

IDLE TORQUE

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**Newsletter of the
C.ex Coffs
Sports, Touring & Classic Car Club**

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NSW Historic Motoring Association

<https://historicmotoring.com.au/>



*“More
than just a
car club”*


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The Committee reserves the right to edit contributions for publication.

JUDY PHEMISTER — NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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RAFFLE CO-ORDINATOR VACANT- Nominations Welcome			VACANT - Nominations Welcome
<p>The following members will also attend and participate in Committee meetings.</p> <p>Judy Phemister Brian Carter Jeff Clancy Ian Reynolds</p>	 <p>myclub cof-fs</p>		 <p><i>“More than just a car club”</i></p>



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Greetings Members,

October was a very busy month for our club and opened with a marked increase in the attendance at our General Meeting. Several new members with some nice vehicles were welcomed at the meeting.

The coffee run to Anchors Wharf Urunga on Wednesday 4th was very well attended and ranks as one of our most popular venues.

Our car show was held at C.ex Coffs on Sunday 15th and congratulations go to our club member, Jeff Clancy, for organising such a successful event. Jeff chaired a sub-committee represented by our car club, the Coffs Harbour Veteran, Vintage and Classic Car Club and the Coffs Harbour Motorcycle Restorers Club.

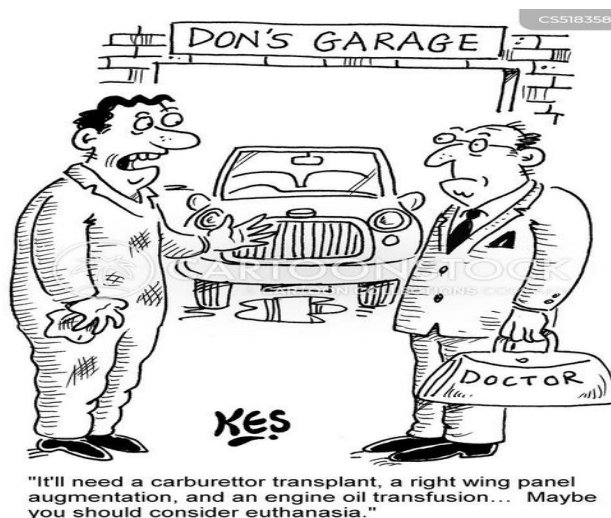
Thanks also to our club Publicity Officer, Brian Carter, in promoting the event through local media channels, our car club volunteers who arrived early in the morning to set up, and the C.ex Coffs staff from Sales & Marketing for attending our Sub-Committee meetings and assisting in all aspects of the planning process.

Don't forget the run to Yamba Shores Tavern on 19th November with a stopover morning tea at Ulmarra. If you cannot attend the lunch you can still join in for the morning tea. If you wish to attend the lunch at Yamba, you need to RSVP by 10th November.

Finally, don't forget the "Bigger than Ben Hur" Christmas party on Sunday 3rd December. Attendance is limited to 60 so get in early for this very special event.

Happy Motoring.

**Ian Ward
President**



EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	DAY	MONTH AND EVENT	CONTACT PERSON	RSVP DATE
NOVEMBER 2023				
1st	Wed	 <p style="text-align: center;">Morning Tea at Morgo Street Park Urunga BYO or buy from local cafes Depart Bonville Service Station 10.00am Bring a chair, blanket, sunscreen etc</p>	This is a BYO event so no need to book, just turn up.	NA
6th	Mon	COMMITTEE MEETING 6.00 pm GENERAL MEETING 7.00 pm		
19th	Sun	 <p style="text-align: center;">BYO Morning Tea at Ulmara (in the River Street park) Followed by Lunch at Yamba Shores Tavern If you cannot make the lunch why not just come for the morning tea Depart Homebase 9.30am</p>	Pat O'Carroll theocarrolls@hotmail.com 0448 017 048	Friday 10th Nov Lunch Only
DECEMBER 2023				
3rd	Sun	 <p style="text-align: center;">THE "BIGGER THAN BEN HUR" CHRISTMAS PARTY <u>FULL DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE INCLUDING HOW TO PAY</u></p>	Pat O'Carroll theocarrolls@hotmail.com 0448 017 048	Wednesday 15th Nov
4th	Mon	COMMITTEE MEETING 6.00 pm GENERAL MEETING 7.00 pm		
13th	Wed	 <p style="text-align: center;">Morning Tea at Mylestom BYO or buy from the Beach House Providore across the road Depart Bonville Service Station 10.00am Undercover seated venue but bring chairs etc just in case</p>	This is a BYO event so no need to book, just turn up.	NA
JANUARY 2024				
1st	Mon	Sawtell Fun Day Details of participation to be decided at December General Meeting	TBA	TBA
1st	Mon	COMMITTEE MEETING 6.00 pm GENERAL MEETING 7.00 pm		
10th	Wed	 <p style="text-align: center;">BYO Morning Tea at Red Rock Depart Homebase 9.30am Bring a chair, blanket, sunscreen etc</p>	This is a BYO event so no need to book, just turn up.	NA
28th	Sun	 <p style="text-align: center;">Lunch at Nambucca Heads Golf Club Depart Bonville 11.00am</p>	Judy Phemister judenruss72@gmail.com 0407 937 327	Sun 21st Jan



CHRISTMAS PARTY



**Sunday 3rd December
The Link Café 631 Hogbin Drive Toormina
Next to Cutlers Tyrepower
11.00am – 3.00pm**

Members, partners, family, and friends all welcome

Christmas style lunch, ham, chicken, salads, desserts etc

Tea, coffee, cutlery, crockery all provided

BYO drinks, alcohol allowed

Tables of 8 so book a group now, dress up is optional

Decorate your table and bring your own nibbles

Games, Prizes and Mr Music (Russell Phemister)

No cleaning or washing up, just come along and enjoy the day
Numbers are strictly limited to 60, so book early

Payment by **direct credit** and **RSVP** to Pat O'Carroll by **15th November**
BSB 533000 Account Number 10652729
Surname must be shown in the reference field

If you cannot pay direct, please contact the Club Treasurer

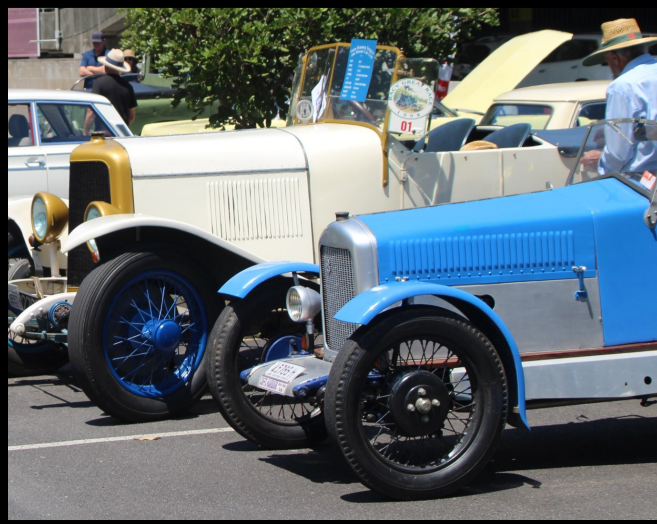
Cost is only \$20 per head for members and partners, and \$25 for visitors



COMBINED CAR SHOW SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2023







A Story of Adventure, Determination and Achievement in a Little MG TF



This is the story written by Coffs Harbour resident, Robert Hunter, relating his great adventure in 1956 where he and a friend drove Robert's 1954 MG TF to Melbourne to see the Olympic Games and more particularly, in Robert's case, the Australian Grand Prix, which was to feature many overseas competitors, including Stirling Moss.

En route, they encountered many challenges such as floods, miles and miles of dusty unsealed roads, and some car problems but largely the little MG emerged from the adventure relatively unscathed. We thank Robert for allowing us to share his experience.

Dick Willis

C.ex Coffs Sports Touring & Classic Car Club

In this period, the mid 1950s, I was paid a modest amount, but I didn't have to pay board or lodging, Mum looked after us all very well. I was also saving up to purchase a car which happened in 1956 on my 19th birthday and I was planning a great adventure to the upcoming and much heralded Olympic Games in Melbourne in November 1956. I was keen to go and pre-ordered admission tickets at the end of 1955 through the Commonwealth Bank who were a major sponsor of the Games.

This trip in itself was a great leap forward and the price was equivalent to almost 3 months wages. During this time, I had been saving carefully and in February 1956 I found the car that I was most interested in for sale in Grafton. It was a two year old MG TF. I will never forget Dad and I going up to Grafton to inspect the car and agreeing to buy it. Dad wrote the cheque and I drove it home, quite a trip. I gave Dad a large lump of my savings which was far from enough to cover the price, but he seemed pleased about the whole adventure and I most certainly was. At that time in 1956 I was paid 3 pounds a week and I organised my budget with one pound for petrol, one pound to save and one pound to spend. It was very rare for me to ever fill the petrol tank.

The next problem was to find a garage to put it in, so I cleaned up a space in the barn and put it in there, but it didn't stay there for more than a day and a night because a rat chewed-off the corner of a side curtain to get inside the car. My car then stayed outside for a while.

The great adventure of going to Melbourne for the Olympic Games was planned to a certain degree but approached without any worry or hesitation. Now, looking back to that time, I seemed totally confident about the whole event, getting there and returning home, but it must be remembered that long journeys in Australia at that time carried many uncertainties.

My next door farm neighbour was to be my travelling companion, and we'd known each other for a long time, having been at school together and worked on various projects as our side-by-side farms and we shared farm equipment and livestock from time to time.

The trip to Melbourne took two and a half days and was a little over 1000 miles, a great adventure through interesting and very different country and we found Victorian roads much better than those in New South Wales. The trip took us down the Pacific Highway to Sydney and then over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst.

We stopped overnight at the Showground in an empty set of horse stalls that were quite tidy, parking the car in the centre aisle we slept in our sleeping bags on a ground sheet. We'd left home at 6am and it was a tiring day arriving in Bathurst at 8pm and it didn't take long to fall asleep. Waking at daylight we found a water trough for a wash and tucked into some jam sandwiches from the supplies we carried and soon got on our way again. With no "sat nav" in those days, we used maps and common sense.

Our first minor car problem occurred during the trip south, a gasket failure between the exhaust manifold and the exhaust pipe. So, when we got to Young we found a Nuffield garage and got them to fit a new gasket with enough time to have a beer and buy some sandwiches for lunch. Resuming our journey, we continued on the Olympic highway as recommended by the government because of the high amount of traffic on the Hume Highway. We passed through Cootamundra and Culcairn and on to Albury where we switched to the Hume Highway in Victoria and on to Benalla. We slept that night in roadside park which seemed fine to us, continuing on the next morning to Melbourne where we were stopped by a closed road to allow Dignitaries coming from the airport to attend the Games in Melbourne. Melbourne was all a-buzz at the time, and we had to wait for a while, then made our way to Essendon where we were to stay, excited, tired, and very pleased with ourselves.

We stayed with a family in Melbourne who had business interests in Coffs Harbour. They took us to the motor races on the first weekend we were there, a real eye-opener for me as I had a keen interest in the sport but had never been to a race meeting. On the second weekend there was the Australian Grand Prix and I made it my business to get a pit pass at the cost of one pound and spent the day in the pits and watched the races from there. The European racing teams were there with the current Formula One race cars, so I got a close look at Maserati 250 F's, Ferrari sports and Formula One single seaters and of course my great thrill was hearing Stirling Moss talk and to be able to talk with him, he was a real hero of mine. This was my first glimpse of motor racing and all the different sorts of cars from large sedans to sports cars and Formula One cars as well. What a great time it was seeing those cars in the pits and soaking up the atmosphere of racing, so much better than reading about it in the motoring magazines of the day.

I had managed to get tickets for a lot of the Olympic Games events, we had four days at the main venue, the MCG, where watching the Australian girls winning medals was a great thrill, to witness athletes breaking and setting new world records in a packed stadium was absolutely amazing for a couple of boys from the bush. We also had tickets for some boxing events some wrestling, some weightlifting, cycling and basketball and I have vivid memories of the excitable French team playing the Russians in men's basketball in a primitive venue where the spectator seating was builders planks rigged up on scaffolding. Then the closing ceremony, a very moving, sad and solemn event that left a long lasting impression on my young mind.

While in Melbourne another interesting issue that we had to be aware of was that canvas top sports cars in those days had no way of being locked, so I followed one of the country ways of making a car difficult to steal by taking the rotor button from the distributor and keeping it in my pocket, the easiest way to immobilise a car that could not be locked and we were careful not to leave any small items in the car. But Australia in those days was a much safer place and many older cars still on the road couldn't be locked.

The day after the Games finished, we set off to drive to Adelaide to visit Mum's brother Clarrie Herbert, that trip turned into an adventure. We decided not to go by the most direct route but to drive as near to the coast as possible along the Great Ocean Road to Warrnambool and then on the Princes Highway to Mt Gambier, to Meningie and on to Tailem Bend. This route featured a lot of unsealed roads through forest country and very sandy scrub country in other places. The scenery in the first section was stunning along the coast past the Twelve Apostles, but further on were very winding gravel roads through forest where we had our first adventure, sliding off on a corner and hitting a bank with damage to a rear wheel. We couldn't put the spare wheel on because the tyre was nearly bald, so we pulled the tyre off that wheel, removed both tyre and tube from the damaged wheel and swapped the tyres over. It took a while but was able to be done because the MG had a sufficient tool kit to do the job. There was a tyre pump and tyre levers, everything needed to do the swap and when we got to Adelaide, it cost 5 pounds to get a tyre, new rim and spokes and have the wheel rebuilt.

The second adventure on that day came about after dark near Meningie, the road appeared to be very black ahead and suddenly a great white wall of water was thrown up from the road, overflow from a flooded Lake Alexandrina. Fortunately, the engine didn't stop but we were both dripping wet because we didn't have the side screens on. We drove on very slowly hoping the water wouldn't get any deeper, with a big sigh of relief when we got out of the water. Unsure of what lay ahead, we drove on a bit further and decided to stop on the side of the road until daylight. We had sleeping bags and some food so we curled up in the gutter and slept till daylight and discovered we were near the small town of Meningie and on making further inquiries were told that the road ahead was under water and the only alternative was to drive across country to Coonalpyn on the main highway and then via Tailem Bend to Adelaide.

We spent three days in Adelaide, and it took a while to find a wheel works who could rebuild the damaged wheel. But we were able to pick it up at lunchtime on the fourth day and immediately left for home. Because of the flooding that had taken place there was only one crossing place of the Murray River that we could use, so we went via Tailem Bend and headed for Horsham. We did that section of 250 miles in five hours, quite a fast average. Once again, we got out our sleeping bags and slept in a park on the edge of Horsham. Sleep was not a problem, and we were up at daylight and underway again. Because of the flooding in the Murray River Valley, we went across the centre of Victoria north of Bendigo through Rushworth and joined the Hume Highway at Violet Town before heading north through Albury and made good time until we got to Holbrook.

The next section of the highway to Tarcutta had to be taken much more slowly because the road surface was broken up with huge potholes. From there we drove on into the night till tiredness forced a stop and we climbed into our sleeping bags in the gutter beside the car and immediately went to sleep, that must've been about midnight or even later, somewhere near Mittagong. Waking up just before daylight it was a bit of a shock finding how close to the road I had stopped the car and slept, but we got going until we found a park beside the road where we could make a cup of tea on our portable camp stove and eat the last of our SAO biscuits and cheese.

We had to share the driving, but I did more than my mate and we had a remarkable time, sharing our adventures and it was a great and memorable experience. We navigated our way through Sydney and got back home to Upper Orara just on dark, very tired, needing a bath, very pleased with ourselves and happy to be home after a wonderful adventure.

In getting these sketchy details down on paper and thinking about that time of my life sixty six years ago makes me realise and question whether I was brave or foolish, or perhaps even both. But many times, throughout my life, the memory of that journey reminded me to get on with it and work hard at the project in hand just for the satisfaction of a job well done.



Robert Hunter attended our Combined Car Show at C.ex Coffs on 15th October and we were fortunate to be able to take a photo of Robert with an MGTF the same model and colour as the one in this story.

19 Bizarre and Interesting Facts about Cars

1. A woman named Mary Anderson invented windshield wipers in 1905
2. The first electric powered vehicle was created in 1832 by Robert Anderson
3. The inventor of Cruise Control was blind
4. The best-selling car of all time is the Toyota Corolla
5. 95% of a car's lifetime is spent parked
6. It is a criminal offence to drive a dirty car obscuring your licence plate
7. The average driver will spend approximately 99 days of their life stuck in traffic
8. Over 80 million cars are produced every year
9. A modern Formula 1 car can drive upside down in a tunnel at 120mph
10. What is the world's fastest car?
The fastest petrol/internal combustion engine powered car is the Koenigsegg Gemera, hitting speeds of up to 248 miles per hour (399.12 km/h) and can reach 0 to 60km/h in 1.9 seconds.
The fastest electric vehicle is the 2022 Tesla Model S Plaid which can reach a speed of 60mp/h (100km/h) in 1.99 seconds and reach a peak speed of 200 miles per hour (321.87 km/h).
11. The largest recorded speeding fine ever produced was £180,000 (S\$294,601)
12. The world's first speeding ticket was given in 1902 for driving at 13 km/h
13. It would take approximately 6 months to get to the Moon by car
14. Cars are made up of approximately 30,000 parts
15. The world record for the highest vehicle mileage is 3,039,122 miles
16. Dubai has the world's fastest police cars
Bugatti Veyron which can reach speeds up to 253 mph (407 km/h) and jump from 0 to 60mph in just 2 and half seconds.
17. It is illegal to slam a car door in Switzerland after 10pm.
18. The world's most popular car colour is white
19. In the United States, a car is stolen every 45 second

FOR SALE

2002 Mitsubishi Delica

All new parts, timing belt, water pump, spark plugs, spark plug seals, tappet cover gaskets, belt tensioners, pulleys drive belts, front shocks, ball joints, sway bar links front and back and bushes, new starting battery, new marine fridge, battery, new change over relay, aircon regassed, new relays put in towbar, rewired buzzer put on headlights so you don't leave them on, rear door lock, sliding door handle, booked in to change oil in rear diff transfer case front diff and service on gearbox, new entertainment centre with GPS and phone.

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