



The Preserve

FEBRUARY 2020

*Newsletter of the Council of Motor Clubs
The Vital Link for Motoring Clubs*

I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains.
But I've gotta tell ya mate, I like it better when it rains.
The countryside is dying and there's just no end in sight, and just to
rub salt in the wounds, the bush has caught alight.
The landscape is on fire from Brisbane to the Gong
And everybody's asking "where the hell did we go wrong?
But we can get through this one if we help each other out,
take care of your neighbour, that's what Aussies are about.
The rain is going to fall again, the good times will return.
But living in Australia means at times it's going to burn.
So if you need a helping hand, just give a mate a call.
We're all here to help you out and catch you when you fall.
The RFS, the SES, the Firey's and Police,
all put their lives upon the line to help to beat this beast.
So hats off to these heroes and thanks for all you do and
we hope when this is over, we can make it up to you!



Your 2020 Committee

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Terry Thompson OAM

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Liaison / AHMF & RSF*

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Vice President & SSC

Karen Symington

General Secretary & SSC

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The start of this year has had plenty of challenges. Straight off we had 18 photos of cars at Summernats in ACT which were displaying HVS number plates but looked to be modified. Investigating them with the Clubs involved was our first priority and we sorted out a number of them quickly that way.

Main thing to come from this was the need for clubs to keep control of the cars they approve. You must inspect them for correct compliance with the HVS Rules. Taking the members' word for it can be a problem, it seems. Even asking for photos can be a trap as old shots get sent and so on. Why people do such risky things when CVS is there for modified vehicles we cannot understand. Is it because the thing could not get a blue slip? Others were listed with Primary Clubs which were not in the ACMC fold, so no option but to send those to RMS (now Transport for NSW).

The most disturbing were a few found to be illegally displaying number plates taken off other vehicles. How risky is that practice? Driving an unregistered vehicle is a \$2,200 fine and several points off your license so not worth it guys. All comes out because to enter the event your car must be registered in some way. But it is in ACT, so no NSW checks are done it seems.

We then get to SMSP to take a look at the latest works happening at the Track which will affect the layout for Shannons Sydney Classic on August 16. Installation of the huge concrete piles to support the new track lighting system does not seem to affect the areas we use, so no issues there.

Re-dimensioning Area A behind the pit garages and the carport support posts has reduced the number of vehicles we can handle in that location. Less hassles with Clubs running out of space because folks cannot park as close together as we would hope. The section behind the carports leading up to Area B will now be turned into a garden, so there goes some more spots. Nice area to relax in, but car spaces gone.

Then we find out that the new Centre of Excellence and the new Western Sydney Super-car Team Headquarters will be built at the back of Area D behind the grandstand. For those of you who know the place, imagine that the old toilet block will be demolished and the two new buildings will go up in that spot plus some more area. That takes out a few rows of parking spots on the tarred ground so Clubs will have to move to other parts of that section. Up the new roadway along the side of the main Brabham Straight will be an obvious place. Many said that was great last year as the views are wonderful. Around the old office building which becomes the new Archive Centre for Australian Motor Heritage Foundation is another area where we can put more cars. Area E at the Amaroo or South Track pit building has a new permanent food outlet with tables and chairs under umbrellas. No effect on the car spaces but a nice boost to facilities.

Recently we have had kerfuffles around people doctoring photos of their HVS registered stock standard cars and putting them on websites or social media of various types. Simple process to cut the ground clearance and make it look lowered with airbags or whatever. We do not understand their thinking but so be it these days. Naturally some folks are sucked in by such things and get all upset about modified cars on HVS. Relatively easily confirmed that it is false, but in the meantime all hell breaks loose. You may think it is funny, but we do not need the work thanks all the same. Keep such things to yourself and do not flash them about. "Fake news" as a certain President says.

Last thing has been assisting friends down in Gerringong when they had to cancel their car show on 15th February due to the heavy rains. A case of using a football field for such things having risk. When it gets sodden there is no way the Council will allow hundreds of cars to drive about on it. And of course the football season is about to begin, so there are no alternative dates available. Getting the cancellation word out to all the entrants was an enormous job.

Terry Thompson OAM
President Council of Motor Clubs
Chairman ACMC NSW Ltd

From the Editor

Happy New Year everyone—hope your Christmas and New Year was enjoyable even though the weather and bushfires were horrendous. Hopefully your area wasn't impacted too harshly but we have to spare a thought for those who have suffered tremendous losses. Just thinking, "how good are all those volunteer firefighters, SES and all the other rescue organisations who put their safety on the line each day".

One of my favourite "jobs" in the CMC is to peruse the Club Magazines that come via the GPO Box or by email—I look forward to seeing what the Clubs are getting up to. One Magazine I really look forward to is "Australian Bus" which is put out by the Sydney Bus and Truck Museum. I've included a story (remember I said that I would pinch stuff from time to time) on the opening of the Sydney Light Rail from that Magazine. It's always a great magazine and well worth ordering one. **Email:** info@sydneybusmuseum.com or **Website:** sydneybusmuseum.com

Also, various Clubs had Christmas Parties, so I've included some of those pics from the Magazines to share.

Really hope you enjoy this issue of The Preserve—don't forget we'd love you to send us something to include in a future Preserve—if you're not sure, just ask me!!

Cheers Kay

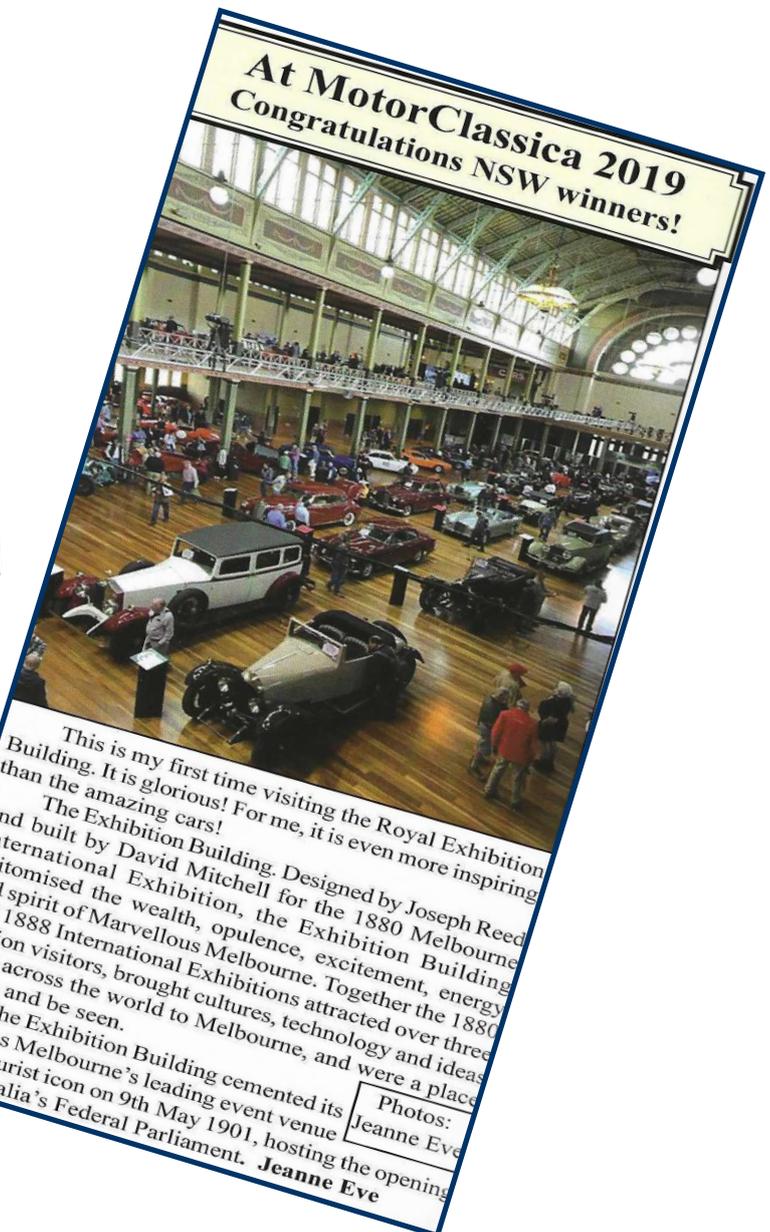
Mob 0410 688 886



Mick Rust, our favourite member from W.A. and a judge at this event, David Marshall-Martin and John Matheson are seen here admiring GX 48, the 1931 Barker bodied Phantom II which won its Class and is owned by NSW member, Chris Meany.

Taken from L&D December 2019/January 2020

Thanks to the Rolls Royce Owners Club



At MotorClassica 2019
Congratulations NSW winners!

This is my first time visiting the Royal Exhibition Building. It is glorious! For me, it is even more inspiring than the amazing cars!

The Exhibition Building. Designed by Joseph Reed and built by David Mitchell for the 1880 Melbourne International Exhibition, the Exhibition Building epitomised the wealth, opulence, excitement, energy and spirit of Marvellous Melbourne. Together the 1880 and 1888 International Exhibitions attracted over three million visitors, brought cultures, technology and ideas from across the world to Melbourne, and were a place to see and be seen.

The Exhibition Building cemented its status as Melbourne's leading event venue and a tourist icon on 9th May 1901, hosting the opening of Australia's Federal Parliament. **Jeanne Eye**

Photos:
Jeanne Eye



Combined Annual Christmas Picnic
 Sunday 3rd November 2019 at
 Camden Showground.

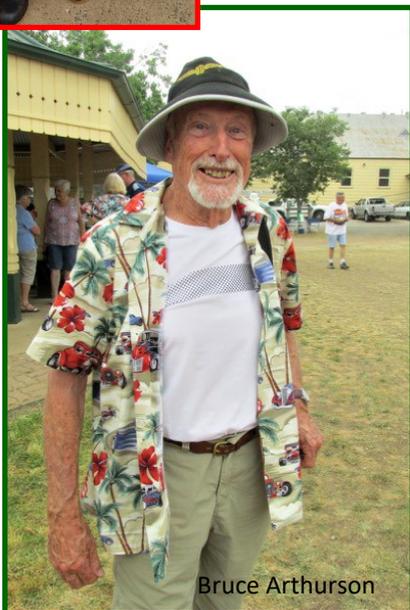


Restoration Of The Year

*Beautifully restored Mal Paton's ex
 John Barrett Holden powered 47*



John Church Kevin Gormly Carl Yenne Ray Schilling



Bruce Arthurson

**Preserving The Future By Promoting The
 Past**

INVITATION TO ALL CMC AFFILIATED CLUBS

I am President of the Friends of **Linnwood**, which is a **NSW State Heritage Listed house at Guildford**, near Parramatta NSW. The house is quite large and currently sits on 5ha of land, which we are trying to retain. The Friends hold 4 Open Days per year to which we invite all sorts of car/motor bike/vehicle clubs to attend as an attraction to our Open Days. The house has a very expansive front lawn which is where all the guest vehicles are parked. There is also plenty of off-street parking for visitors.

The Friends would like to invite clubs to attend one of our Open Days in 2020.

In addition to the house being open on the day, we usually have an exhibition inside, together with a large variety of art & craft stalls. Refreshments are available on the day with a coffee van and a sausage sizzle outside and a tearoom inside which serves Devonshire Teas. Your members are welcome to bring their own picnic lunches if preferred. There is no charge to your Club, but we do ask that for any visitors who would like to enter the house, pay the \$3 entrance fee. These days are our major fundraising events to help with further restoration/conservation of the House.

We may have a variety of car clubs at any of the Open Days, but that depends on availability and we usually have 200–300 visitors attend.

Our Open Days in 2020 will be held on:

Sunday 8th March

Sunday 12th July

Sunday 13th September

Sunday 8th November

Our website is www.linnwood.org.au if you would like to have a look at the House and what we do and there is a link to our Flickr page on the website or you can go directly to our Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/11532742@N03/with/40063587844/> for an idea of what we have had there in the past.

Please feel free to contact me with any enquiries – or even just to say ‘thanks, but no thanks’.

Kind regards,
Dorothy Warwick
Friends of Linnwood
Ph. 9632 9203 or 0412 606 644



Beautiful Linnwood House at Guildford



MIDWEST HISTORIC MOTOR CLUB Inc.

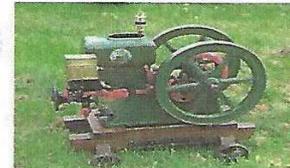
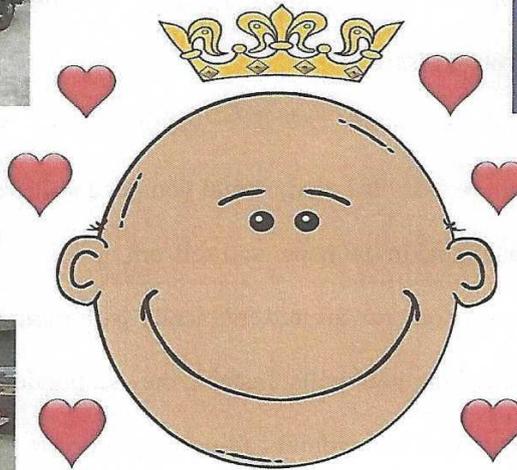
Pride of Ownership

Coffee & Drinks.

BBQ & Food.



now.



12th April 2020

Bryant Park, Cowra. 10am – 4pm

Local Clubs, Visiting Clubs & Enthusiasts

The show is also open to anybody who owns that special car, ute, motor bike, truck, tractor or stationary engines and are not a member of a club*. Bring them out of the shed and put them on show. You could win a prize. The show has 2 categories, judged vehicles or display only. Trophies and prizes for local club, visiting club entries and a special trophy for best Enthusiasts Exhibit as well as a people's choice for best exhibit of the show.

* Club entries and enthusiasts exhibits must be over 30 years old. For safety reasons exhibits must be at the grounds by 9.00am and cannot leave the grounds till 2.30pm.

Display exhibits for judging fee is \$5.00 per entry. Display only vehicles/motors, no charge.

Contact Brian 0414762893

E-Mail: - midwesthistoricmotorclub@gmail.com



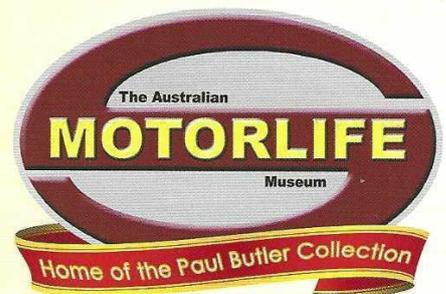
CAVC Christmas Party

7th December

Great Party, down on numbers slightly but still had 25 attending, Great number for such a small club. Morning tea was at 10:00 am at the Railway Station before a short drive to the Golf Club. The short drive did not eventuate as the members were busy sitting on the platform chatting away the time.

LET'S GET OUT INTO THE COUNTRY & SUPPORT THE FARMERS & TOWNSFOLK IN OUR WONDERFUL COUNTRY. THEY ALL NEED OUR ASSISTANCE TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET - PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.

Motorlife News



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the future*



ACMC NSW Ltd.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

At registration renewal time you must follow the process of filling in the left side of an **RMS #1835 Classic Vehicle Declaration form**, have your Club Registrar apply the Primary Club stamp to the lower right hand box then post to the address below, with a copy of the Pink Slip and the \$25 administration fee. The form must be an original as per instructions from RMS. See dot point 1 at the top of the form. The fee is \$30 if you are using post as we are insisting on Express Post return at \$5 extra which is less than the cost of such envelopes, but we are subsidizing it trying to overcome a rash of lost mail. It gives us a trace on the mail and gets swift delivery. Multiple CVS in the one envelope will be just one \$5 fee, not \$5 each one.

You can: **Pay by cheque or Money Order** made out to **ACMC** and post the lot to PO Box 419 Bexley, NSW 2207.

OR

EFT funds to:

Bendigo Bank, Bexley Branch

A/C Name: ACMC NSW Ltd

BSB: 633-108

Acct Number: 157374299

Please ensure your EFT payment is adequately identified by using your Surname.

DON'T FORGET—THE NEXT CMC GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 31st MARCH 2020 AT ARENA CLUB 140 ROOKWOOD RD, YAGOONA

APPLICATIONS FOR SHANNONS SYDNEY CLASSIC WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THIS MEETING

40+ CLUBS HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR TICKETS SO DON'T DELAY.

FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE (councilofmotorclubs.org.au).

IF YOUR CLUB HASN'T RENEWED ITS CMC AFFILIATION, YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL LAPSE ON 31/3/20

DINNER AVAILABLE AT THE CLUB FROM 5.30PM

ACMC NSW Ltd.

FOR CLUB REGISTRARS

HOW TO HANDLE CLASSIC VEHICLE SCHEME (CVS) APPLICATIONS

The Applicant should fill in sections 1 and 2 of the Classic Vehicle Declaration (RMS #1835).

Please do not fill in or sign Section 3 of that form. This is for the ACMC to fill in and sign as we are the Approved Organization and the Authorized Person.

The Primary club (i.e. your club) should simply stamp the lower right-hand box to signify that the applicant is a bona fide member of your Club and his or her vehicle is acceptable to your Club.

Without that stamp we will not process the application. The stamp should be legible for all to read as RMS are very strict on such things.

RMS insist that to start off CVS an AUVIS or Blue Slip must be obtained for the vehicle no matter what rego it is currently on. Not our rule, it comes from RMS. Not all AIS can do these.

If any of your fellow Club Members wish to register their vehicles on the CVS would you please ask them **NOT to send us the original Blue Slip.** A photocopy is sufficient. If they go astray in the mail they would need to go through the whole process and cost of obtaining one again. Note also that they only last for 42 days so it requires prompt use of them.

All we need is the Classic Vehicle Declaration, a copy of the Blue Slip and a cheque, money order, or EFT receipt when they send these documents by post to ACMC PO Box 419 Bexley 2207.

The fee is \$25 for the processing and we now ask for an extra \$5 to cover Express Post return as there has been a spate of lost mail and the Express system gives us a number to trace the item plus a guarantee of next day delivery in most cases. **So the total payable is \$30.** Multiple CVS in the one envelope will only incur a \$5 fee for the post so \$25 a car plus \$5.

Please then follow the payment details on the previous page for either cheque/money order or EFT.

ADVERTISING IN "THE PRESERVE"

Our rates are competitive!!

Full A4 Page : Colour \$250

Half A4 Page : Colour \$150

Quarter A4 Page : Colour \$100

One payment will get you 5 electronic versions per year plus the glossy August Preserve handed out at the August Shannons Sydney Classic.

If you have something you'd like to advertise in The Preserve, just send me an email:

cmc.nsw.finance@gmail.com

Or phone Kay De Luca—0410 688 886

The CMC Needs You Position Vacant Trophy Manager

Ever wanted to contribute to the running of the CMC but don't know where to start, then we have the job you.

Roles & Responsibility

The Trophy Manager is responsible for the design, ordering, collection and delivery to Sydney Motor Sport Park of all the trophies and medallions awarded at the CMC Display day in August each year.

The Trophy Manager reports to the Committee of the CMC and operates under their direction.

As there are significant milestones during the year, you will be provided with a job description and a timeline task list, available as an interactive spreadsheet to assist the Trophy Manager in meeting deadlines.

There will be several road trips to and from the western suburbs during the year to order, collect and deliver trophies and medallions. Centered around North Parramatta – Blacktown - Sydney Motorsport Park.

For further details, speak to any CMC Committee Member or contact Ian Andersen 0455 948 085 for a confidential discussion and some gentle arm twisting.



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PitchBlack owns and operates its own comprehensive PA and lighting systems with in house road crew for consistent reliability. For all enquiries please contact George on: 0412 207 419



PitchBlack entertained the crowd at Shannons Sydney Classic on last year—a very popular group of musicians.

OASIS CLUB—DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

OASIS RUN TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2020 Picnic Day, Bobbin Head & Apple Tree Bay

Parking fees apply (eligible concession card holders can apply to NPWS for a free yearly pass).

GOOGLE: NPWS concession pass application form.

NOTE: *Café at Apple Tree Bay & Bobbin Head Inn are both CLOSED ON TUESDAYS.*

B.Y.O. everything - Food, Thermos, Chairs & Tables Etc.

OASIS RUN TUESDAY 7th APRIL 2020 *By popular demand we will return to Panorama House at Bulli*

Tops Depart: McDonalds Picton 10.30am. Details Bill Robertson H:4681 8767 Mob: 0408 064 153

OASIS RUN TUESDAY 4th MAY 2020 To be confirmed.

OASIS RUN TUESDAY 2nd JUNE 2020 *ARMORY TRAIN TOUR AT NEWINGTON HAS BEEN REBOOKED.*

BOOK & PAY NOW—LIMITED TO 40 PERSONS ONLY. Brian Jubb is organizing this event. Cost same as last year \$16.00 pp. Contact Brian on 9602 9591 or email: peugeot505@optusnet.com.au

Gosford Swap

**SATURDAY
20th JUNE 2020**



Organisers Central Coast Historic Car Club

**At Gosford Showground
Showground Rd, Gosford
Open and Undercover Sites**

(Site size 6m X 6m)

No bookings– Gates open at 6-00am

**NO DOGS!!
NO
CAMPING**

**Hot Food and Drinks
Available**

“All catering rights reserved”

**Site fee: \$15.00
Admission: \$5.00
Children free**



Contacts

Jim: 0413 921 020 Michael: 0415 673 766

australianbus



Randwick–Sydney CBD light rail services begin

Regular passenger services on the Randwick to Circular Quay 'L2' line of Sydney's troubled CBD and South East Light Rail project are now in operation under service provider Transdev. On the opening weekend of 14 and 15 December 2019, all tram journeys were fare-free and Transport for NSW estimated 150,000 passengers sampled the new tram service over those two days.

The official opening ceremony took place at Circular Quay at 8.00 am on Saturday 14 December, with speeches from NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Minister for Transport Andrew Constance, the Secretary of Transport for NSW Rod Staples, and the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney, Clover Moore. Invited guests boarded tram set 46 and 45, which left Circular Quay at about 8.45 am for a trip to Randwick.

Tram trips were operated for invited guests until the first public services began

▲ On 24 September 2019, 12 weeks before the Randwick line opened to the public, State Transit 2301 Volvo B12BLEA/Volgren 'CR228L' articulated on Alison Road passes the light rail depot next to Randwick Racecourse. Tram testing was then in progress on the Randwick line and within two more months test trams were operating to a 'ghost' timetable (normal operation, but without passengers) between Randwick and Circular Quay.

▼ The light rail terminus at Circular Quay, pictured on the morning of Saturday 14 December before the official opening ceremony began.

Both photographs by Greg Travers



after 10.00 am from each end of the route. These ran on average every six to eight minutes, but surprised many passengers by taking longer to complete the full journey than regular bus services. Although more than 200,000 kilometres of tram testing had been carried out on the line between Randwick and Circular Quay, a number of operational and technical issues marred the first day of public operation.

In case of tram delays, a small fleet

◀ At about 10.15 on Saturday 14 December, passengers board tram set 11 and 12 for the first light rail service from Randwick High Street terminus to Circular Quay.

John Birchmeier

News contributors: Anthony Christie, Norbert Genci, Brock Ginman, Ian Hammond, Robert Henderson, John Hoyle, Scott Mitchell, Ben Ogle, Greg Travers, John Ward, David Wilson and Grant Wise.



◀ On the first day of light rail operation, this city-bound 67-metre long tram set has snaked its way across Alison Road at the Darley Road intersection opposite Randwick Racecourse. Waiting for the traffic lights to change is State Transit 4838, a Volvo B12BLE/Custom 'CB60 Evo II' based at Randwick Depot.
 ▼ State Transit buses working the Route 32 special event shuttles from Central to Royal Randwick Racecourse on 14 December 2019 included gas-powered 2008, a Waverley-based Mercedes-Benz O500LE. These shuttles should disappear once the new tram services 'bed down'. Both Greg Travers

of heritage buses supplied by Sydney Bus Museum operated on the Saturday and Sunday between Central Railway and Randwick as a novel alternative for tram passengers. On both days this service ran from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.

The opening day of light rail services coincided with the Villiers Stakes Day held at Royal Randwick Racecourse. Owing to the large numbers of passengers expected on the trams, the Australian Turf Club website 'strongly encouraged' racegoers to 'avoid the queues for light rail services on 14 December and take advantage of the free special event shuttle buses (Route 32) that will run frequently between Central and Royal Randwick instead.'

In March 2020 the CBD and South East Light Rail project will be complete with the opening of the L3 Kingsford line, which branches from the Randwick line at Moore

Park and terminates at Nine Ways, Kingsford. At that stage, it is expected changes will be implemented on the Eastern Suburbs bus network in the light rail catchment areas.

Changes to transport administration in NSW

On 19 November 2019, the NSW Parliament passed the Transport Administration Amendment (RMS Dissolution) Bill, which formalised a government announcement in April 2019 that the functions of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) would be integrated into the existing agency Transport for



Preserved single-deckers operate shuttles for Randwick light rail opening

The Sydney Bus Museum was invited by Transport for NSW to run a vintage bus service from High Street Randwick to Central Railway as an additional event in conjunction with the opening of the Circular Quay–Randwick light rail line over the weekend of 14–15 December 2019. Although trees prevented the use of double-deckers, the occasion was a rare opportunity to showcase the Museum's wonderful collection of single-deck buses.

◀ Seen at the terminus on Avoca Street at High Street, Randwick, are four former NSW government buses engaged on the shuttles between Randwick and Central. At the front is Leyland Leopard prototype 3520, followed by the superb Mark 4 Mercedes-Benz 2817 (in original colours, belonging to David Bugby). Behind 2817 is Mark 2 Leopard 1765 and, in the distance, Mark 2 Mercedes 2007 still in unaltered 1990s condition. All buses were making rare public appearances. The Randwick light rail terminus is to the right of the photographer. David Wilson

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Council of Motor Clubs Inc.

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN US FOR

CMC TOUR 2020 - ALBURY

Sunday 22nd March – Friday 27th March 2020

Followed by

AHMF Festival Saturday 28th March to Friday 3rd April 2020

Travelling down the Princes Highway to Merimbula and across the Snowy Mountains to arrive in Albury

- ♦ **Sunday 22nd March** – Cruise to Batemans Bay - 2 nights visiting Mogo Zoo and the quaint village of Mogo
- ♦ **Tuesday 24th March** - Travel the coast to Merimbula Pambula area – 1 Night
Afternoon tea with the Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club
- ♦ **Wednesday 25th March** – Travel from the Coast to the Mountains - Cooma - 1 night
- ♦ **Thursday 26th March** – Travel to the official highest town in Australia
Cabramurra and through to Tumbarumba – 1 night
- ♦ **Friday 27th March** – follow the Murray to the area of Albury

We have travelled most of these roads before and have had Vintage and Classic cars in our convoys, all have conquered the hills!

Please express your interest by returning the completed information below ASAP – for planning purposes to

Lynelle Titcume – CMC Tour Coordinator Email: tic@ticauto.com.au

Enquiries please ring Mobile: 0422 513 256

Name/s: _____

Address: _____ Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Mobile: _____

Car Club: _____

Updated information will be forwarded after receiving expression of interest



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**THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE
CLUB OF AUSTRALIA**
89 MACQUARIE ST, SYDNEY
PHONE: 02 8273 2300



Throughout the Club's history Members have enjoyed a range of social activities themed around the automobile and whilst the interests have widened; travel, touring and collecting automobiles and their memorabilia have remained key areas.



The next General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 31st March 2020

At Arena Sports Club, 140 Rookwood Road, Yagoona

Committee Meetings	General Meetings & AGM
Wednesday 11 th March	Tuesday 31 st March
Wednesday 13 th May	Tuesday 26 th May
Wednesday 8 th July	Tuesday 28 th July
Wednesday 9 th September	Tuesday 29 th September
Wednesday 11 th November	Tuesday 24 th November

DON'T FORGET—AFTER ALL THE BUSHFIRES AND FLOODING OUR REGIONAL AREAS NEED US TO GO AND VISIT AND ASSIST THESE TOWNS TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET.

SO DON'T JUST DRIVE DOWN THE MOTORWAYS—TAKE THE BACK ROADS AND SAY HELLO TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE DESPERATELY LOOKING TO KEEP THEIR BUSINESSES GOING.

Radios Radio Faceplates Radio Knobs Speakers Amplifiers
Antennas Subwoofers Sound Dampening and Accessories.

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Sat 8-4pm.

"Proudly Supporting the Council of Motor Clubs"

And to finish the Australian Story

And to finish the Australian Story



Lake Conjola—bushfires six weeks ago and now flooding after days of torrential rain. Talk about being put to the test!!

MY COUNTRY

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel-sea,
Her beauty and her terror
The wide brown land for me!

The stark white ring-barked forests,
All tragic to the moon,
The sapphire-misted mountains,
The hot gold hush of noon,
Green tangle of the brushes
Where lithe lianas coil,
And orchids deck the tree-tops,
And ferns the warm dark soil.

Core of my heart, my country!
Her pitiless blue sky,
When, sick at heart, around us
We see the cattle die
But then the grey clouds gather,
And we can bless again
The drumming of an army,
The steady soaking rain.

Core of my heart, my country!
Land of the rainbow gold,
For flood and fire and famine
She pays us back threefold.
Over the thirsty paddocks,
Watch, after many days,
The filmy veil of greenness
That thickens as we gaze ...

An opal-hearted country,
A willful, lavish land
All you who have not loved her,
You will not understand
though Earth holds many splendours,
Wherever I may die,
I know to what brown country
My homing thoughts will fly.

Dorothea Mackeller



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