



The Tamworth Spark

Official Newsletter of the Tamworth Vintage Car Club
Affiliated with; Council of Heritage Motor Clubs NSW
Sep Oct 2024

Tamworth Vintage Car Club Inc. Committee for 2024 - 2025

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Peter Wright	0417 250 798	
Vice President		
Paul Boyd	0429 046 468	
Secretary		
Ian Duprez	0407 454 500	
Asst Secretary		
Phyllis Bird	0429 429 542	
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Ken Brooks	0427 293 664	
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Magazine Editor		
Michael Jeanes	0420 216 420	
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Brian Orman	0479 177 072	
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John Hillier	0418 687 136	
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Brian Orman	0479 177 072	
Property Officer		
Ken Brooks	0427 293 664	

Jim McDougal's



**1986 Rolls-Royce
Silver Spirit**

The Club Magazine is printed Bi-monthly and members are invited and encouraged to submit articles to the Magazine Editors.

General Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, at 7.30pm in the Salvation Army Complex on Goonoo Goonoo Road Tamworth.

Club Runs are held on the first Thursday of each month and the Sunday after the monthly general meeting. Members of clubs receiving this magazine are cordially invited to participate in the activities of T.V.C.C.

Address all correspondence to:

The Secretary

Tamworth Vintage Car Club

PO Box 3275

WEST TAMWORTH NSW 2340

or

tamworthvintagecarclub@gmail.com

or

visit our website:

www.tamworthvintagecarclub.com

TVCC RUNS AND MEETINGS FROM OCTOBER 2024 ONWARDS

The assembly point for the start of all our runs is the Paradise Car Park which is between Hungry Jacks and the Paradise Caravan Park in Peel Street.

The departure time for Monthly Runs is 9.30am, and for Pie Runs 11.00am.

A log book entry is not required for club runs (club organised events). Travel from the place of garaging to the start of the run by the most practical route is part of the run, and the same applies for returning home afterwards.

The Log Book must be completed for all other vehicle usage outside of club organised events. If in doubt, fill it out. Each Log Book contains full details on its usage. Page 4.

The Events page on our website is continuously updated, so check it for any updates:
tamworthvintagecarclub.com

Saturday 19th October: Monthly Run to Barraba for the Back to the Bush Auto Festival.

NOTE THIS IS SATURDAY. MEET AT ATTUNGA REST STOP FOR AN 8.00am DEPARTURE.

Graeme Faulkner is the club contact for this event.

Ian Duprez is coordinating the travel. ☎ 0428 179 335

This is usually a great day with plenty to see and do in Barraba with numerous food and drink options at the venue.

Thursday 7th November: Pie Run. Meet at Paradise car park for 11.00am departure to Bendemeer Hotel. Please advise Chesty if travelling directly to the hotel.

Thursday 21st November: Monthly Meeting. Commencing 7.30pm at the Salvation Army complex, 328 Goonoo Goonoo Road.

This will be our last meeting for the year as there are no meetings in December and January. The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 20th February 2025.

Saturday 30th November: Inspection Day. The Club's Inspection Day will be at Max & Gwen Russell's property, "Bonnie View" Manilla Road, Oxley Vale.

The previously allocated time slots that were initiated for COVID-19 will be discontinued, so arrive between 8.00 and 1.00 and if necessary, que for inspection.

A REMINDER TO PLEASE HAVE YOUR 1259 FORM COMPLETED, YOUR REGISTRATION RENEWAL ON HAND, AND YOUR CAR ROADWORTHY.

Tea and coffee will be available as well as tickets for the Club's Christmas raffle.

Inspection cost will be the same as previous years, \$10 for the first car and \$20 for multiple vehicles.

Thursday 5th December: Pie Run. Meet at Paradise car park for 11.00am departure to Werris Creek Pharmacy. Please advise Chesty if travelling directly to the Pharmacy.

Saturday 14th December: Presentation Lunch commencing at 12 noon at Werris Creek Bowling and Tennis Club in Henry Street, Werris Creek. Sign in upstairs at the club, then proceed downstairs for lunch.

Thursday 19th December: Christmas lights get together. More details to be advised.

January 2025. Peter will be absent so the conventional **Presidents Breakfast will not be held** and may be replaced by a different get together. To be further discussed and advised.

Thursday 20th February 2025: Monthly Meeting commencing 7.30pm at the Salvation Army complex, 328 Goonoo Goonoo Road.

Other events (Log Book entry required)

2nd Sunday of each month - Cars and Coffee at Bunnings from 9am

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thanks to your ongoing support I find myself re-elected as your Club President for the next twelve months. Thank you to everyone who accepted a committee role. I was particularly pleased to be able to welcome Tom Sullivan to the Committee. I am very conscious of the need to bring younger members into the administration of clubs and as I explained to Tom, we need the next generation of motoring enthusiasts to carry on the functions such as Historic Registration well into the future. Equally important though is the preservation of skills to keep the vehicles we love on the road for future generations to appreciate.

At our AGM we did not receive any nominations for the roles of Pie Run and Monthly Run coordinators. Chesty has agreed to continue with Pie Runs. That leaves us without anyone for the monthly runs. For this year that leaves us with November and Ian has volunteered to organise a shorter local drive. To kick off 2025 we will have Destination Run for morning tea. This will take the place of the President's Breakfast. Please put your name beside one, or more months to organise a run. Some suggestions for 2025 include longer runs to Dumaresq Dam / Saumarez Homestead Armidale; Walcha Historic Museum / Apsley Falls; gold panning at Nundle. You must have other great ideas so please put your name forward. There is also the CHMC Rally in Dubbo March 28 - 31 and the North West Rally TBA.

Next year we have been invited to put on a display of our vehicles at the Tamworth Show. We need to have ten vehicles whose owners are prepared to display them. We are trying to create a theme "motoring Through the Decades", so we are hopeful of covering cars from the 1920s through to the 1980s. As far as possible the vehicles need to be locked in by our November meeting. This will enable us to prepare a small booklet as a handout. We will also need a roster of members willing to man our display at the show on Friday 28th February and Saturday 1st March. Is someone willing to take charge of coordinating our display?

Recently I was saddened by the death of a long-time member Michael Crawley. Michael held the roles of Pie Run Director and Registrar which he embraced with some enthusiasm. Thanks to the members who brought their cars as a guard of honour at the funeral. Michael's partner Mary and cousins really appreciated it. He will be missed.

The October Club Run is to the *Back to the Bush Auto Festival* at Barraba. Graeme Faulkner is our liaison person with Barraba and Ian the Run Leader. Henk will be bringing the gazebo in the Leyland P76 that now has fill in side panels to provide greater shade. Hopefully we will be well represented again this year. Unfortunately, I have to give this a miss due to a bit of eye surgery but I hope to be fully back on deck for our November runs.

Wishing you all happy and safe motoring,

Peter Wright

TAMWORTH VINTAGE CAR CLUB Inc.
MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETINGS

*The minutes of Ordinary General Meetings will **no longer** be printed in this journal. These minutes are available on the Tamworth Vintage Car Club website;*

www.TamworthVintageCarClub.com

Should you wish to have a printed copy of the minutes and do not have access to the internet, please contact one of your Committee members.

Sponsorship

We are pleased to advise that the postage for distribution of “The Tamworth Spark” is now being sponsored by

“Bearfast / Bearquip”.

We would like to thank the management and staff for their support. We would also like to recommend that you in turn support this local company when next you are considering a home, business, agricultural or car related purchase.

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2024 Registration Day.

The annual inspection day for member's cars will be held at "Bonnie Doon" the property of Max and Gwen Russell on the Manilla Road, Tamworth, on **Saturday 30th November 2024**. We will commence **at 8.30am** and wish to finish by lunch time.

If your Club vehicle is due for registration between the 30/11/24 and the 12/4/25 you are eligible to bring it out and have it inspected by TVCC through Brian and John. Please note that you will need to have your 1259 form, Historic Declaration, filled in and complete before attending.

The cost will be \$15 for 1 car and a maximum of \$20 for owners of multiple cars. Please bring the correct change.

The difference with this year's inspection is that I am not doing a roster as I won't be home enough in November to arrange it. So, turn up when you think it is a good time whilst we are working and get in line.

To soothe your soul, conversations and coffee will be free but the Christmas Raffle tickets will be available for you to purchase. Bring some extra cash.

It will be much appreciated if members holding Perpetual Trophies return them at either the November general Meeting or at this Inspection Day.

Please ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy with all lights, brakes, windscreen wipers and horns operating before you arrive.

See you there.

Greg Campbell

Registrar 4/10/24



Are you able to identify this automotive device?

No pressure!

If you can, there's no prize, just the admiration of your fellow club members



The arrangements for this year's Christmas / Presentation Lunch are as follows:

Date Saturday 14th December

Time 12.00 for 12.30 pm

Venue Werris Creek Sports Club (Bowling and Tennis Club)

Room Engine Room (Ground floor adjacent dining room)

Access via stairs from main foyer or by ramp from either Henry or Dewhurst Streets.

Meal Two Course, Alternate drop meals. Tea & Coffee included

Cost \$35 per person

Payment By Direct Deposit

Tamworth Vintage Car Club

BSB 802 298

A/C 100008533

Description; *Name+Christmas*

Closing Date Saturday 30th November

Please advise of any special dietary requirements.

Looking forward to a great attendance from our members.

Back 40 years later to enjoy thrills and spills of the Mount

Passionate motor racing enthusiast

By PETER FREESTONE

It's taken 40 years, but long time motor racing enthusiast, Michael Crawley of Tamworth, has made it back to Mount Panorama for the first time since he was a student at St Stanislaus College in 1958.

Mr Crawley, who suffered a severe back injury, was restricted physically for years, but a radical operation has enabled him to come back to Bathurst to enjoy the thrills and spills of the famous Bathurst race-track.

He left St Stanislaus College in 1959 after three years there, then worked on an irrigation farm in the Tamworth district.

Despite his back complaint, he had followed motor racing exploits at Mount Panorama and other tracks for years and even ventured to Adelaide for the Australian Formula One Grand Prix when it was held there.

However, he has always had a soft spot for Mount Panorama where his passion for motorsport was kindled.

As a St Stanislaus College schoolboy, Mr Crawley took many photographs with his box Brownie camera, the resulting images giving a glimpse of just how dramatically things have changed at the famous mountain circuit.

So why come back to Bathurst after all these years?

"I'm here to see Dick Johnson's last race. I know Dick Johnson personally and I'm keen to see him do well," Mr Crawley said.

"I'm sure 1999 will be the most spectacular race ever," he added.



Despite suffering a severe back injury, Tamworth man Michael Crawley, has a long time interest in motor racing. This is his first trip back to Mount Panorama since his school days at St Stanislaus College.



This car, snapped at Mount Panorama over Easter 1958 by Michael Crawley, won the 1956 New Zealand Grand prix with Stirling Moss behind the wheel. Moss sold the car to New Zealand driver, Ross Jensen, who drove it at Mount Panorama.

Michael Crawley was a great motor sports enthusiast who, during his tenure at St Stanislaus College (Bathurst), took the opportunity to attend many racing events and, armed with his trusty Brownie Box camera, took an enviable number of photos. This article appeared in Bathurst's Weekend Advocate on Saturday 13th Nov 1999.

Michael passed away peacefully on 18th September 2024, aged 82 years.

Jim McDougal's 1986 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit

The Silver Spirit was introduced by Rolls-Royce in 1980 as the first of a new generation of company models. It formed the basis for the Flying Spur, Silver Dawn, Touring Limousine, Park Ward, and Bentley Mulsanne/Eight series. The Spirit/Spur carried over the basic design of the Silver Shadow, with its 6.75l V8 engine and GM-sourced THM400 3-speed automatic gearbox, and unitary bodywork manufactured at Pressed Steel, which followed the styling of the Pininfarina designed Camargue. The Spur/Spirit continued the Silver Shadow's emphasis on ride quality by utilising its hydropneumatic self-levelling suspension, with Girling automatic hydraulic ride height control system and gas-charged shock absorbers.



The Silver Spirit continued the Silver Shadow's design concept of clean, uncluttered lines. The avoidance of transient styling features has ensured the cars look as handsome now as they did upon their introduction.



The interior is classically British; Connolly leather upholstery, Wilton wool carpet, burr walnut dash and door caps and the expected eyeball vents and organ stop controls for air flow.



The rear of the car is equally luxurious, with generous seating for two, divided by a pull-down armrest. The floors have Wilton carpet, woollen over-rugs and leather piped footrests.

The (redesigned) picnic tables also made a welcome return, after being discontinued in the 70s due to American safety concerns



The heart of the rather full engine bay is the fuel injected 6.75 litre V8 engine. This tremendously robust, all aluminium engine is a Rolls-Royce design initially introduced in 1959 (at 6,23 ltr) and provides "sufficient" power with an emphasis on low-down torque. 1986 was the first year for fuel injection. The yellow/green item in the foreground is the hydraulic reservoir for the Citroenesque braking and ride level control system.



Rolls-Royce's reputation is built on, among other things, quality of materials and attention to detail. This is clearly shown in the generously sized boot where leather trimmed woollen carpet covers every surface.

A Possible Packard Purchase?

As you may be aware, the Internet learns what you like and in your editor's case it's old cars (unsurprisingly). A recent ad on Facebook market place was of particular interest;

One owner from '46 until '97, under cover since, South Australia, country car, no rust, no dings, flat head six.... something different!

a 1946 Packard Clipper for the quite reasonable price of \$9,000. The 1946 Packard was in essence the newly released 1942 model, reintroduced in October 1945, following WWII.

A phone call to the vendor, who had bought the car with the intention of fitting a modern Ford drivetrain, confirmed that the car had not been started for many decades so its condition was unknown. The rest of the car was reported to be in good original condition.

As the car was not too far away (Woodville, near Maitland) it was fairly easy to convince Peter Wright to accompany me on an inspection trip.

Upon arrival the car was found in exactly the same presentation as advertised and after a brief overview by the vendor, Peter and I were left to investigate.



The car is certainly good looking, with undamaged, rust-free bodywork, all external brightwork and salvageable paintwork.



The rear of the car is particularly handsome and again shows the excellent condition of the body and fittings.



The steering wheel and gauges are all present and correct and in very good condition, as was the rest of the dashboard



Although a bit smelly the interior seemed complete with aged leather etc being either retrievable or providing good templates for replacement. The woollen roof lining was intact, which is both rare and very fortunate,



Sadly, the engine, although seemingly complete, was seized – the head had been removed and replaced without headbolts or spark plugs fitted – adding to this was a piston/gudgeon/conrod in the boot – not a good sign

If a replacement motor could be found this car would make an excellent “preservation” project as it is a rare, complete and rust-free example of a once prestigious brand.

If you’re interested in saving this sleeping beauty, the owner, Terry Yates, can be contacted on 0448 618 292.

AUGUST MONTHLY RUN TO BINGARA FOR 5 WAYS MEET

The 5 Ways Meet has been in limbo for quite a few years and it was nice to see a good turn up for its return by the Inverell club. This is an annual get together at a central location to foster and maintain good camaraderie between the clubs that form the nucleus of the North West rally. The meet fell on TVCCs monthly run date and 16 members turned up from our club.

Also participating were Cliff & Phyllis in their Merc, and Ken & Clair and visitors Kevin & Jan. The CWA Park provides a nice open level area at Bingara for runs such as this:



Morning tea was at Barraba and nice to have Gary and Val from TDAMC joining us.



Like this 1926 Chrysler Speedster C50



TVCC vehicles from L: Brad & Mel – Holden, John S – Holden, Graeme – Holden, Ian & Karen – Capri, Brian & Lyn – Corolla, peter & Alan – Humber.



Couple of British quickies – Green 1952 Bristol and white 1963 Mk 2 Jag.



Nice to have newcomers Ben & Emma along in their Volvo.



And if you like lots of polishing how about this 1907 Clement - Talbot



Overall, there was a good variety of vehicles attending with some unusual ones:

Sunday Run 22nd September Nundle & Wallabadah

It was a beautiful Spring day which attracted TVCC members out for this "long run" outing.

We started off from the paradise car park as usual and made our way via the splendid looking Dungowan Valley to Nundle. The club

has visited this lovely town on several occasions and yet it still provides an interesting and welcome destination. Rather than lunch our stop this time was for a self-catered morning tea in the park. Following a cuppa and cake we set off via Lindsays Gap Rd to the First Fleet Memorial Park at Wallabadah. Again, this was a self-catered affair (although a few bought their lunch from the local café, which also provides “the best coffee outside Italy”).

All in all, a great day out for members and their cars alike. The weather was pleasant, the company splendid and the countryside is looking quite English after such good Winter rain.



The usual gathering point, also a good opportunity to catch up with members new and old as well as investigate any new cars that may turn up.



Speaking of “new” cars; Mark and Lois Cooper-White arrived in their very well presented 1956 Vauxhall Velox. This is a local car, initially coming from Hallsville.



The Nundle park picnic area, adjacent to the swimming pool, provided a sunny spot for morning tea. Our members certainly know how to do this sort of thing in comfort.



To quote the text:

The memorial's physical location is not that important as the descendants come from all parts of Australia and from overseas. The Liverpool Palins Shire Council supported the vision of Ray Collins, a descendant, who built this memorial. The rejection of this vision by other locales within NSW is why it is here today.



The shade sails have been cleverly designed to replicate the rigging on the sailing ships of the First Fleet era.

3rd October Pie Run The Currabubula Hotel

This was a rare occasion when numbers were down - probably due to the closeness to the Long Weekend. We took the scenic route via the Duri - Dungowan Road which is in great condition compared to our usual Burgmann's Lane. I attribute this to Ken Hill's influence on the TRC Road Upgrade program, something he denies. Those of us who did come enjoyed each other's company and the usual banter.

Attendees: Greg & Margaret Campbell (Triumph); Peter Wright (Camira); Roly Morgan (Mercedes); John Stacy (Mercedes); Henk & Trudy Haak (HR); Ken Hill (EH); Brian Chesterfield & Heather Frankel (FB); Graeme Faulkner (HR Ute)

It seems there were only two brands represented by our anonymous photographer (sorry Greg & Margaret)



Mercedes Benz, although outnumbered, showcased the variety of models produced by this manufacturer.



The 1960s were well represented by these Holdens, each looking very much at home in the rural environment for which they were designed.

5th September Pie Run The Dungowan Hotel

A beautiful morning meant a large gathering of club cars adorned the Paradise Car Park for the short sprint to Dungowan Hotel for lunch. It was great to see our happy wanderers Cliff & Phyliss and Maurie & Jan back with us, along with Paul behind the wheel of his beloved MG again after major spinal surgery. We all enjoyed the good company and food in the dining room. Leanne Craswell kept her birthday a secret but I have it on reliable authority she did enjoy her birthday lamb cutlets. I drive the Model A Ford, as for some unexplainable reason, that stretch of road seems to really suit it.

Attendees: Ken Hill (EH); Barry Andrews (Mazda); Paul & Maureen Matthews (MG); Henk & Trudy Haak (HR); Ken Brooks & Clair Powell (VW); Peter Wright (Model A); Greg & Margaret Campbell (Vanguard Ute); Maurie & Jan (MG); John Stacy & Leanne Craswell (VH Commodore); Brian Chesterfield & Heather Frankel (Mercedes); Lindsay & Margaret Gentle (Morris); Cliff & Phyliss Bird (Magna)



A rare outing for Bertie Beetle, perhaps (having his own towbar) eyeing off the caravan behind.



The variety of cars in the TVCC is shown in this photo; a Mercedes sedan, a model A Ford, a Vanguard utility and a Mitsubishi sedan



Club members getting down to the serious business of eating – judging by the generous meals some afternoon naps may have followed.



Maurie's maroon MG looks a picture on this sunny Spring day – just ideal for some open-air motoring.

RFS Display Day 14th Sept 2024

The Tamworth Ford Owners' Group (TFOG) hosted this car display day, with proceeds going to the local Rural Fire Service. This event attracted attendees from as far away as Queensland and showcased a number of interesting cars;



A fully equipped VK Commodore Highway Patrol Car.



A rare XY Falcon 4x4 utility



An XK140 Jaguar



Two 1963 Valiants – one AP5 and one USA import



A turbo charged Mazda RX3



A modified "split screen" VW Kombi



*"People's Choice – Car of the Day"
Was this XY Falcon. The standard of bodywork,
paint and trim was exceptional*



*Pretty in Pink; this rare 1960 Mercury looked
every inch the 1960s beauty.*

For Sale

1986 Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit



Fellow TVCC member Jim McDougal is reluctantly offering for sale two cars from his collection; this being one of them.

This low mileage (~60,000km), three owner car not only presents beautifully but is in excellent mechanical condition with an impeccable service and maintenance history. It currently has full NSW registration, although eligible for Historic registration.

The car is a very flattering colour scheme of Champagne exterior with red and cream interior. The fuel injected, 6.75 litre V8 gives effortless power for both urban and country driving. It has air-conditioning, electric windows and seats, power steering and auto transmission to ensure easy and pleasurable travel.

\$65,000

If you are interested, please contact Jim on 0427 465 753 and leave a message to arrange a viewing,

For Sale

1984 Chevrolet Corvette



This 1984 Corvette is not only an immaculate example of this fabled American sports car but has the added advantage of a professionally engineered right hand drive conversion, recognised Australia wide

The car is powered by a fuel injected 350 Chevrolet motor driving the independently sprung rear wheel through 1 four speed auto box. Combined with the four-wheel disc brakes, near new tyres and rack & pinion steering an exhilarating driving experience is assured.

\$45,000

If you are interested, please contact Jim on 0427 465 753 and leave a message to arrange a viewing,