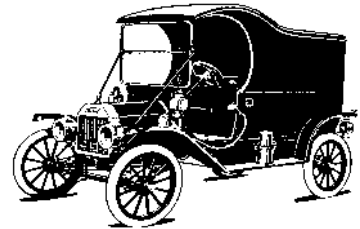




# "T" model T torque



The Newsletter of The Model T Ford Club of Victoria (Inc.)  
Reg. No. A0000819S



Web: [mtfcv.com](http://mtfcv.com)

Facebook: [Model T Ford Club of Victoria](https://www.facebook.com/ModelTFordClubofVictoria)

Volume 48

NUMBER 1

February 2026



This month's cover photo features Stephen Harris' 1915 Tourer. Stephan member profile is included in this edition. Stephan T can be seen regularly cruising the Nepean highway and bayside suburbs on drives with family and friends.

*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;  
working together is success."*

*-- Henry Ford --*

## **IN THIS ISSUE...**

- T & A Christmas party report
- Stephen Harris member profile
- AMOC delegates meeting minutes
- Remembering Karen Jenkins

**NEXT MEETING:** February 13, 8pm

**Guest Speaker:** Peter Natoli:

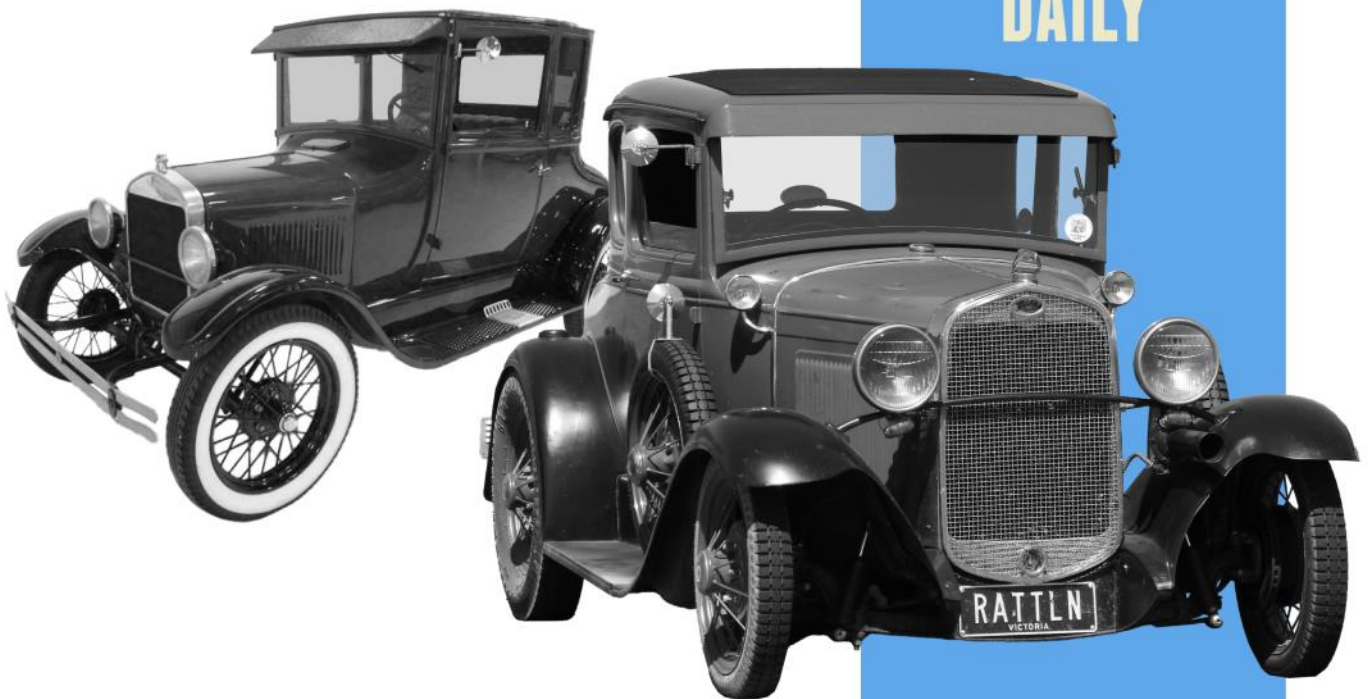
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## President's Message



**G**reetings to all Members,  
Hoping everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Can you believe we are off to 2026. It seems like 2025 just disappeared. Our T & A Christmas Party at the Ashburton Scout Hall went well and the weather was beautiful and having great shade trees is a bonus.

Unfortunately, bad news for the day, was we lost the Trophy to the A Club. They just outnumbered us with the most As. We can't complain though, as we held it for 3 years straight. Better luck next time!

Cruden Farm Festival of Motoring this year saw us with a very poor display of T's, with only having 3 there in total. There was Steve Brown in his 27 Coupe with Robbie Dalton as his co-pilot, we had our 27 Coupe and our son Jim had our 24 Tourer. Regardless, we had an enjoyable day.

Very sad news with the passing of Karen Jenkins on the 15th of January. Her life was taken, far too soon. The Service for Karen, speaks volumes of her as a person. A Very sad day for the family, but also a "Very Proud day". David & Karen worked as a great team when planning a rally. They were always planned to perfection. We have great memories of Karens home made scones, jam & cream at Sugarloaf Dam. Point Lonsdale was a credit to them, we still talk about it. The more recent one was Rusty Springs in Avenel. Another fabulous memory. David made a another booking while we were there for November this year, 2026. Seems a long way off, but will be here in a flash.

Dean & Ann have been busy putting together the March Rally in Moama. If this one is as fantastic as the Shepparton Rally, they put together, we are in for a great weekend.

You may recall that at the December meeting, the suggestion of introducing junior memberships was raised by Dean and Ann and carried forward by them for further consideration. More information on possible junior memberships will follow.

For a big part of 2025, our Committee has been one person short, but we have now filled that position. David Weatherhead has offered to come on board and fill that spot and we certainly welcome him. David will be a great asset to the Committee with his expertise.

It was disappointing that we had to call off Australia Day picnic at Maroondah Dam, due to the Total Fire Ban, but look forward to next year. Thelma & I were out and about in our Coupe, with our flags proudly flying.



John and Thelma catching up with north Victorian club members.

Our February Meeting we will have Peter Natoli coming along to give a Presentation on his Model T Electrical Services. Should be an interesting night.

That's all for now, so from over another running board,

— John & Thel —



## November General Meeting Minutes



**Meeting opened at 7:59PM by President John Huitt at the VDC rooms, and via Zoom.**

**New Members:** Les Doyle from Nyora

**Attendance:** 29 present at VDC rooms and 6 on Zoom

**Apologies:** Chris Bagot, Ruth Csorba, Karen Jenkins, Russell Medhurst, Alan Flude, Peter Rutley

**Visitors:** Garry Angus and Anne Salmon

**Confirmation of Minutes:** N/A **Moved:** -Thelma Huitt **Seconded:** Orlando Talamo

**Business arising from Minutes:** Nil

**Tonight's Meeting:** Talk from tax man Garry Angus

### **Correspondence**

- **In:** Email: AOMC bulletin, **MAIL:** Backfire magazine, NAB statement
- **Out:** Welcome letter to Les Doyle, card to Karen Jenkins

### **REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was presented to the members by new Treasurer John Fotakis, seconded Jo Baulch

### **Last Month's Rally Report:**

- ♦ Geof Baulch gave a report on the Bendigo Swap Meet. He said how much he and Dave Weatherhead appreciate John Huitt being the Uber Eats man bringing them both some sausages and a cold drink while they were volunteering in the Big Shed.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**January:** 18<sup>th</sup> Cruden Farm, 26<sup>th</sup> Australia Day at Maroondah Dam,

**February:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Longwarry Heritage Vehicle and Truck Display, 15<sup>th</sup> Club lunch at Narbethong, 15<sup>th</sup> RACV British and European car show, Yarra Glen,

**May:** 1st-3rd Florence Thompson Rally

**TBC:** AOMC Aussie Classic Car Show, The Manhattan Hotel, Ringwood

### **Upcoming Swap Meets:**

**January:** 11<sup>th</sup> Korumburra Swap Meet, 18<sup>th</sup> Centre State Swap Meet, Bendigo Racecourse, 18<sup>th</sup> Sale Swap Meet, Sale Showgrounds

**February:** 1 Morwell Swap Meet, Toners Lane, Morwell, February 7 Ballarat Swap Meet, 7 Glenlyon Swap Meet, Glenlyon Racecourse Reserve, 8 Snake Valley Swap Meet, 8 Lang Lang Swap Meet, Lang Lang Showgrounds Reserve

### **Swap Meets/ Clearing Sales Report:**

Dean and Ann went to the Wangaratta Swap Meet, No Model T stuff but Dean got some LED lights for his F truck and some punches.

### **DELEGATE'S REPORT:**

- ♦ **AOMC:** Report given by Noel Inman, **FEDERATION:** No Federation Report

**THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITY/RUN:** John Huitt gave a report on the Model T and A Christmas party. Unfortunately this year we didn't retain the trophy :(

**RESTORATION PROGRESS:** David Jenkins '16 is still in bits but is coming together slowly

**NEW OR UNUSUAL PRODUCTS:** Warwick Landy has a hand held pocket coil and capacity tester from the USA. Cost is around US\$50. He suggested he could maybe bring it to a meeting and test some coils.

**PARTS WANTED:** Nil

**FOR SALE:** Nil

**Continued next page...**





## General Meeting Minutes continued...



### GENERAL BUSINESS:

- At the last Committee meeting we discussed Dean William's suggestion of offering a Junior Membership. There would be an initial cost of \$10 and a yearly fee of \$5 until they are 18 and can get a full membership. We decided for this they will receive a club hat, name badge, lapel badge, sticker, embroidered patch and email copies of club's magazine T Torque. Tonight we put this idea to the members who all thought it was a great idea so we will now be going ahead with that.
- Orlando Talamo brought to our attention some changes to the RACV total care. If you are a RACV member you should probably check your total care cover.
- When we arrived tonight there was a notice at the front gate about an entry code. We will look into this and let members know via email if it concerns us on meeting night.
- Tonight we had a visit from tax man Garry Angus, he has looked into whether or not, as a not for profit organisation, we have to pay tax or not. He feels that we don't but suggested we contact the tax department before they contact us. He will put together a letter for us to put on club letterhead and send.

**NEXT MEETING ACTIVITY:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, talk from Peter Natoli

**RAFFLE DRAW x 2:** **DRAWN BY:** Grace Csorba, **WON BY:** Rod Kieseker, **PRIZE SELECTED:** Pliers and vice grips

**DRAWN BY:** Grace Csorba, **WON BY:** Ross and Maureen Cartlegde, **PRIZE:** 2 bottles of wine

**MEETING CLOSED:** 9.06PM



## Under the Hood - Editorial



**G**reetings Members,  
A Happy New Year to all members from us both!

The summer break has been refreshing, and we have enjoyed some great activities. A highlight for us was spending New Year's Eve on a river cruise, seeing the New Year in and enjoying the city fireworks.

The Ts have been used on a few occasions, including rides for kids at our court Christmas party, a few runs to my favourite gelato shop, and a late-2025

run to the Noojee Pub with the 1925 Dalgety. The pub, like the car, was also celebrating its 100th anniversary, making it a great photo opportunity to park the car outside the pub.

I also managed to have our son Calvin take a car out on a couple of occasions. When he drove my '16 pickup, he scored Car of the Show at Yinnar Cars and Coffee and even won a very nice meat tray!

On a very sad note, it was difficult to learn of the passing of our member, Karen Jenkins. Our club was well represented at Karen's memorial service, and I thank David Jones and Julie Jones for sharing some of Karen's life and the good times she enjoyed with our club in this edition. I'm sure David and his family can count on the continued support and assistance of our members if required.

We have been fortunate over the break to receive some excellent content, including member profiles and restoration updates, which we will share in upcoming editions. It certainly makes assembling *T Torque* much easier when we don't have to go hunting for content — so please keep it coming!

Until next month, keep touring in your Ts,

— Warwick & Paula Landy —

All contributions to [ttorquenews@hotmail.com](mailto:ttorquenews@hotmail.com)



My 100 year old T outside the 100 year old Noojee pub!



## Club Calendar 2026



**CLUB MEETING:** 13 8pm— Talk by 'Peter Natoli' - Electrical Stuff!  
**CLUB EVENT:** 15 T Run Narbathong Pub for lunch (Dean Williams)  
*(Meet at 10am for a 10:30am start at Lilydale Lake, 435 Swansea Road, Lilydale. There is trailer parking available. Please let Ann or Dean know by Wed 11th February if you are attending.)*  
**OTHER EVENTS:** 6-8 Darnum Heritage Display—Antique Car, Truck and Machinery Display



**CLUB MEETING:** 13 8pm, Guest Speaker: Geoff Scott, Model T Club First President!  
**CLUB EVENT:** 27-30 Echuca / Moama Rally  
**OTHER EVENTS:** 8 Yarra Glen Swap  
 29 Kalorama Rally, All Ford Day, Mortlake Federation Picnic



**CLUB MEETING:** 10 8pm Guest Speaker TBA  
**CLUB EVENTS:** 12 TBC—Coffee Run / Garage Crawl to Andrew & Linda Phillips  
**OTHER EVENTS:** 18 AOMC Heritage Festival, Steam Centre Scoresby



**CLUB MEETING** 8 8pm  
**CLUB EVENTS:** 16-17 Heyfield Vintage & Machinery Rally  
**OTHER EVENTS:** 23-24 Historic Winton, T Club Display—contact Noel Inman



**CLUB MEETING** 12 8pm  
**CLUB EVENTS:** TBA  
**OTHER EVENTS:** TBA



**CLUB MEETING:** 10 8pm General Meeting—activity to be confirmed  
**CLUB EVENT:** 12 Annual Club Lunch  
**OTHER EVENTS:** TBA

## Club Permit Renewals

### **\*\*Important Notice – Permit Submissions\*\***

Members are reminded that permits should now be sent directly to their **nearest Club Safety Officer**. Please note that the club mailbox is no longer cleared on a regular basis, so sending permits there may result in delays. When submitting permits, please include a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** to allow permits to be returned promptly.

Club permit renewals must be signed by the club permit holder and an authorised MTFCV officer to confirm that the permit holder is a current member of the club.

Members having vehicles permitted through MTFCV must be a financial member. If you no longer own or have the listed vehicle on red plates, please contact the secretary.

**Ann Cupid, 0427 984797**  
[secretary@mtfcv.com](mailto:secretary@mtfcv.com)

If members need a permit signed & can't meet a safety officer in person, mail the permit with a stamped self addressed envelope to a safety officer.

### February

**Geoffrey Brooke 6417**  
**Peter Brown 7396**  
**Paul Daley 774**  
**John Docker 5814**  
**Phillip Dorne 7253**  
**Alan Flude 7408H8**  
**Laurie Ford 7430**  
**Noel Huitt 06072H**  
**Linda Phillips 2674H3,**  
**96456H, 34052H**  
**Gregory Russell 8401**  
**Bruce Weatherhead 3135**

### March

**Geof Baulch C9893**  
**Jennifer Csorba 34732-H**  
**Laurie Ford 766, 5453**  
**Beryl Gorry 8956**  
**Graham Hadden 7622**  
**John Huitt 651**  
**John Morrison 35701H**  
**Borge Sorensen 910FH,**  
**8320**  
**Peter Trewin 6931**  
**Graeme Wagland 5781**  
**David Weatherhead 4924**

### April

**Andrew Brown 7805**  
**Laine Bull 4421**  
**Bruce Csorba 7399**  
**Paul Daley 61287H**  
**Paul Grady 7640**  
**Bernie McKeegan 07099**  
**Linda Phillips 0824H6,**  
**3406H9, 0824H4, 0824H7,**  
**0824H3, 0824H2**  
**Orlando Talamo 8825**  
**David Weatherhead 0452H,**  
**C9939, 5172**



## AOMC Report



### AOMC Delegates Meeting – November 2025 Summary

*Noel Inman represented our club at this meeting. A summary of the minutes has been obtained from the AOMC website.*

The AOMC Delegates Meeting was held on **Monday 17 November 2025** at the Austin Healey/Jaguar Clubrooms, with strong attendance across the historic motoring movement. A total of **84 delegates** attended, representing **65 affiliated clubs**, along with **two visiting organisations**, RedKite and Kids Under Cover. Several additional delegates joined the meeting via Zoom.



AOMC President **Keith Mortimer** welcomed all delegates and guests before the presentation of a **\$12,000 cheque to RedKite**, the nominated charity beneficiary of the January Festival of Motoring at Cruden Farm. The cheque was presented by **Iain and Maureen Ross** to **Eric Cheng** from RedKite. Eric provided a comprehensive overview of the organisation, noting that RedKite has supported children with cancer and their families for more than **40 years** and receives no government funding. Operating nationally, RedKite supports approximately **10,000 families each year**, providing practical assistance, social workers, music therapists in hospitals, and peer support groups for families and siblings. Eric thanked AOMC and member clubs for their generosity and for supporting the Festival of Motoring.

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted, and apologies were received from a number of clubs unable to attend.

In his **President's Report**, Keith reflected on the recent Club & Trade Expo, acknowledging that early localised rain affected attendance initially but did not diminish the overall success of the event. He congratulated the volunteer committee for their efforts, with special mention of **Mark Fenton** for his leadership and workload. Traders reported positive outcomes, clubs gave favourable feedback, and Business and Apprentice Grants were awarded on the day. Keith also advised that a revised **Club Permit Handbook** is currently being developed, noting that approvals from VicRoads and the Department of Transport may take some time.

A number of **key events scheduled for 2026** were outlined. These included the **Festival of Motoring** at Cruden Farm on Sunday 18 January (pre-entry only), the **RACV British & European Motoring Show** at Yarra Glen on Sunday 15 February, and the **Florence Thomson Tour** to be held in the Shepparton region from 1–3 May, with over 100 entries already received. Plans were also discussed for the relaunch of the Shannons American Motoring Show and the rescheduling of the AOMC Aussie Classic Car Show due to a clash with All Ford Day.

Treasurer **Mark Fenton** reported that as at **31 October 2025**, AOMC held **\$302,198 cash at bank**, with a small amount outstanding from membership and MembershipPLUS invoices. Income levels have increased due to the rollout of the **MembershipPLUS Insurance Scheme**, RACV sponsorship, and early Festival of Motoring entries. Expenses were in line with expectations, including the recent Business and Apprentice Grants. The 2024/25 Annual Financial Statement has been prepared for the AGM, BAS reporting is up to date, and the organisation remains in a strong financial position.

The **MembershipPLUS Insurance Scheme** was a major focus of discussion. Since its launch on 1 July 2025, more than **72 clubs** have signed up, including five new clubs joining AOMC specifically to access reduced insurance costs. Progress on club risk management plans is ongoing, with approximately 20% already completed or underway. A simplified implementation guide is now available on the AOMC website to assist clubs of all sizes.

Additional reports covered the launch of the upgraded AOMC website, recent engine number record requests, and several CPS-related issues. Delegates raised concerns regarding modified vehicles on club permits, discrepancies in VicRoads registration records, and inconsistent enforcement. Advice was shared regarding CPS renewals, record reconciliation, and interactions with RACV Total Care, including recommendations to ensure members receive appropriate assistance when incidents occur.

The meeting also addressed heritage protection under the **Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act**, with delegates encouraged to notify AOMC if significant vehicles are likely to be exported without appropriate oversight.

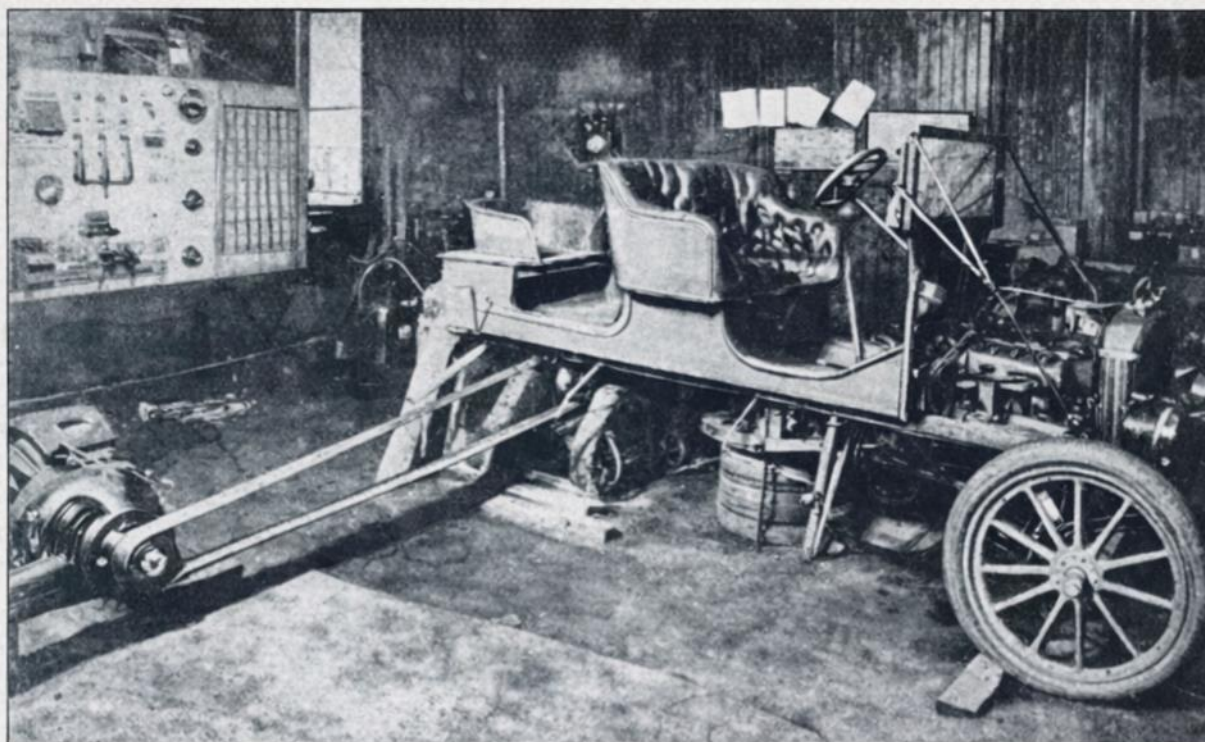
The evening concluded with a guest presentation by **David Cairns** from **Kids Under Cover**, who outlined the organisation's preventative approach to youth homelessness. Programs include backyard studios, village-style accommodation for young adults, emergency housing pods, and a highly successful car donation scheme that has raised **\$20 million** since 2006. The meeting closed with supper and informal discussion.



## Article of Interest



Don McPherson provided the following article on how a Model T was put into service in quite a different application!



### How a Ford Kept the Telephones in Service

COMMUNICATION was provided in rather a novel way by a *Ford* during the recent Ohio river floods. A *Ford* car was connected up with a large generator and for ten days furnished the power to keep in operation the many telephones of the Paducah Home Telephone and Telegraph of Paducah, Ky.

A *Model T* Runabout was jacked up and the rear axle and differential removed. The auto's shaft was placed in a one-inch oaken block and a ten-inch pulley placed on the shaft. A six-inch pulley was used on the shaft of the generator. With this arrangement the power plant was operated very successfully for ten days.

The engine in the car was running at an average speed of forty miles per hour for ten days and made enough revolutions to have covered 4800 miles had the car been running. The engine was kept in operation twelve hours per day. It did not once refuse to run nor was it at any time overheated.

Many of the subscribers in the vicinity were marooned and the telephone was the only means of communication with the outside world.

The runabout used was three years old and had been run about 55,000 miles. It is none the worse for the strain put upon it during flood relief services and is in constant use every

For Further Information: Gary Stoocher - 0418 140 844

Len Mizzi - 0403 230 641 [vintagedriversclub.com](http://vintagedriversclub.com)



## Vale



### Karen Jenkins

Although I am probably the least qualified member in the club to say some words in memoriam of our friend Karen Jenkins, I will give this my best shot.

Our oldest recollection of meeting Karen and David Jenkins was at the Benalla rally organised by Don McPherson a few years back then. We remember our cabin site and moreover our next-door neighbours, David and Karen, along with their newly acquired nemesis — I mean Model T Ford — which seemed at first glance to be a better-looking clone of Chris and Fiona Dillon's car.

I can't remember the pub or hall we were all seated at while having lunch that weekend, but I sat across from Karen and we talked for some time about their new car, the club, the strengths and weaknesses, and of course opportunities to come on the committee. The club was fortunate to secure David's services on the committee, but we all got the impression that Karen was his greatest supporter of David's endeavours.

We had gone on quite a few country tours developed by country clubs. Hamilton and Wangaratta were examples of these runs, and David and Karen enthusiastically promoted attendance. Julie and Karen during this time became friends, sharing common interests in cooking, craft, and being married to a David. It was one year ago that Karen and Julie entered the Florence Thompson Tour together in the MG Y, and it worked out well for them both as they got to dress up and ditch their husbands at the same time.

Julie told me how in the evening, Karen sat in bed and recalculated the distances to travel (because they were wrong), and this would ensure a better day's travel the next day. Julie and I chuckled at the funeral, as this was something Karen always did with her family.

The Point Lonsdale Rally. David and Karen put their heart and soul into that event. Not only were the routes well planned, but the catering went to a new level. Karen bought (and transported) all the food for us all! She worked out the menu, worked out the timing, and even organised a sous chef who had to follow directions this time!

Everyone came away from that weekend well fed, with food left over and money in the bank. Karen did a sterling effort, which we all questioned whether we could replicate the work (or be bothered to). Although it was Karen and David's rally, Karen's thoughts and efforts were aaaalllllll over the show.

In recent years, the Dillons, Jones', and Jenkins' have been taking ourselves into the bush for off-grid camping. Our last camp together was in November, and this time the Jenkins' were introducing us to Rubicon. Karen wasn't as well as she could be, and we were all concerned. Despite not being on top of her game, she cooked the group apple and rhubarb pie for dessert, and it was delicious. Then the cards came out. The card game involved tactics, maths, a good eye, a bit of luck, and a little "know when to hold them, know when to fold them." Needless to say, Karen beat us all. The funeral confirmed that Karen was a game master and very competitive, as her family testified.

Karen had been having health troubles prior to this camp, but continued to soldier on. Eight weeks later, we all said goodbye to an authentic person who we were all getting to know as a practical, pragmatic, and dedicated wife to David. Karen will be missed. She had a great send-off, and we have admired how David has been with Karen all the way on this journey.

— David Jones —



David and Karen in period costume at the Ballarat National rally last October.



## Member Profile



### Steve Harris

My interest in Model T Fords goes back a long way — right back to my grandfather. He owned a Model T in Ballarat during the 1920s. He was a butcher by trade and used the car during the week with a chilled, ice-cooled meat box fitted to the back. On weekends, that box came off and a homemade “kids’ cart” went on instead, allowing all seven of his children to head out for picnics and family outings. I still have his original Ford manual, which I treasure, and I suppose that early story planted the seed for everything that followed.

My own journey with Model Ts really began about forty years ago. My father-in-law happened to meet Geoff Weideman somewhere out on the road in his T and mentioned that his son-in-law had just bought one. Phone numbers were exchanged, and before long Geoff and Bill Wallace were at my place getting the car started. That was the beginning of my involvement with the Model T Ford Club, and I’ve been a member ever since.

Some of my fondest memories involve family outings in the 1923 roadster. Our two kids absolutely loved riding in the rear dicky seat, and November Cup weekends were always a highlight. One particularly memorable run was the Latrobe Valley rally, where Bill Landy showed us through Hazelwood Power Station and the surrounding coal open cuts — an experience you don’t forget in a hurry. ***(Editor’s note: This particular event was a reunion of sorts for my Dad, Bill. This car was Dad’s first ever restoration project and was restored by him to a running chassis stage before being sold to the owner of the Echuca Car Museum, Norm Simmons. Norm completed the restoration and displayed twin 1923 Roadsters in his museum. This car was also owned by the very first President of our Club, Geoff Scott. Dad was reunited with his old project at an early club run at an Australia Day run at the Treasury Gardens in the early 80s before it disappeared again. Another piece in the puzzle was that the same car was also owned by David Jones’s Dad before finding its way to Steve’s ownership! Quite the well travelled T even before its departure to Europe!)***



*A much younger Bill Landy at the wheel of his partially completed 1923 Roadster Restoration*

Christmas Eve became a tradition for us. I would dress up in a Santa suit, Julie would ride alongside, and the kids would sit in the dicky seat wearing Santa hats. We’d cruise around the local streets handing out lolly bags to neighbours. The kids loved sounding the horn — “Oooh ah!” — and the reactions from people made it all worthwhile. Those are memories I’ll always cherish.



This is Steve Harris' answer to Australia's woes - a Model T Ford export led recovery! One of Henry's finest (Steve's '23 Roadster) is heading overseas to the land of Alfas and Fiats - the result of a chance lifting of the garage door and someone wanting what they saw. Steve's comment "Everything is for sale if the price is right!" Bye, Bye, little black roadster, enjoy the trip, and don't forget your

*My Roadster pictured on tour at a Gippsland Melbourne Cup Weekend Rally*

I’m reasonably handy mechanically and comfortable with the basics. Over the years I’ve worked on differentials, transmission bands, and brakes, but anything beyond that I’m happy to leave to the professionals. There’s a lot of skill involved in doing these cars properly, and I have great respect for those who specialise in it.

Driving a Model T is an experience like no other. It’s a marvel of engineering, and the reactions you get are wonderful — smiles, waves, claps, and the occasional toot of a modern horn. I love driving with the top down; the rattles disappear, and you’re left with the smells of trees, fresh air, and even the odd whiff of cow poo. It always makes me smile, especially seeing the faces of young kids as you go past.

I’ve taken part in many club rallies over the years and enjoyed every one of them. For a long time, business commitments and overseas travel limited how often I could attend, but I’ve now retired and am very much looking forward to getting more involved again.



## Member Profile continued...



### Steve Harris

Away from Model Ts, I have a big love of sailing and adventure. That passion led to one of the most challenging things I've ever done — a Bass Strait crossing by dinghy. It was an incredible experience, and one I'm very lucky to be here to talk about. The story of that crossing can be read [here](#).

One of the more unusual chapters in my Model T story involves the sale of my 1923 roadster in 1995. It was purchased by a wealthy Italian man holidaying in Australia and shipped to Sicily. I was later told it was kept in a silk-lined garage. A few years after that, it was sold again — this time to a Model T enthusiast in Manchester in the UK. It's amazing to think where that car has ended up.

Today, I own two Model Ts. One is a fully restored 1915 Tourer, refurbished two years ago by Frank Van Eckker. It drives beautifully and carries full Victorian registration with the personalised plate "T FORD", which I believe is the only one of its kind on the road.



*My restored 1915 Tourer. note the number plate!*

The other is my 1923 Tourer, currently still in restoration. I bought it from Shannons forty years ago, back when they were based on Warrigal Road in Cheltenham. Prior to that, it had been in a museum in Western Australia. Over the years, the engine has been done by Denmead, the transmission by Feltman, the driveshaft by Dillon, paint and bodywork by Ron Harris, with radiator, nickel plating, and wheels all completed. Now it's a matter of carefully putting the jigsaw back together. Andrew Brown has been commissioned to check the work so far and assemble the remaining components. My aim is to have it on the road by spring or Christmas. I'm currently on the lookout for a good era-correct upholsterer to redo the seats and roof.

Our very first Model T came about because Julie wanted an open-top sports car. I delivered... a 1923 tourer. She was not impressed at the time, but it's a story that still gets a laugh.

Career-wise, I spent thirty years with Coles and Kmart in management and national buying roles, with Christmas decorations being a particular highlight. For the last twenty-two years of my working life, I was involved in exporting Australian foods to over 400 Asian supermarkets. Vegemite had limited success in Asia — much to my disappointment! These days, retirement has given me the time to get back to Model Ts and enjoy them properly again.

My advice to anyone thinking about owning a Model T is simple: go for it. They're great fun to drive. Don't expect fast financial gains, but dress in the era and you'll win hearts wherever you go. My Model Ts will eventually be passed on to my kids and grandchildren — and I hope they'll create just as many memories as I have.



*The old Tourer currently being reassembled by Andrew Brown.*



## Event Report



### Cruden Farm

On Sunday 18th January, I attended Cruden Farm with my partner Megan and my daughter Sofia. It was a great day, even better than we expected, as it was our first time there. We were impressed with the large variety of cars, but preparing for the day was not so impressive.

The T Tarrant I usually drive had developed a shudder when taking off, so to be on the safe side, as usual last minute being Saturday afternoon, we thought we should investigate. After taking the top off gearbox, we noticed a large amount of movement in the triple gear. Unfortunately, I didn't get to drive it to Cruden Farm and instead it became a trailer queen from the carpark. Steve Brown also attended with Robbie Dalton as a passenger.

— Jim Huitt —

*Unfortunately only a few members attended this event. It seems that at this time of year, members are spoilt for choice of events and spread out a bit! I have included some pictures of some of the other clubs' displays including the Austin Seven and Model A clubs. Several other clubs also had spectacular lineups of some of the more exotic Vintage Marques. Here is a link to a [video of the day](#). — Ed.*





## Event Report



### Australia Day 2026

Unfortunately, the annual picnic at Maroondah Reservoir was cancelled due to a potentially dangerous weather forecast. However, a number of members and T enthusiasts were still able to get out and about in their Ts to celebrate Australia Day.

These two brass Ts belong to members of the Antique Car Club of Albury–Wodonga, who spent the day at their local Australia Day picnic. Both vehicles—a beautifully presented 1915 Roadster and Tourer—were much admired.

Below: Darryl Donaldson spent the morning at the Australia Day Breakfast at Dromana in his 1916 Tourer.



Your editor attended the Australia Day car display at the Trafalgar Holden Museum. This photo was captured by a friend at just the right moment, as I raised the flag and the wind caught it perfectly, creating a wonderfully patriotic shot. It was a pleasure to share the Model T with the many young children who visited the display.



The Black family were captured out and about in Corowa in their 1911 Tourabout participating in an Australia Day Street parade with members of the local Corowa Historic Vehicle and Machinery Club.



## Event Report



### T & A Christmas Picnic

The annual Model T and Model A Christmas Party was held on Sunday, December 6, bringing together members from both clubs at the Ashburton Scout Hall. I have been to many of these events now and always enjoy myself. Despite some very ordinary weather in the lead-up, the day itself brightened beautifully, allowing everyone to relax and enjoy the occasion. It was a pleasure to sit under the trees, stand around the cars, and catch up with friends over plenty of car talk and good company.

The annual raffle, did not disappoint, with many prizes available on the day. As has become something of a tradition, John and Thelma's remarkable raffle luck continued, with them once again heading home with prizes in hand. The afternoon passed all too quickly. A friendly rivalry is always part of this much-loved event, with Ts and As competing to see which club can field the greatest number of cars on display. As John mentioned in his report, the Model As claimed victory this year, and the perpetual trophy for the most cars in attendance was reluctantly handed over.



Thank you to the Model A Ford Club of Victoria for their organisation and for hosting another enjoyable Christmas gathering. We look forward to doing it all again next year — and perhaps reclaiming that trophy!

— Paula Landy —

**Left:** T members socialising

**Bottom Left:** Raffle draw time inside the hall

**Top Right:** John Huitt reluctantly handing over the winning trophy to a representative from the A club.

**Second Right:** Frank and Dave enjoying a chat through the Roadster windows

**Right:** Lunch under the trees

**Bottom Right:** some of the Ts on display





## Event Report



### T & A Christmas Picnic — Members with their Ts!



Thanks to members who brought their Ts along, helping to create a terrific display and adding to the friendly rivalry!

#### Left to Right:

- Robbie & Christine Dalton— 1234 Roadster
- Bill Wallace—1234 Roadster
- James Huitt & \_\_\_\_\_ - 1234 Roadster
- Fred Smith—1234 Roadster
- David Weatherhead—1234 Roadster
- Russel & Marcia Medhurst - 1234 Roadster
- Stephen Brown: 1234 Roadster
- Fred and Betty Smith—1234 Roadster
- Thelma & John Huitt—1234 Roadster



## Trad'n Table



A free trading place to advertise your goods. Note that an ad stays in for two issues unless otherwise advised. All 'For Sales' must include prices. Vehicles for sale must include engine number or registration number (not club permit number), by law. Publication of ads does not constitute endorsement of price, condition or authenticity by the club. Please send ads to the Editor at [torquenews@hotmail.com](mailto:torquenews@hotmail.com)

### **FOR SALE: 1916 Tourer**

Complete and running and on club permit. USA body with 4th drivers side door added to to right hand side to appear like a Canadian Tourer. Lots of accessories on the car including Ruxstell 2 speed diff, riser timer and bolt on Crankshaft counter weights.

Runs and drives well. Extra spares included.

**\$11,000Ph: Ivor Austin 0428 578222 (Hastings, Vic)**



### **FOR SALE: Australian 1923 RENOWN**

Based on the Model T Ford with chassis and running gear being Ford and Coachwork by Holden. Runs and drives but currently not running. A fine example of only a very few (Six) remaining RENOWNS in existence. Includes top mechanism, spare parts. Engine no. 1231.

**\$15,000 Located In Bacchus Marsh Vic.**

Expressions of interest and enquiries please

**Ph: Darren 0400 697 566**



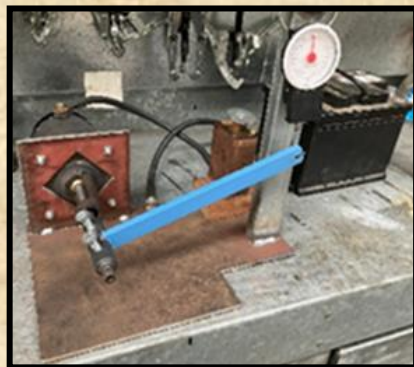
### **FOR SALE:**

- Complete front axle (Dodge Bros)
- Honeycombed radiator 1926

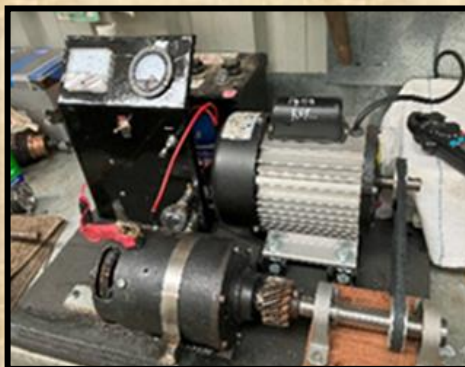
### **Negotiated price**

**PH: Roger Wotherspoon  
0409 862962**

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## Committee

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0401 802264

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Geof Baulch (Jo)  
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### AOMC:

Position Vacant

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0407 339601

Chris Dillon (Fiona)  
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03 54843152

Brian Smith (Helen)  
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### EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR:

David Jenkins (Karen)  
0408 312742  
Email: [davidjenkins1959@gmail.com](mailto:davidjenkins1959@gmail.com)

## Membership

The club welcomes new members who have an interest in the Model T Ford.

Members receive 11 monthly editions of the Model T Torque newsletter. The Model T Ford Club participates in and administers the VicRoads Club Permit Scheme. Members have access to a full register of Model T owners and their vehicles.

A full calendar of club activities including monthly meetings, annual rallies and other motoring events is planned annually. Generally, three annual rallies over the traditional, March, June and November public holiday weekends are planned in Regional Victorian locations for member participation.

The club conducts an annual Model T only, cars and parts Swap Meet. Member participation in other club gazetted events is also encouraged.

## Meetings

General meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month (except January) at 8pm at the **Vintage Drivers Club Clubrooms, Factory 8, 41 Norcal Rd, Nunawading** and / or via 'Zoom' online. Meetings start promptly and usually include a guest speaker and informal supper. They conclude at approximately 10pm.

## Annual Subscriptions

**\$55—Base Membership Subscription**  
(incl 11 Emailed Newsletters)  
**\$88—Printed & Posted Newsletter**  
11 Editions (Members Only)

### BANK DEPOSIT:

- BSB: 083-004
- Account: 03-923-0022

Please put your name as a reference.

Payment by cheque must be made to:  
'Model T Ford Club of Victoria' (NOT MTFCV)

## Commercial Advertising Rates

(11 copies of T Torque)

**\$100 - 1/6 page**  
**\$200 - 1/3 page**  
**\$300 - 1/2 page**  
**\$500 - Back cover**

## Club Information

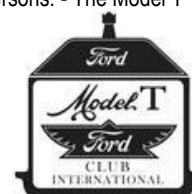
The Model T Ford Club of Victoria (MTFCV) was formed in 1980 and is aimed at encouraging and promoting Model T Fords, to help in the restoration of Model Ts, and to create a register of Model T owners.

Opinions expressed in articles appearing in this publication should not be taken as necessarily representing the official view of the club. No responsibility whatever can be accepted in respect of the conclusions or terms expressed therein. In no event will the club, or authors of articles in this publication be liable for direct, indirect, credential or consequential damages resulting from any reliance placed on this material by any real or legal person or persons. - The Model T Ford Club of Victoria Inc.

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Chapter Member of the Model T Ford Club of America, 310 N. 8th Street Richmond, IN 47374-3035, USA ([www.mtfca.com](http://www.mtfca.com)) and the Model T Ford Club International P.O. Box 355, Hudson, NC, 28638-0355, USA ([www.modelt.org](http://www.modelt.org)).

Both clubs produce excellent magazines (Vintage Ford, Model T Times) and the Model T Ford Club encourages membership of both organisations.





## Newsy Bits



### Jenny's T back on the road!

After transmission failure at the Ballarat rally and much help from club members Chris, Robbie and Andrew, Jenny's T, 'Ida' is now back on the road.



### Ivor Austin's Projects Find New Home

As advertised in *T Torque* 'Trad'n Table', the two restoration projects advertised for sale, the 1915 Bakers Van and 1913 Coupe have found a new home with a keen member up in the north of the state. Hopefully we will get to read of progress on these projects in *T Torque* in the future?

### President's Car Features in National Publication!

For those that are familiar with and still read "Restored Cars" Magazine, our president John's Coupe was featured in the 'Readers Cars' section which contained a nice little promo for our club.

### MODEL T #22 HAS A NEW HOME!

After being passed in at auction in the USA and post auction negotiations, it now has a new owner. Here is some information and pictures from the new owner which were posted on the MTFCA forum. Click [here](#).



Do you have any 'Newsy Bits'?  
Send them to [ttorquenews@hotmail.com](mailto:ttorquenews@hotmail.com)

### Vic Club Helps with Recommissioning a T!

Over the summer break, our club *Facebook* page received a membership request to join and asking for assistance with recommissioning a Model T that had not run for many years. The member owns a modern workshop and generally works on and maintains modern exotics but a beer fuelled conversation issued him with a new challenge. The car turned out to be a very nice 1914 Tourer fitted with some very nice accessories, some which were non standard Ford equipment and proved to be a challenge. [Here is a link](#) to the first part of the recommissioning project.



### Dean William's Restoration Update

Work continues for Dean on the restoration of his Tarrant Roadster. Recently he has been focusing on the differential rebuild, painting the body and panels and straightening up a front axle.





## Upcoming Rallies and Events



### FEDERATION SCORESBY PICNIC



#### Car & Motorcycle Show

**Sunday 26th April 2026**

**National Steam Centre**, 1200 Ferntree Gully Rd, Scoresby

- Hosted by: **Dandenong Valley Historic Car Club Inc.**
- Entry: FREE, Display Vehicles: 25 years and older
- Features: Trade displays, machinery displays, live music
- Food: Food stalls or BYO picnic
- Extras: Trophies and free raffle for display vehicles
- Enquiries: Gary Stocking – 0418 140 844  
Len Mizzi – 0403 230 641

### MTFCV ECHUCA / MOAMA RALLY

**Fri 27—Mon 30 March**

(Note: this is not a long weekend!)



#### Accommodation:

We have booked cabins at **Big 4 Moama**, 2 Blair Street, Moama, NSW 0354 809 899 Call Molly and Sam and say you are with **The Model T Ford Club of Victoria**. There is plenty of safe trailer parking and modern car parking.

#### Program...

##### Saturday 28 March

- Meet: 8:30am for 9:00 start – BIG4 Moama
- Morning tea stop at Mathoura (BYO)
- Deniliquin: **Depot Motor Museum \$14 –group booking only** or diner
- Lunch: Deniliquin Gardens (BYO)
- Return to Moama at leisure

##### Saturday Night (Optional)

- **Port After Dark Tour – 8:30pm Guided lantern walk, \$27.50 Group booking only**

##### Sunday 29 March

- Meet: 8:30am for 9:00am start – BIG4 Moama
- Wunghnu Vintage Machinery & Tractor Pull
- Morning tea provided
- Lunch available or BYO
- Return to Moama at leisure

##### Sunday Night

- Dinner: Rich River Golf Club 6:30pm (*Numbers required*)

##### Monday 30 March (Optional)

- P.S. Pevensey Paddle Steamer Cruise – 10:15am  
**\$32 Group booking only**

#### Group Booking Prices (All Optional):

- Port After Dark \$27.50 per person
- The Depot Motor Museum \$14 per person
- Paddlesteamer Cruise \$32 per person

Please pay money into club bank account:

BSB 083-004 ACC 03-923-0022

Then contact Ann at [secretary@mtfcv.com](mailto:secretary@mtfcv.com)  
[mailto:secretary@mtfcv.com](mailto:mailto:secretary@mtfcv.com) or 0427 984 797



**Sunday 8 March 2026**

**Yarra Glen Racecourse**  
Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen VIC

#### Vintage & Classic Cars, Parts & Accessories (Garagenalia, Collectibles, Show & Shine)

- Sellers: 6:30am, Buyers: 7:30am
- Show & Shine: 8:00am
- Entry: \$10 (children under 12 free), Site Fees: from \$25
- Bookings: Online bookings at Trybooking or scan the QR code
- Enquiries: [yarraglen.swap@vdc.org.au](mailto:yarraglen.swap@vdc.org.au) | 0473 832 277



## 68TH KALORAMA RALLY

**SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026**

*The Need for Speed*

### Kalorama Memorial Reserve

(Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama)

- 10am start
- Vintage and post-vintage vehicles
- Mystery tour, 9am for 9.30 start
- Vehicle displays, club awards
- Entry: \$10, Children: Under 16 free
- Proceeds: Kalorama CFA





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