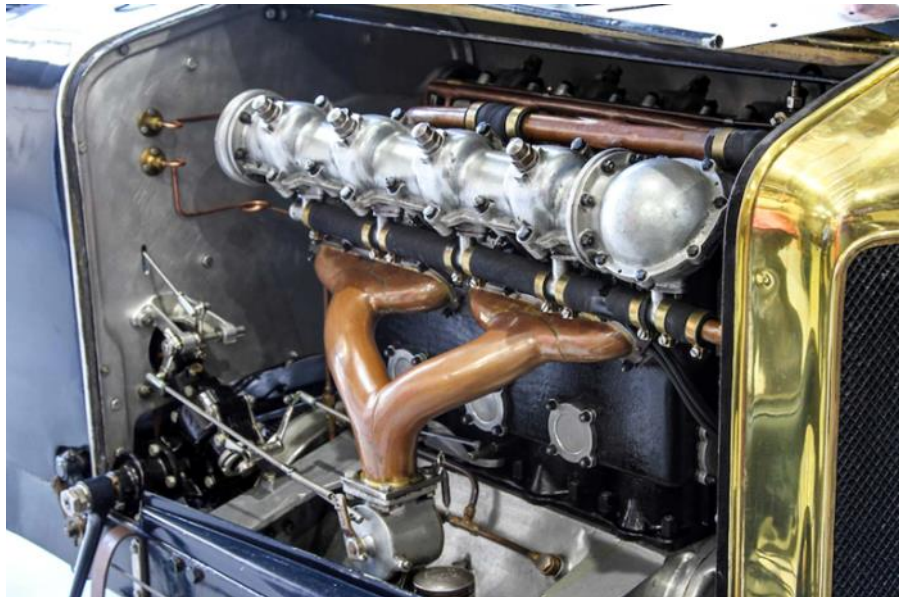
From ABC by Fiona Pepper 2017

The history of the Delage

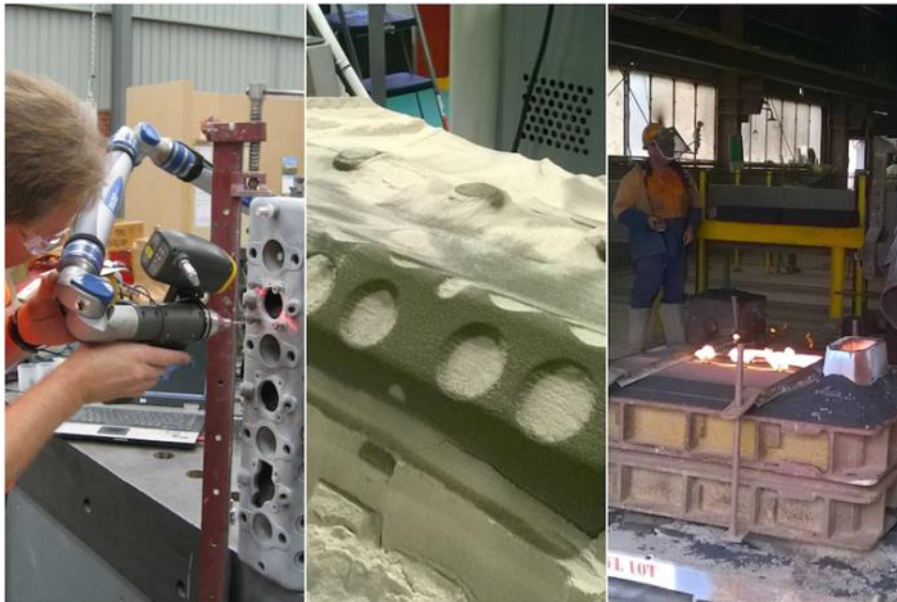
In 1914 just three Delage Type-S cars were made for a premier race in Lyon, France

World War I began a month after the race and racing in Europe came to a halt. The Delage Type-S cars were sold to the US, then in the 1920s one of them was brought to Australia to race. The car was driven by some of Australia's earliest race car drivers and was owned by motor racing legend Lex Davison.

Australia is home to the only surviving 1914 Delage Type-S grand prix car in the world, and thanks to a world-first feat of technology this much-loved centurion is still on the road.



The cloned engine successfully installed by Grant Cowie. (ABC Radio Melbourne: Fiona Pepper)



The original engine block is scanned, a 3D-printed sand mould is created, and the new engine block is cast. (Supplied: Philip Guilfoyle)

several attempts to get it correct," Mr Cowie said.

With no replacement parts or original drawings to go by, and with few people having the traditional manufacturing skills, pre-war motorcar engineer Grant Cowie looked for alternative ways of rebuilding the complicated 16-valve engine.

"I knew that to use the traditional method, which involves a wooden pattern, would be prohibitively expensive and with such a complicated casting it was possible it would take several attempts to get it correct," Mr Cowie said.

Recreating the engine block

Using powerful lasers, the engine block was scanned inside and out, saving thousands of hours of pattern making, with months of work done in a few days.

The scan data was then used to digitally repair the cracked engine on a computer before a sand mould was created using a 3D printer.

A local iron foundry cast the engine using the 3D-printed mould, before it was finished with traditional manual machining. After the engine was installed, there was an enormous sense of relief when the Delage turned over successfully.

In 2014, when the engine block cracked and water pumped out of the exhaust system, the Delage ground to a halt and was consigned to a mechanic's workshop in Castlemaine, 130 kilometres north-east of Melbourne.

With no replacement parts or original drawings to go by, and with few people having the traditional manufacturing skills, pre-war motorcar engineer Grant Cowie looked for alternative ways of rebuilding the complicated 16-valve engine.

"I knew that to use the traditional method, which involves a wooden pattern, would be prohibitively expensive and with such a complicated casting it was possible it would take

"It's one thing to finish machining it, and then you've got to put it all together," Mr Cowie said.

"And just the relief when it first started — and it's been great since the moment we started it."

While many modern car parts are 3D printed, project manager Philip Guilfoyle said a repair of this scale was unique.

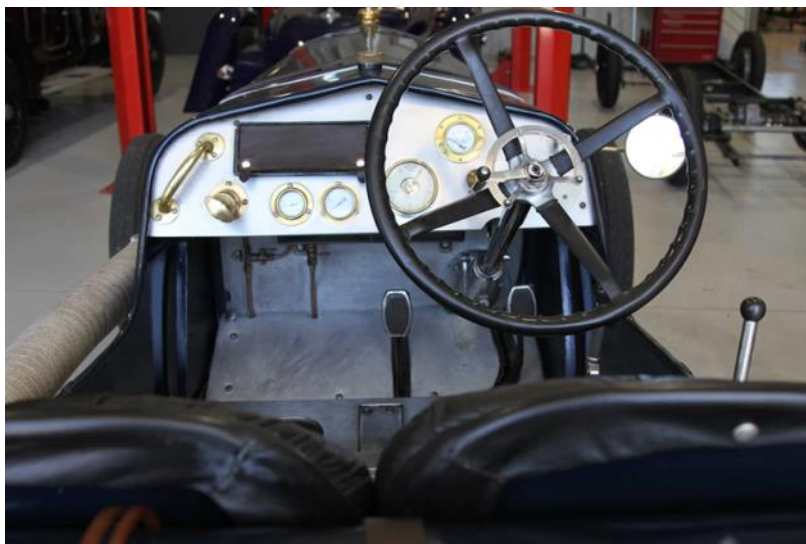
"To my understanding this hasn't been done before in car restoration in the world," he said.

Car owner Stuart Murdoch was determined that any repairs done remained true to the original, so when this unique restoration technique was suggested to him he responded: "Boldness, be my friend."

"I had faith in them and I wasn't disappointed," he said.



Grant Cowie, the pre-war motorcar engineer who cloned and installed the new engine block. (ABC Radio Melbourne: Fiona Pepper)



The Delage is difficult to drive, with heavy steering and its accelerator between the brake and clutch. (ABC Radio Melbourne: Fiona Pepper)

And now that the 103-year-old car is back up and running, Mr Murdoch is a very satisfied customer. "It is a considerable achievement for all those involved and, might I say, quite an achievement for Australian engineering," he said. Motoring historian Douglas Blain, meanwhile, marvelled at the fact that this one priceless S-Type still remains. "That it lives on in such a state of originality, and is maintained and used by its dedicated long-term owners rather than gathering dust in some sterile museum, is marvellous indeed," he said. And Mr Guilfoyle thinks the digital repair technique may revolutionise restoration car repairs as mechanics like Mr Cowie become less dependent on dwindling car parts and fading skills.

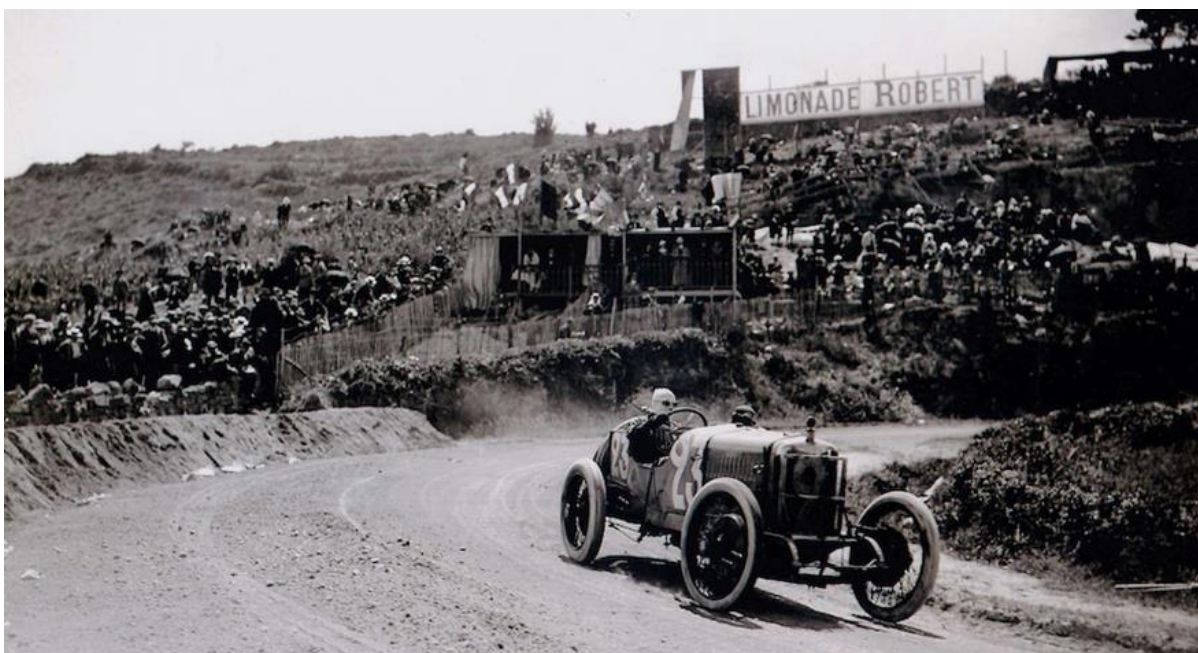
A feat of engineering

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The Type-S racing in the 750-kilometre French Grand Prix in 1914 in Lyon. (Supplied: Philip Guilfoyle)

On The Right Side of the Road

By Richard F. Weingroff

The Federal Highway Administration has often been asked about the American practice of driving on the right, instead of the left, as in Great Britain, our "Mother Country."

Rose found that, "All available evidence seems to indicate that the RIGHT-HAND travel predominated in Colonial America from the time of the earliest settlements." The ox-team, the horseback rider, the handler of the lead horse, and even the pedestrian all travelled to the right. Travellers with hand guns carried their weapons in the hollows of their left arms and travelled to the right, the better to be ready if an oncoming stranger proved dangerous:

When wagons came into general use, they were hauled by two, four or six horses and the driver rode the left rear (wheel) horse like the Old World position. Handling the reins or jerk line with the left hand and the long black-snake whip with the right, these drivers travelled to the right so as to watch more closely the clearance at the left. The heavy Conestoga wagons introduced about 1750, in the vicinity of Lancaster, Pa., gave an added impetus to right-hand travel. The drivers rode the left wheel horse, postilion fashion, or rode the "lazy board" at the left side of the wagon, or walked along the road at the left side of the horses.

He also noted a "smouldering opposition to customs of the Old World."

Thus no valid reason existed for transplanting the English left-hand rule especially since the nationals of other European countries had established in America widely separated settlements in which their own customs were observed.

Australian historian M. G. Lay agreed with Rose that the Conestoga wagon provided a "major impetus for right-hand driving in the United States":

The wagon was operated either by the postilion driver riding the left-hand near horse-called the wheel horse-or by the driver walking or sitting on a "lazy board" on the left-hand side of the vehicle. He kept to the left in both cases in order to use the right hand to manage the horses and operate the brake lever mounted on the left-hand side. Passing therefore required moving to the right to give the driver forward vision.

Rose found that no formal rule of the road was adopted by the new country or any State until 1792. In that year, Pennsylvania adopted legislation to establish a turnpike from Lancaster to Philadelphia. The charter legislation provided that travel would be on the right hand side of the turnpike. New York, in 1804, became the first State to prescribe right hand travel on all public highways. By the Civil War, right hand travel was followed in every State. Drivers tended to sit on the right so they could ensure their buggy, wagon, or other vehicle didn't run into a roadside ditch.

Lay also emphasized the ditches as an influence:

With the growth of traffic, the roadside ditches also led to a growing tendency in the United States in the late nineteenth century for drivers of light horse-drawn vehicles to both drive on the right and sit on the right to avoid the greater evil of the ditch. It was also common practice with bench-seated drivers of single-line horse drawn carriages, where the needs to accommodate the whip in the right hand predominated.

When inventors began building "automobiles" in the 1890's, they thought of them as motorized wagons. As a result, many early cars had the steering mechanism-a rudder (or tiller), not a wheel-in the centre position where the side of the road didn't make any difference. Lay points out that technical innovation created the configuration we are familiar with in the United States:

However, with the introduction of the steering wheel in 1898, a central location was no longer technically possible. Car makers usually copied existing practice and placed the driver on the curb side. Thus, most American cars produced before 1910 were made with right-side driver seating, although intended for right-side driving. Such vehicles remained in common use until 1915, and the 1908 Model T was the first of Ford's cars to feature a left-side driving position.

By 1915, the Model T had become so popular that the rest of the automakers followed Ford's lead.

Lay traced the first regulation of one-side-or-the-other to the Chinese bureaucracy of 1100 B.C. The *Book of Rites* stated: "The right side of the road is for men, the left side for women and the centre for carriages." This Western Zhou dynasty rule applied only to the dynasty's wide official roads and was "more concerned with protocol than avoiding head-on collisions." Over 3,000 years later, Lay concluded, "there are no technical reasons for preferring driving on either the left or the right side of the road."

Reference: *Ways of the World: A History of the World's Roads and the Vehicles that Used Them* (Rutger's University Press, 1992)

While stitching a cut on the hand of a 75-year-old farmer, whose hand was caught in the squeeze gate while working cattle, the doctor struck up a conversation with the old man.

Eventually the topic got around to politicians and their role as our leaders.

The old farmer said, "Well, as I see it, most politicians are 'Post Turtles'."

Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him what a 'post turtle' was.

The old Farmer said, "When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top, that's a post turtle."

The old farmer saw the puzzled look on the doctor's face, so he continued to explain.

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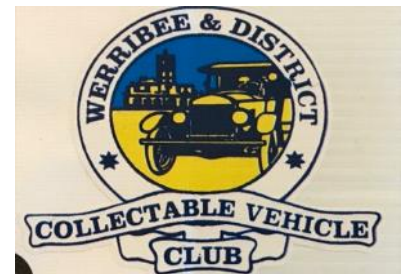
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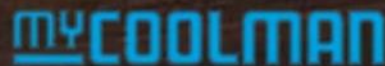
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