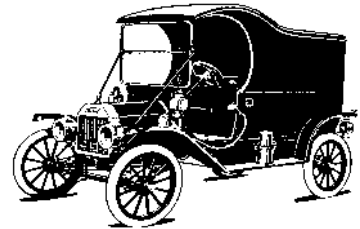




"model T" Torque



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

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

Volume 48

NUMBER 2

March 2026



This month's cover features Dean and Ann's 1926 Tourer which just celebrated its 100th birthday.

Also another picture of 3 fine 26/27 T Models, 2 more of which will soon celebrate Centennials!



IN THIS ISSUE...

- A veteran Steenbohm Story
- Narbethong Pub run report
- 'Where is it now?' from Russell Black?

"There is no man living who isn't capable of doing more than he thinks he can do."

-- Henry Ford --

NEXT MEETING:

March 13, 8pm

Guest Speaker:

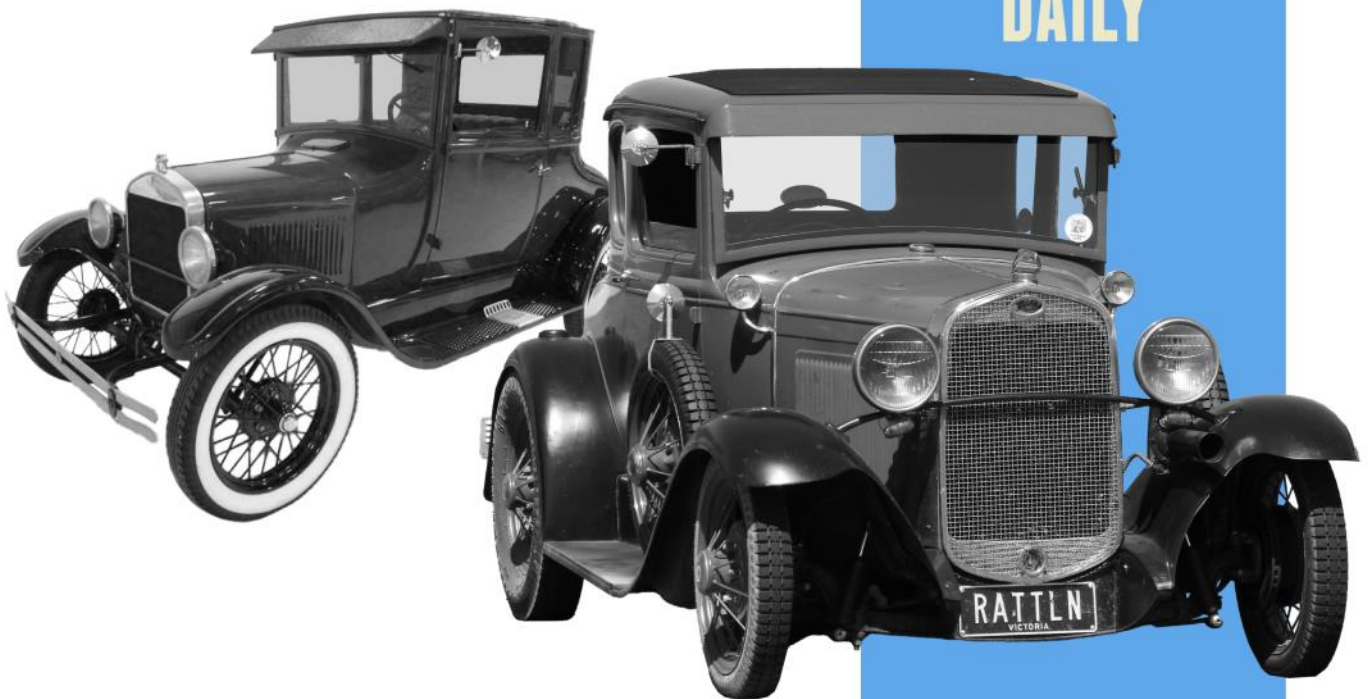
Geof Baulch:

Geof is displaying and talking about the restoration/build of his replica of Henry Ford's first car, the 1899 Quadricycle. Don't miss this opportunity to see and hear the story of this unique project.

Vintage Drivers Club Rooms

**Factory 8, 41 Norcal Road,
Nunawading**

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President's Message



Greetings to all Members,

Here we are in March already. It seems strange this year with no Labour Day Weekend Rally, as it became a bit too hard and expensive for accommodation to plan for. But not to feel too disappointed, as Dean and Ann are putting together the final touches for the Moama Rally they are running at the end of March. Ann tells me that they have quite a few members attending.

While we are talking about Dean and Ann, a huge thankyou goes out to this busy pair for the day run that they organised out in February starting in Lilydale and lunch at the Narbethong Hotel, back to Lilydale via Warburton. A most enjoyable day.

Thelma and myself went along to *Darnum Heritage Display*, where we met up with Warwick. Members, Alan Weatherhead and Cameron Smythe had a great display of their engines running.

Our first General Meeting for 2026 saw Peter Natoli give us an absolutely fantastic presentation all about his experiences in the electrical, repairing Model T electric stuff. Most interesting. Thankyou Peter for such a great presentation. If there are any other members who would like to give a presentation on any subject that may be of interest, we need more of these at our coming meetings.

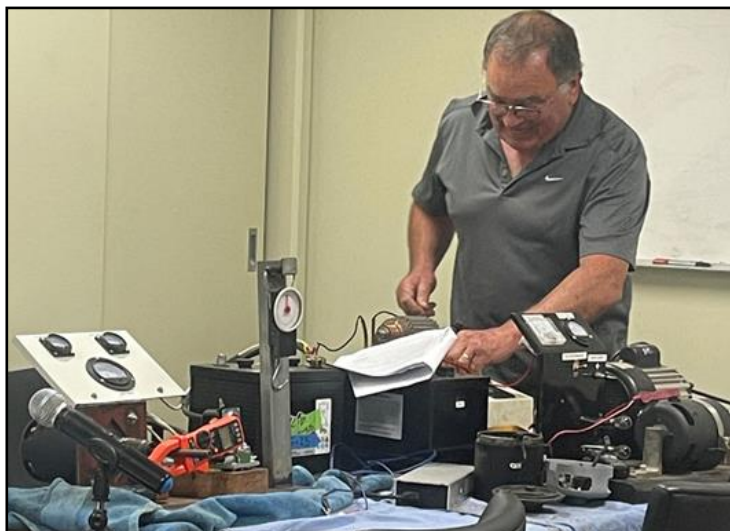
Another Big Part of our February meeting, was when Borg Sorenson was presented his OBN (Over Bloody Ninety), by Robbie Dalton. Borg is truly an amazing member at the age of 97. He is still flying his Tiger Moth and maintaining his interests at the Steam Park and building aircraft engines, while keeping up his interest in the Model T Club.

Huge thanks goes to Robbie Dalton for the wonderful job he does in preparing these awards. Robbie has made many of these awards now and we are waiting to see what a OB100 looks like! We appreciate the thought and effort you put into these Robbie.

I announced at the last general meeting that I would be stepping down at the AGM this year as President. I will have completed 3yrs in this position. I believe that we need a younger president that will bring fresh ideas to our club.

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

— John & Thel —



Peter at the February meeting talking about generators.



Peter also rewinds and test magneto coil plates.



November General Meeting Minutes



Meeting opened at Friday 13th February at 8.03PM by President John Huitt at the VDC rooms, and via Zoom.

New Members: Nil

Attendance: 38 present at VDC rooms and 6 on Zoom

Apologies: Chris Bagot, JD

Visitors: Garry Angus and Anne Salmon

Confirmation of Minutes: **Moved:** -Noel Huitt **Seconded:** Thelma Huitt

Business arising from Minutes: Nil

Tonight's Meeting: Peter Natoli's talk on testing generators, starters and bobbin plates. He showed us the way he tests things to make sure they work properly. His starter testing kit is a work in progress. He has offered to come back another night to talk about coils and magnets.



Correspondence

In:

- **Email:** AOMC Bulletin, Delegates Meeting, Federation Agenda
- **MAIL:** NAB statements, *T.Topics*, *The Vintage Ford*, new member application form

Out:

- Condolence card to the Jenkins family

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Given to the members by John Fotakis, John mentioned that if we change our bank accounts we can be making more interest but we will speak to accountant Garry Angus first. **Seconded:** Chris Dillon

Last Month's Rally Report: Steve Brown gave a report on Cruden Farm.

Upcoming Events:

- February 15 lunch run to Narbethong pub, Feb 20 Begonia Rally, Feb 21 Wandin Draught Horse Yesteryear Festival, 1 March Hamilton Pastoral Museum and Tractor Rally, 7 March Scoresby Steam Festival, 28-29 March Lost Trades Fair at Hanging Rock – you will need to get tickets before you go,

Swap Meet / Clearing Sales Reports: Bruce Csorba gave a report on the Ballarat Swap and Geof Baulch gave a report on the Snake Valley Swap

Upcoming Swap Meets:

- 14-15 February Maldon Antique Fair, 21 Feb Kingston Swap, 22 Feb Gembrook Swap, Stawell Swap, 22 Feb Wangaratta Show'N Shine, 28 Feb Ballan Swap, 8 March Yarra Glen Swap,

We have also been invited to attend Historic Winton in May – more info to come

DELEGATE'S REPORT:

- **AOMC:** Report given by Noel Inman, **FEDERATION:** Next meeting Saturday 14 Feb in Geelong

Technical Tips & Queries: Orlando Talamo was told if your windscreen wiper isn't working you can cut a potato in half and rub it on your windscreen for raindrops.

New or Unusual Products: There is a new Lego Model T

RESTORATION PROGRESS: Dean Williams '22 is coming along well, he got the panels painted over Christmas

FOR SALE: Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- At the next AGM John Huitt will be stepping down as President so we will on the look out for a new one.
- We are still putting together Junior Memberships
- We now have two new Committee members Dave Weatherhead and Dean Williams
- Robbie Dalton presented Borg Sorensen with an "OBN" (Over Bloody Ninety) award

NEXT MEETING ACTIVITY: Geof Baulch will be bringing in his Quadricycle

RAFFLE DRAW x 2: **DRAWN BY:** Borg Sorensen, **WON BY:** Steve Brown, **PRIZE SELECTED:** Blanket

MEETING CLOSED: 9.00PM



Under the Hood



Greetings Members,

Last month, some members did not get an edition of *T Torque* prior to the general meeting. I am not sure what went wrong with the email distribution but all members can be assured that the electronic edition of *T Torque* is always sent at least 3 days prior to the meeting. A difficult part of email is that it we don't know what happens after we hit send! Are all our emails on file up to date and correct? If not, it is up to yourselves to ensure the club has the necessary information to keep our records up to date. If you have not received it, please advise us prior to the meeting and we will try to get it to you.

T Torque is proof read by our President and Secretary prior to distribution each month. Even after proof reading, some things get through! Did anyone notice the mistakes in the February edition? I think it is good policy that our executive gets to review *T Torque* prior to distribution as it ensures that the management of the club is happy with what has gone out. I have seen in some publications I receive, that some opinions and articles contributed may not have had the same consideration and in my observations have had the potential to be quite divisive! Not a problem in our club.

Paula and I have a bit of travel planned in upcoming months that conflicts with the usual deadlines of completing *T Torque*. One way to get around it will be to have a few editions largely completed and ready to go. Please consider sending any articles of interest such as your member profile, restoration update or historical content for us to use. Do we have any members with an interest and skills in assisting with editing *T Torque*? In the event of us not being able to produce an edition, we currently have no alternatives.

Last year following on from the AGM, I suggested that the club consider changing *T Torque* to a Bi-Monthly publication. I outlined the reasons behind the suggested change and it seems to be well received and supported. I will be following up on this suggestion with the committee and will ask that they consider implementing the change. As it is considered, I am sure member comments to the committee would be appreciated.

I have been able to enjoy a few local events in the Ts lately. A fun day was a car show at Calvin's partner. Melody's, home town of Yallourn North at the local pub which has recently reopened. We drove the 16 Ute and the 25 Tourer and enjoyed a nice lunch on the outdoor deck overlooking the cars. A highlight was to give Melody's grandmother a ride home in the T.



I recently took my 89-year-old Dad out of the nursing home for a ride in the T and some time in the shed watching me work on the cars. I was mostly changing tyres and tubes — something we've done countless times together over the years. He's no longer able to help but does enjoy watching. I'm always grateful to Dad for making these wonderful cars such an important part of my life and for the many opportunities and adventures they've brought our way.

— Warwick & Paula Landy —

All contributions to ttorquenews@hotmail.com

Club Calendar 2026		
		
		
 March	CLUB MEETING:	13 8pm, Geof Baulch showing is Quadracycle
	CLUB EVENT:	27-30 Echuca / Moama Rally
	OTHER EVENTS:	29 Kalorama Rally, All Ford Day, Mortlake Federation Picnic
 April	CLUB MEETING:	10 8pm General Meeting—Echuca Rally photos & stories
	CLUB EVENTS:	12 TBC—Coffee Run / Garage Crawl to Andrew & Linda Phillips
	OTHER EVENTS:	18 AOMC Heritage Festival, Steam Centre Scoresby
 May	CLUB MEETING:	8 8pm General Meeting—Peter Natoli, Electrical Presentation Part 2
	CLUB EVENTS:	9 Safety Day at JD's Workshop, 7 Ford Place Longwarry
	OTHER EVENTS:	16-17 Heyfield Vintage & Machinery Rally 20-31 Historic Winton, T Club Display— see 'Upcoming Events'
 June	CLUB MEETING	12 8pm General Meeting—Guest Speaker: Geoff Scott, first MTFCV president from 1980
	CLUB EVENTS:	TBA
	OTHER EVENTS:	TBA
 July	CLUB MEETING:	10 8pm General Meeting—AGM
	CLUB EVENT:	12 Annual Club Lunch
	OTHER EVENTS:	TBA
 August	CLUB MEETING:	14 8pm General Meeting—activity TBC
	CLUB EVENT:	TBA
	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

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.

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 07099H
Linda Phillips 0824H6, 3406H9, 0824H4, 0824H7, 0824H3, 0824H2
Orlando Talamo 8825
David Weatherhead 0452H, C9939, 5172

May

Lloyd Davis 6062
Laurie Ford 7431
Ian Northey 3894
Linda Phillips 71021H
Ray Smith 3257
Laurie Wadeson 3565



Special Feature



Thanks to Antony Davies for sharing with us the story of his very special T...

1913 Ford Model T "Deluxe" Touring car by Steenbhom, Sydney

I've had this car since I was 14, fifty years ago, and it's never missed a beat. It's my first veteran car and I've covered somewhere over 40,000kms in it. In my ownership, it lived in Sutton Forest, NSW, then Kirribilli in Sydney, then Braidwood three hours from Sydney. I am the third owner, the first owner keeping it until 1960, the second from 1960 to 1976, then me. I first saw this car while on holiday with my family in



the NSW Southern Highlands in 1974, and I was enamoured. It was sitting in a Ford dealership in Bowral on display. I knew about Model Ts and was fascinated by them from the earliest age. My grandmother had given me a Matchbox Ford T in 1963 when I was one, which I loved and still have, but the 1913 was the first actual example I'd seen up close. It was so wonderfully intact, with coachbuilder's plates on each door sill for Steenbhom, and two *Davies & Fehon* agent's plates on the cowling. Two years later, when my family had moved to nearby Sutton Forest, I discovered that the car actually belonged to a family friend who had been assembling a collection of cars and horse drawn carriages for a small museum he was planning, with an antique shop attached. I was able to buy the

car for \$7,000, and pay for it by working weekends and after school in the shop, for six years.

It was the most exciting experience learning about it by reading the excellent Ford manual and practising on the car, which was in extraordinarily original order. There is a small ding on one headlamp rim which I'm afraid I made on my first drive by hitting a gate post. Those veteran front axles do tend to turn full lock unexpectedly if you're not careful! At 20 I left Australia and moved to London to study at Sotheby's, and then joined them as an auctioneer, remaining for fifteen years. I was sad to do it, but sold my car back to the same family friend, for what I'd paid for it, but when I

was sent back to Australia to open offices here a few years after I left, I was able to buy it from him again. It turns out he'd never been able to drive it and it sat in storage the whole time I was away. The second time around, I had to pay \$15,000, but our friend had sadly had a stroke and had no idea where he had stored the car.





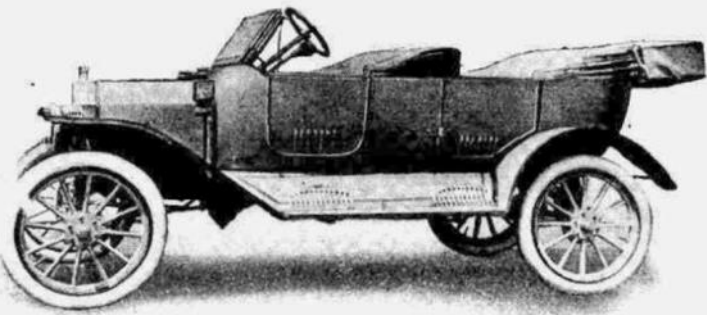
Special Feature



1913 Ford Model T "Deluxe" Touring car by Steenbhom, Sydney continued...

He said if I could find it I could buy it. It took many phone calls for me to track it down, but it turned up with friends of his who had moved to Queensland and still had the car with them, in storage in their garage. It hadn't been started since I left, and I was obliged to pay them \$1,000 for their trouble storing it! When it came home, it still had my teenage tool kit and working clothes neatly stored in the back seat.

For decades, when driving this car, other Model T owners would rather disparage the condition of my car, which is always clean but is faded and not as shiny as a restored one, but particularly would often point out the incorrect rear guards, the windscreen and the colours which they felt were all completely wrong. Knowing the car intimately as I did though, I could see no evidence of these parts being changed or added, and they all appear to have been in place exactly like that since it was new. Only a few years ago, Peter Kable, who has the most amazing wealth of knowledge on early Fords, kindly sent me the wonderful Davies & Fehon advertisement from a Sydney newspaper in



FORD TOURING CAR
 With Australian Body,
£290, Sydney.
 FINISHED IN COLOURS TO SUIT PURCHASERS.
 Full Particulars on Application.
DAVIES & FEHON MOTORS LTD.,
 112-114 HUNTER-STREET, SYDNEY;
 AND AT LISMORE.

1913, showing this exact configuration of body, guards, trim, windscreen and accessories down to the brass scuff guards on the sides, and helpfully even stating "Available in colours to suit purchaser"! While the image in the advert is of course black and white, the wheels are definitely lighter than the body colour – in fact there's a possibility the car in the advert is my actual vehicle, it's so identical.

It is extremely original down to most of the paint, all of the trim, and the engine has never been rebuilt. It is a Canadian chassis of mid 1913, with coachwork by Abraham Steenbhom and his three brothers, Armenian specialist body builders in Sydney who also built bodies for Talbots, Napier and Crossley cars. The Steenbhoms arrived in Australia in the mid 19th century and worked coincidentally around Braidwood during the Gold Rush, building wagon bodies. At the height



of their Sydney business they employed over 600 people. This car was ordered by the Ford agent Davies & Fehon Motors Ltd in Hunter Street, Sydney, not far from the Steenbhom works, and had several unusual features including a streamlined cowl, high quality brass and mahogany folding windscreen, brass hood fittings, leather upholstery, and special little vents in the doors in case the passengers were hot! As an Australian car, which had to be ordered specially, and which cost quite a lot more than a standard fully imported American built Ford, one could order this in whatever colour you wanted.



Special Feature



1913 Ford Model T "Deluxe" Touring car by Steenbhom, Sydney continued...

In this case, the black body has contrasting light yellow undercarriage, including under the wings, and red leather. Other Australian coachbuilders offered different designs and some followed more or less the standard factory shapes.

There is another very original Steenbhom tourer in Sydney called "Henrietta", which is finished in black with red undercarriage, but with a different windscreen arrangement, and a further two seat roadster known as "Nellie Grace" which I had the pleasure of selling one year at an auction in Sydney, and no doubt others are known, but it seems the majority have been now been completely restored, and sadly in some cases might have lost their coachbuilders plates leaving them unattributed to a builder. I was lucky to meet the great grandson of Abraham Steenbhom who built my car, and he kindly came to visit and showed me his great grandfather's notebooks in which there were sketches of the upholstery designs and lots of other interesting notes. In 2013, I lent the car to the National Museum of Australia for a year, as a feature of their 1913 Centenary of Canberra exhibition. They were keen on a 1913 car that had not had significant restoration.

For the exhibition, I drove the car to the museum's conservation lab at Mitchell from Braidwood, and was preparing to drive it inside when the conservators came out, all in white gloves, protesting. They gently rolled it inside themselves and spent three months detailing it ready for the 1913 exhibition. It did look magnificent with everything beautifully polished and the surfaces all treated with conservation wax! Now it's back home and in good company with a dozen other veteran and vintage cars, mostly rather larger and faster, but it will always be the family favourite. I just have to work out who will be the next custodian.

— Antony Davies —





Rally Report



Narbethong Rally February 2025

On a beautiful sunny Sunday morning, four Model T Fords gathered at Lilydale Lake for a drive organised by Dean and Ann.

After a toilet stop and some not so quick coffees for The President and First Lady, Dean gave a quick overview of the route and we were off towards Healesville and The Black Spur. A lovely back roads drive through Wandin, Gruyere and surrounds brought us out to Maroondah Hwy.

After a wee bit of confusion at the ungazetted toilet stop at Healesville, Steve and Veronica finally caught up with us on the side of the road. A beautiful and not too busy drive up the Black Spur and we arrived at The Black Spur Inn aka The Narbethong Pub.

By then it was starting to warm up a bit so a refreshing beverage or two and a fabulous lunch (can highly recommend the food and service) was the order of the day. There were some great old photos of the pub before the Black Saturday fires.

One leisurely lunch later we were back on the road towards Marysville and on down the Acheron Way through the Yarra Ranges National Park. What a fantastic drive. It was heaps cooler and very picturesque. According to Dean at the briefing there was a few Km of dirt road on the way. We were pretty sure he said about 2 km, obviously he forgot the zero at the end! However, it was a pretty easy drive down to the Rainforest gallery and walk near Warburton. A treetop viewing area of old growth forest and some great looking elevated walkways into the rainforest.



Unfortunately, it was getting quite hot so we decided to head off towards home.

A great run together with Dean Williams and Ann Cupid in their 1926 Model T with Jenny Stevens as passenger, John and Thelma Huitt in their 1926 Model T, Steve and Veronica Brown in their 1926 Model T and Chris and Fiona Dillon in their 1911 Model T.

A big thank you to Dean and Ann for organising a really enjoyable day.

— Fiona Dillon —





Event Report



Darnum Heritage Display, Feb 7-8



The Darnum Heritage Display is a combined event hosted by both the Trafalgar Truck Restores club and the Baw Baw Old engine & Auto Club. This year the combined clubs hosted the event at their own premises at Darnum instead of the previous venue at Lardner Park. My observations were that the move was extremely successful as a result of many members putting in a full year of preparation into the site. The fenced off Steam enclosure and Stationary Engine enclosures and the interconnecting display roads made for a spectacular new and improved venue.



I drove my T with the camper trailer attached, along the back roads for Traralgon to Darnum. On arrival Saturday afternoon the event was in full swing with a spectacular array of cars, machinery and trucks to view and a very large crowd enjoying the show. The car show area was very enjoyable with some beautiful cars on display which included the Mini Minor Club and a good selection of rare and unique cars.

I enjoyed the onsite dinner hosted by the club which catered for around 160 members and finished up with a very successful fundraising auction. I headed off to the camper for sleep! Last time I slept in the camper, it was still hitched to the T. This time the parking arrangements meant I had to unhitch. I climbed in ready for a sleep and the first time I rolled over, the draw bar launched skyward and deposited me into the camper wall. Fortunately no one was around to see me extract myself and grab the tool box out of the back of the T to tie the camper down! Next modification to the camper trailer will be some support legs in the corners!



Sunday started with a visit to the *Lions club BBQ* for a Bacon and Egg roll and a coffee, then a detailed inspection of all the display trucks. Once again the club car display area was full, and a number of Ts were present including two of Cameron Smythe's Ts, Donn Cheesman's T, and my own. Cameron Smythe and Alan Weatherhead also displayed historic engines. John and Thelma Huitt came up to check out the event and we enjoyed afternoon tea together in the club shed. I recommend the club add this event to the calendar again for next year and make a big effort to participate and particularly display some of our Commercial vehicles and TTs which would really add to the event.

— *Warwick Landy* —





AOMC Report



Notes of the AOMC February Delegates Meeting

Monday February 9th, 2026 at 7.30pm—Venue: Austin Healey/Jaguar Clubrooms

There were 81 attendees representing 63 clubs and 2 visitors

Chair: Keith Mortimer, President AOMC, welcomed delegates and guests and noted that 2026 is the 50th anniversary of the AOMC.

Guest Speaker: Tina Doran & Chris Carr from Bendigo Bank. They are focused on being a community bank, giving funds back to the community. 80% of their profits go back to community organisations. Tina the talked about the situation for clubs with regards to the impending phase out of cheques. In 2025 some banks stopped issuing cheque books. In 2028 the Government will cease issuing cheques, and by 2029 cheques will no longer be accepted. She went through the various options for clubs with internet banking, including setting up a club debit or credit card for ease of payments. Full details in meeting minutes on AOMC website.



Business Arising from last meeting: Keith reported on the RACV Total Care issue that was raised at the November meeting, noting that AOMC are meeting with RACV shortly and Total Care will be on the agenda.

Correspondence: AOMC Secretary Tony Hall reported that after consultation with VicRoads, any club issue that needs escalation can be done through the AOMC, and the issue will be triaged to the relevant supervisor with priority. Any issues should be directed to Tony. Keith Mortimer added that this was not for general enquiries, but for following up on outstanding issues.

President's Report: Keith Mortimer reported that the committee are having a planning day in March to organise strategies for the coming year. He will report back on this at the May delegates meeting.

Treasurers Report: The Treasurer, Mark Fenton, reported that as of 31st January 2026 the AOMC has \$344,224 cash at bank. This figure is elevated temporarily due to the events in progress that are yet to finalise their expenses. Clubs are reminded that funds are still available for sponsorship from the RACV which the AOMC facilitates via its Small Club Fund initiative. Information and applications are available on the AOMC website. There are no issues of concern, we are meeting all financial commitments, and we remain in a strong financial position to fund ongoing activities including the AOMC.

MembershipPLUS Insurance scheme and other programs identified in our strategic plans. **MembershipPLUS Insurance Report:** Mark Fenton reported that member clubs can sign up for reduced insurance costs through the AOMC MembershipPLUS scheme. 78 clubs have already signed up. The cost savings do come with some obligations, such as drafting a Risk Management Plan. All clubs need to make progress towards getting their documentation in place. Most clubs have used the simplified template available on the AOMC website. Some have used it as is, some have customised the template for their own circumstance. Some clubs have also applied for large events to be covered.

There was a query from the floor regarding the need to provide professional first aid for events as per Risk Management for insurance. Mark Fenton responded by saying that clubs can use first aid qualified people in their club, depending on requirements of the venue. He will look at the wording on the documentation to clear up.

VicRoads / CPS Report: Keith Mortimer reported that a revised CPS Handbook has been drafted and is now under review with VicRoads. Hopefully it will be available soon, but the problem is that everything now needs 2 layers of approval, first with VicRoads and then with Dept of Transport.

Minute Secretary: The AOMC minute taker, Daryl McMahon, will be taking 6 months leave to travel overseas. A temporary replacement is required for committee meetings and the delegates meetings. Clubs are urged to canvas their membership to see if anyone is interested in assisting in this role.

AOMC Events 2026:

Florence Thomson Tour – Friday May1st to Sunday 3rd Maureen Ross reported that 111 cars and 229 people are booked in to participate. The organising committee have some interesting things lined up. The harness racing rooms will be the venue for the Friday night dinner. On the Saturday we will be touring and finishing at the MOVE for lunch.

AOMC Aussie Classic Car Show: - Manhattan Hotel Sun April 19. Tony Hall reported that this will be a cars & coffee style event. It will be gold coin entry with proceeds going to charity. The event will be supported by Penrite with giveaways of Penrite products on the day. The event is open to everything manufactured or assembled in Australia.

Engine Number Records: Keith Mortimer reported that someone has been appointed to take on the role of Engine Number Records manager.

Note: full minutes of the meeting are available on the AOMC website.



Old Victorian Garages



Prestney's Ford, Sale, Gippsland Victoria.



Prestney's operated in the Gippsland town of Sale from 1922 to 2009. Clifford and Rosey Prestney emigrated from the UK, first setting up a car dealership in Albury. As it was too hot they decided to move to Melbourne, setting up a partnership in A'Beckett St near the CBD of Melbourne for a few years. They then moved to Sale and purchased the Sale Motor Garage from *C May and Co*.

Clifford Prestney was an engineer with the Daimler motor co and used his skills servicing many makes of cars. In 1922, he got the Ford dealership. The depression and following war years were tough, but as the workshop had its own forge, Blackstone oil engine powered generation set and machine shop, the hard work of Clifford, his sons Ron, Keith and Eric making many of the required parts kept the business afloat. The RAAF took over the workshop in the war years and a major part of their work was keeping the RAAF equipment moving. A well known fact was, a war prize German ME109 aircraft was kept at the workshop yard, where people, for a price, could look it over, the money raised going to the war effort.

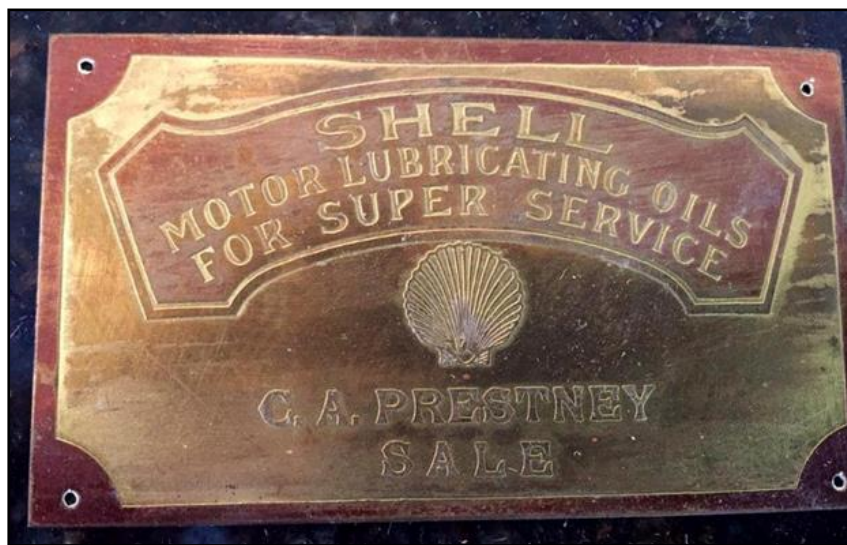
The business prospered in the 50s. Unfortunately a fire in 1958 destroyed the old workshop and showroom, believed to be caused by a cigarette butt in a bin in the spare parts department. Land was purchased and the new showroom/workshop was built (the current site). The boom years of the oil and gas industry from the 60s to recent times was another factor in this business. When *Esso* first arrived, they put a tender out to purchase fleet cars and a meeting was set up. *Prestney Ford* got the contract to supply over 100 Ford cars to *Esso*.

Prestney's Employed generations of Gippsland locals, with many going on to have rewarding careers with *Esso* and the service companies that supported the oil and gas industry in the Sale district.

The business wound up in 2009. Like many dealerships, the Prestney family name of the business was lost and became part of a larger Motor Group which has franchises for many manufactures vehicles. The site of the second Dealership is now vacant and the new *Ford* dealership is located with a number of other dealers on the Western exit to the city.

— Warwick Landy —

(information supplied from *Gippsland History Facebook page*)





Where is it now?



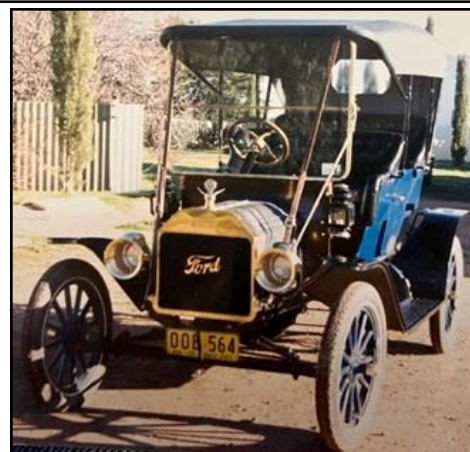
A new section of content this month comes from one of our long standing members, Russell Black. Over the summer Russell and myself shared a few emails about Ts that have been part of his life. One such car was a 1912 Tourer he once owned. I was able to recall seeing this car partly restored and then owned by one of Dad's friends in the Albury Wodonga Car Club, Barry Rogers. It was a running chassis and Barry had just completed building the body himself. I can recall that Bill and Gloria Moore who Russell sold the car to were early members of the Victorian T Club but I cannot recall the car ever participating in an event. Does anyone know where is it now? Please send any responses to the editors in box and I will be sure to print any follow up!

— Ed.

— Both articles by
Russell Black —

1912 Tourer

I believe that the first owner/restorer found the remains in the Albury area. I bought it from him two thirds finished when he just lost interest and time to finish it. I fitted a later veteran motor to it for various reasons and was still in it when I sold it to a Mr Bill Moore of Melbourne. Jan and I drove it in the 1988 Bicentennial World Rally from Melbourne up the East coast then up Brown Mt then into Canberra. We had the pleasure of Bruce Feltman and his wife joining us and we had a very enjoyable run.



Restoration Story



Not a 'Where is it now?', but some history on the McPherson's red 1916 Speedster!...

Found the remains on a farm just north of Corowa about 1979. The wire wheels are of an unknown brand and were adapted to suit T hubs. Jan and I have been on many adventures including up to Mt Buffalo and Mt Hotham. Also used on many other occasions until it was sold to Linda and Don Mc Pherson in about 1998/9 where they have lovingly looked after it and rallied it extensively.



Federation Report



Saturday 14th February 2026, Geelong

Delegates were welcomed by President Neil Athorn after lunch put on by The Western District Historic Vehicle Club.

First up, since our last meeting, we lost a long time Delegate, Bob Kennedy, some of you may remember him.

A wrap up of 2025 events was given. The Baw Baw Picnic on 26th Oct was very successful. Peter Mac Hospital Fundraiser (Tin Rattle) was well received with \$5356.40 from 18 clubs' efforts. We will again arrange for this to be run once again to raise money for Peter Mac in 2026. Harry Black, a long time member of MTFCV, has had a recent stint in Peter Mac so we know the funds are well appreciated.



2026 EVENTS

- Mortlake Picnic Sunday 29th March The local Shire is once again assisting with funding.
- Wunghnu Picnic Sunday 29th March with a Tractor Pull and Collectables display there on the Sat and Sunday MTFCV will have a display there on the Sunday.
- Scoresby Picnic Sunday 26th April
- Murrabit Picnic Sunday 17th May which corresponds with National Motoring Heritage Day.
- Marong Picnic Sunday 30th August which will celebrate 70 yrs of Ferguson 35s Tractors.
- Baw Baw Picnic in October TBA
- Bendigo Swap Meet Sat/Sun 14/15th October

Other Reports:

- Federation / AOMC joint meetings; they haven't met for a few months, but one matter that has been discussed with Vic Roads and AOMC is that if you make an engine/transmission change in your vehicle with a larger engine you DO NOT need a RWC to change it from H to M plates but you must have a full engineers certificate on the work carried out with inspections from start to finish of the transplant.
- CPS renewals are now being issued in a mauve colour not green.
- Golden Oldies Tour 2026: It will start from the Marong Picnic as usual Sunday 30th August with 2 nights in Bendigo, then 2 nights in Barham then to Swan Hill area for the rest of the week.
- Next Open Tour 2027 John and Michelle Goddard are investigating places within Victoria and it seems that participants are looking more towards a hub tour than moving on every morning.
- Bendigo Swap: There is a need for other Federation Clubs to take on some of the tasks for the 2027 Swap and beyond, including marking out of outdoor sites on the Wednesday morning prior. The Showgrounds are still being worked on, the new building has half the roof on and the arena and new spoon drain finished with a sprinkler system installed. THERE WILL BE A SWAP MEET AT BENDIGO IN 2027. The 2025 Swap Meet was a great success with strong attendance, smooth operations and positive feedback from both vendors and attendees. Electronic payments, Volunteer co-ordination and food vendor diversity working well. Social Media Engagement with Facebook and Instagram saw significant growth as a result. Areas for improvement are Site Holder Communication, traffic and Vehicle Management, signage and maps, as well as showers and toilets.
- Planning for 2026 Swap is well under way with a focus on celebrating 50 years of collaboration with the VVCCC of Bendigo. The Bendigo National Swap Committee is committed to delivering another successful event in 2026. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Federation and Member Clubs to ensure the Swap Meet remains a highlight of the Vintage and Classic Community Calendar.

Future Federation Meetings:

- 16th May Heathcote and District Car Club
- 1st August Wunghnu/Goulburn Valley VVT & FM Club
- 17th October Hamilton & District VV and C Drivers Club

Grants Applications: MotaFrenz Car Club for a defibrillator

Trophy applications: Hamilton Club, for Kings Birthday Rally, MotaFrenz club for 2 day Observation Rally Meeting closed with afternoon tea to follow

— Geof Baulch (Federation Delegate) —



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

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: Complete front axle (Dodge Bros) Honeycombed radiator 1926

Negotiated price PH: Roger Wotherspoon 0409 862962



FOR SALE:

1924 Coupe all in lovely Gloss Black

I'm open to serious offers and a fair and reasonable price. It's stunning and nothing needs doing other than to drive and enjoy it.

Contact:

**Scott Staples
0419710039**

FOR SALE: 1926 Model T Coupe

Currently on Victorian Club Permit. Well sorted and neatly presented. Closed car set up ready to rally.

Set up with nice accessories and ready to drive anywhere.

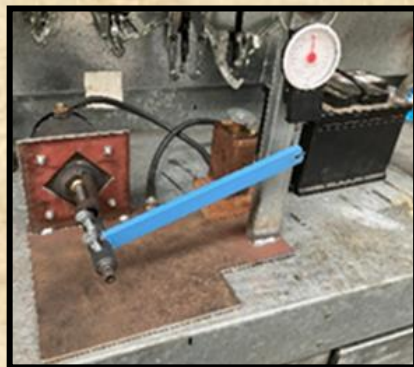
This car features, SCAT counterbalanced crankshaft, disc



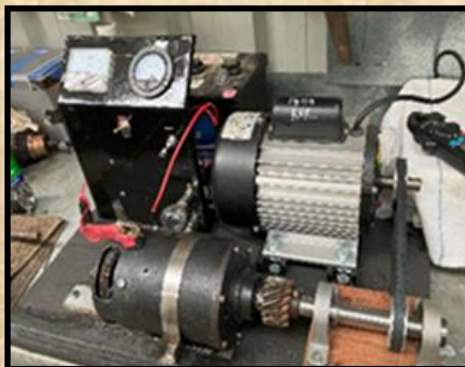
brakes on rear, Ruxstell diff, Hi Flow Dual Exhaust manifold and distributor ignition. Starts ,stops and runs better than most Ts. LHD and finished in original Channel Green Color with Straw wires and whitewall tyres. Price Reduced. Call to discuss.

**Contact: Steve Brown
PH: 0457436077**

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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

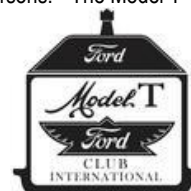
The Model T Ford Club of Victoria (MTFCV) was formed in 1980 and is aimed at encouraging and promoting Model T Fords, to help in the restoration of Model Ts, and to create a register of Model T owners.

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.

Copyright provisions prevail, however the magazine may be used in whole or part provided credit and acknowledgment is made to the source of the material (The Model T Ford Club of Victoria Inc.).

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



New Lego Model T Launched!

If you have finished working on your full sized versions, perhaps a Lego Model might be new project for you. Lego has incorporated lots of new tricks and technology into this new Model T product. [Click here](#) for more.



Romsey Men's Shed TT Truck is now Complete!

The restored 1925 T Model Ford is now ready for public display. The Romsey Men's Shed has an OPEN Day to display the 'T' on Thursday 26 March at 47 Barry Street (Romsey Park). All are welcome at about 11.30. There will be a FREE Sausage sizzle.

Project coordinator, Jeff Smith would love to members of the Model T Club to attend and support the launch and other TTs and Ts will be most welcome.



Potatoes, Wives and Saving a Model T!

Castlemaine member, Orlando Talamo offered a couple of pearls of wisdom at the February meeting. "Always listen to the wife," after Orlando's T was possibly saved from being destroyed by the recent fires in his area. Orlando's wife Desma, suggested he move the car to a safer location away from long grass around the location where his T was being stored. Shortly after being moved, the area around where his car was stored was destroyed by fire. Orlando also shared that in the absence of a windscreen wiper, a sliced potato rubbed on the windscreen will assist with dispersing the rain drops.

Do you have any 'Newsy Bits'?
Send them to ttorquenews@hotmail.com

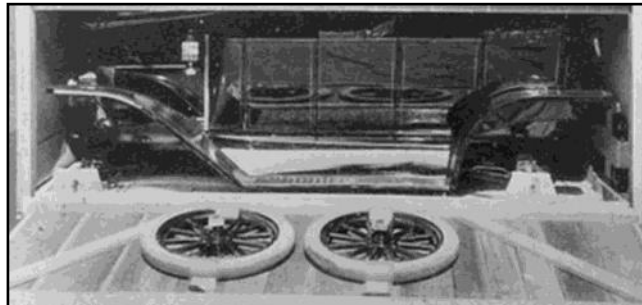
McFeeters Sale Draws Big Names and Big Bids

The recent McFeeters Museum Sale held by Burns & Co Auctions realised some pretty spectacular results for the Vintage and Veteran Car on offer. Apparently Clive Palmer was on site for the auction and purchased many of the cars for his own museum collection in Queensland. Currently his vehicles are not accessible to the public but plans are underway for a Museum of his own. [Here's a link](#) to the auction results.

The Model T That Time Forgot

Rumours have been confirmed of an original knocked down T still in its crate confirmed found in Victoria!

Members, David Weatherhead and Borg Sorenson were able to confirm at the February meeting that an original T, still in its original shipping crate had been found in Victoria and has since been sold back to someone in the USA! One wonders what year it may have been and how it never came to be uncrated? (Image for demonstration only!) Does anyone have more information about this story?



Lights, Camera... McLaughlin's!

Our long time member, Rona McLaughlin's shoe shop was recently featured as a set in a new movie, 'Paso Faho'. [Here's a link](#) to where you can watch the movie and here is a link for [find](#)



Borg Receives the Rare OBN Honour!

At the February meeting, Borg Sorenson was finally able to receive the rare honour of an "OBN" (Over Bloody Ninety) from the club, presented by Robbie Dalton. Congratulations from us all on reaching well beyond the 90 mark!





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

- Dine together or do your own thing

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):

- 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
or 0427 984 797

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Photos: Ian Smith

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