

Rally Directions

Meetings : 4th Tuesday of Jan to Nov from 7:30 pm
Denistone Sports Club 59 Chatham Road West Ryde

February 2009

Top Gear Live Shows Off The Goods at Olympic Park



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The Official Organ of the Classic Rally Club Inc (Affiliated with CAMS)
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Classic Rally Club Officers and Contacts 2008

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Committee:

- John Henderson	hendo@bigblue.net.au	02 9499 8141 or 0408 118 427
- Garth Taylor	gartht@aapt.net.au	02 4784 3301 or 0418 207 306

Scrutineers

Please remember that these people are volunteers and carry out the scrutineering role as a service to fellow CRC members. If you are using a regional scrutineer please take a scrutineering form appropriate to the event.

Beb Fox	BRONZE	Canberra	W: 02 6295 1115
John Henderson	BRONZE	Killara/Bathurst	M: 0408 118 427
Ivan Hughes	BRONZE	Bexley	W: 02 9587 9399
Tony Kanak	BRONZE	Eastwood (H)	H: 02 9858 2662 or M: 0419 233 494
Gary Maher	BRONZE	North Richmond (H)	H: 02 4571 1229
Tim McGrath	BRONZE	Wollongong/Illawarra	M: 0419 587 887
Rob Panetta	SILVER	Killara (H)/Brookvale(W)	W: 02 9939 2069 or M: 0418 963 091
Wayne Patterson	SILVER	Blaxland	M: 0418 200 949
Jim Richardson	BRONZE	Baulkham Hills (H)	H: 02 9639 0638 or M: 0418 644 284
Matthew Windsor	BRONZE	Kelso/Bathurst	W: 02 6332 1594

Please make phone calls before 9.00 pm

Deadline for next Newsletter -Sunday 8th March.

Please remember that this is earlier than usual and submissions cannot be accepted after this date.



The opinions and advice provided in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Classic Rally Club Inc and its officers. No responsibility will be accepted for the opinions, advice and directions contained in this newsletter. Readers should rely on their own enquiries and make their own decisions.

Ms Pres Says

When terrible tragedies like the bushfires in Victoria and NSW or the floods in Queensland occur, the effects can be far reaching. As a community we have been shocked and saddened by the news over the past few weeks. Many people are directly impacted through loss of loved ones, homes or possessions, whilst many others can be distressed by the news that friends or colleagues have been killed or seriously injured. Even though the great majority of our members are NSW based, the fires in Victoria in particular have hit home as many areas affected bear names that ring very familiar bells to those of us who have participated in events over the border. With names like Dederang, Gundowring, Murrumbidgee, Beechworth, Yackandandah, Mansfield and even Wangaratta mentioned, they are no longer just names in a news report, but real places we have enjoyed driving through and communities we have stopped at and enjoyed. We've filled up at their servos and had a chat with the local on the next bowser and we've stopped for a meal break, put on by the local school or service club. There are no words to express our feelings regarding what has happened in Victoria this month but there are many ways in which we can help. Personally, I started by manning a phone in the Red Cross call centre for twenty four hours straight and I'm sure there are many others in the club who have done their bit, however the greatest need at the moment seems to be financial. To this end, we will have passed around the bucket at our lunch run to Sutton Forest and I will also be putting it to our members at the meeting next week that we make a donation from the club funds. I have a feeling that this suggestion will be passed without opposition. Thanks in advance.

On a brighter note, we're off to a fine start to the year with the lunch run from Heathcote to the Sutton Forest Inn oversubscribed. The final cut-off for the dining room was set at ninety but John Young was forced to start a waiting list and make contingency plans! As you read this, it will all be over, red rover and I'm sure will have been a great success but as I write, it's a gloomy drizzly Friday afternoon and it looks as if we might be packing the woollies for the Southern Highlands as the forecast is much of the same – John rang this morning to report in on numbers and said that he'd just driven a road with the thermometer reading 10° C– the same road he drove a week ago at 40° C!! I know at which temperature my car would rather be running!

Rapidly approaching on the calendar is Jeff West's



Riverina Run, taking place on the weekend on 7/8 March. Westie always puts on an excellent event and with the overnight in Cowra, will be using quite a few fabulous (so I'm told) new roads. For those of you that haven't entered yet, you've got about five minutes to call Westie and tell him your form is in the mail. For any of our new members, this is the event I always recommend as it's guaranteed to be error free and straightforward – that doesn't mean you won't get lost – you just won't be lost for long or for very far!! Please enter pronto.

Unfortunately the Riverina clashes with Rally of Canberra, the second round of the ARC – not that we would normally have entries coinciding but it is an event that several of us have officiated at in the past. I recently attended the wedding of Riverina and Alpine officials, John Leahy & Nikki Toohey on a farm outside Canberra. Prior to the nuptials, it was more like an RoC organising committee meeting with the event director, clerk of course etc etc all gathered round – I was in exalted company!! Congratulations to John & Nikki and even though they won't be at the Riverina, I hope we see



them on the Alpine in October. Below are the happy couple!

Speaking of officiating, the FoSC historic race meeting at Mt Panorama over the Easter weekend is seeking officials. Last year the CRC ran the Dummy Grid and hopefully we'll have enough put up their hands to do so again in 2009. Contact Glen Innes on 0409 293241 or email gin31145@bigpond.net.au if you can help. Some accommodation may be available or you can camp on the mountain!

See you all on the Riverina Run or at the meeting.
Lui

Short Cuts

First of all I'd like thank Tony Kanak as without Tony this would have been an almost empty magazine. Please keep on sending articles or tid-bits of information through for the magazine.

I'd like to remind everyone that the date for the next magazine is very early on in the month. I'll be away in Perth (lucky me) for work (perhaps not so lucky) and will not be here for the deadline date this month. To make sure you all get the magazine in time for the next meeting I need everything in by Sunday 8 March, so please all get writing and emailing me to ensure another great magazine.

Also we are in desperate need of Mystery Member Photos. The supply Gerald built up over his time as editor has slowly dropped down to 2 remaining photos. So please dig through those old photos albums and send me through a photo with a bit of a description.

Thanks to all of this month's contributors. Without all of you this magazine wouldn't exist. I know that I seem to say this every month but I think it's important for everyone to realise without the same people who contribute each month my job would be impossible and you wouldn't be able to look forward to receiving your magazine in your letterbox each month.

I'd like to congratulate Lui on volunteering her time to helping those people in need in the bushfire devastated areas. And also those on the Lunch run this weekend who put their hands into their pockets to donate to the cause. I hope that all those in attendance at the meeting on Tuesday evening will vote with Lui to donate some of the money from the club to help those who are in desperate need of our help.

Our prayers and thoughts are with all of those who have been affected by the bushfires.

Until next time.

Renai

Four United States Presidents got caught up in a tornado... and off they were whirled to the land of OZ. Finally they made it to the Emerald City and went to find the Great Wizard.

'What brings the four of you before the great Wizard of Oz?' Jimmy Carter stepped forward timidly and said: 'I've come for some courage.' 'No Problem!' said the Wizard. 'Who's next?'

Richard Nixon stepped forward, 'Well, I think I need a heart.' 'Done!' says the Wizard.

'Who comes next before the Great and Powerful Oz?' Up stepped George Bush and said,

'I'm told by the American people that I need a brain.' 'No problem!' said the Wizard. 'Consider it done.' Then there was a great silence in the hall. Bill Clinton is just standing there, looking around, but he doesn't say a word.

Irritated, the Wizard finally asks, 'Well, what do you want?' **'IS DOROTHY HERE?'** says Bill.

Mystery Member



Who is this mystery member seen here on their bike in 1947

If you've got any newsy snippets about CRC members or classic rallying please email the Editor

Fiat Nationals 2009.

Report by Eric Young

This year the Fiat Nationals were conducted at Wakefield Park Goulburn there were 3 events over the weekend.

1. Motorkhana Saturday
2. Presentation (concourse) Sat arvo
3. Super sprints Sunday

Jenny & I put the Fiat 128 3P on the trailer with the semi slick tyres on the back of the ute along with other supplies for the weekend and headed for Goulburn on "Friday afternoon, Our son John and his son James meet up with us along the way travelling in his Fiat 125 Special towing his trailer with his tyres and bits and pieces. We met up with all the other Fiat folk from around Australia.

Last year John and I both competed in the 128 3P when the Nationals were held at Bathurst John has also just completed a lot of the improvements to the 125 Special. So naturally he wanted to run his own car. The guys at Fiatorque Granville have nick named Johns car Sparkles in recognition of the sparkling engine bay.

Saturday morning we were off to the Wakefield Park complex for the Motorkhana 3 tests before lunch and 3 tests after lunch, then off to the car wash to clean up the cars for the presentation.

The Goulburn council closed off the street on the southern side of the park in the middle of Goulburn for the presentation, the venue providing the opportunity for locals to see the cars lined up.



Line up including My Fiat 128 3P



Line up including Johns fiat 125 Special



Sunday we lined up on the track for the super sprints.



John & I during one of the early warm up sessions.



John lifts a wheel out of the Fish Hook.

The weather was cooler than expected making it a comfortable weekend for all.

Results

John won 1st Prize in his category in the Presentation and 3rd in class in the Motorkhana and 8th in class in the Super Sprints, I achieved 4th in Class in the Motorkhana and 3rd in Class in the Super sprints, i did not enter the Presentation.

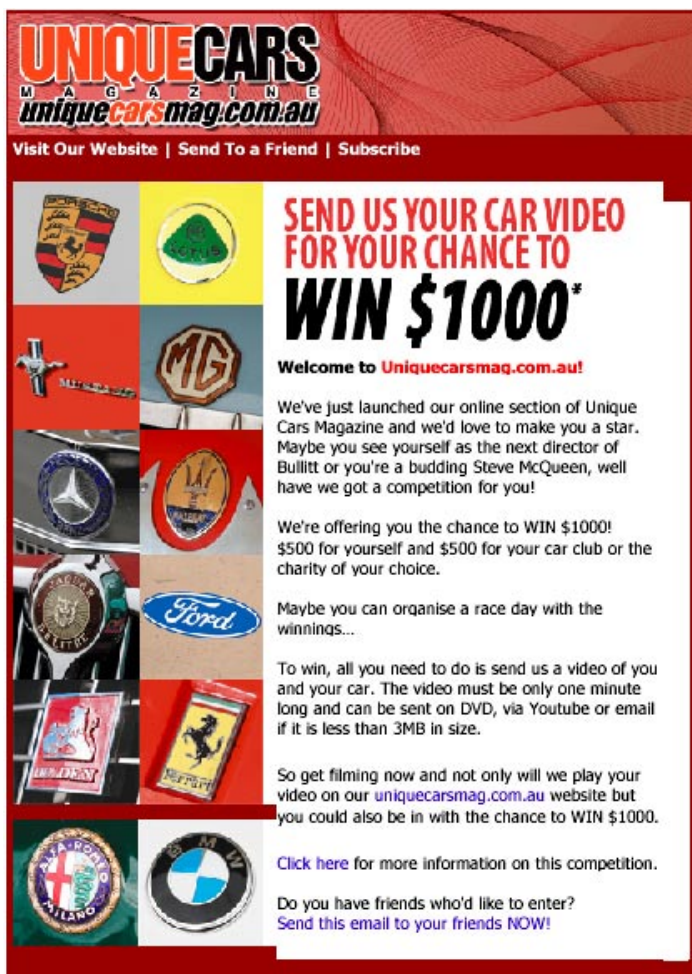
CRC Championship - Future Stars in a Rally Car

By Jeff West

For 2009 we're going to add another category to our championship leagues tables: this one to be called "Future Stars in a Rally Car". It's simple to qualify: competitors just need to be under 30 at 1 January 2009. Whether driver or navigator, tour, apprentice or masters, they will all be competing against each other for the Future Star trophy at the end of the year. They'll get exactly the same points as they get in the normal championship with the same number of rally days counting to the total.

It will help the Championship Points Scorer (Jeff West) if you let him know if you are under 30, otherwise he will just have to guess – and that may embarrass some of you!

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[Click here](#) for more information on this competition.

Do you have friends who'd like to enter?
[Send this email to your friends NOW!](#)

Forest Classic Cancelled

By Jeff Whitten

Most CRC members will already be aware that the 2009 Forest Classic Rally will not run this year. A lot of members have already expressed to me their disappointment, so I thought I should explain the reasons behind the decision.

The paramount reason is that after running the event for 10 straight years (and 10 years before that as a gravel forest event) I felt that I needed a break to recharge my batteries and to find some new roads and therefore keep the event fresh. This decision has not been made lightly but I believe it's better to have a 12 month break than be totally burnt out.

In addition I believe the current world financial crisis would also have had an impact on entries as competitors chose to compete in those events which are closer to home. Thirdly, finding sufficient suitable accommodation in a city the size of Wangaratta requires bookings more than a year in advance, and it appeared that we were going to experience difficulties in 2009.

Lastly, running an event to the standards set by previous CRC events is, for a director, like walking a tightrope, and trying to appease those few competitors who are looking for the proverbial sheep station at all costs, no matter what the outcome, becomes increasingly difficult. Rallying, after all, is a sport. Let's keep it that way.

See you in the Forest Classic Rally in 2010.

EDITORS NOTE: Following the submission of the above Jeff Whitten sent through an email outlining the following. You will all be aware of the horrific bushfires which have impacted large areas of Victoria, it is worth noting that many of the towns that the Forest Classic Rally passes through each year have also been affected to various degrees including towns such as Beechworth, Stanley, Yackandandah, Myrtleford, Coral Bank, Mudgeonga, Dederang and Barwidgee Creek. If the Forest Classic had run this year there would be many familiar roads that would be well and true out of bounds as a result of fire damage. Perhaps the decision to cancel the event might have been a result of a lot of crystal ball gazing at the time. Lets hope that the worst of the fires are over.

Secretary's Stuff - February 2009

By Tony Kanak

The January 2009 meeting at the Denistone Sports club was a beauty. It was great to see so many people turn up to catch up with the latest gossip, enjoy a meal and a drink and generally socialise.

If we were to have prize for the rarest/most interesting vehicle to turn up at a club meeting then we already have a grand finalist for 2009 in the presence of a 1960 Auto Union 1000cc coupe which was in the car park on January 27th. Whilst some of us had a close look at the little beauty when leaving after the meeting, we will make sure that special vehicles turning up at our meetings do get appropriate attention by mentioning the notable arrivals in the car park during the meeting. Remember your HCRS vehicle can be used for travel to and fro the meeting. Vehicles of such rarity and interest would also rate a special feature in this magazine don't you think? If you have vehicle of interest, importance or personal significance, and you would like to share information about it with the club members then put your hand up. Contact me, or one of the other members of the c'tee, and we can make it happen. Thinly disguised for sale adverts may require a bribe...

Also from the January meeting, three cheers for the Bryson family- who have donated a superb perpetual trophy for recognition of sportsmanship within the club. The deserving winners for 2008 were Laurie Mason and Ted Norman.

Now with all of the economic doom and gloom that prevails elsewhere, the good old CRC will again be offering value for money events to members and friends. Even if the government's economic stimulus package doesn't directly benefit you, or your classic motoring interests we are sure you will be able to take up some of the challenges and opportunities that will be offered. So don't even think about mothballing or selling your classic vehicle now- but get ready for another year of getting out and about but hopefully not too lost...

Part of getting ready for the road is the need to have a good battery in your classic vehicle- one that will energetically turn over and fire up your vehicle, even after it (and perhaps you) have been sitting idle for perhaps a few weeks or longer. With the crashing

down in prices and demand for metals on world markets you might be hopeful that there had also been a downward price adjustment for the largely lead filled box called the battery (or accumulator if you are really old, had a classic education in science or engineering or are from the UK originally).

If my recent experience is any guide then the answer on more affordable battery pricing is "Not yet"! With the battery in the Jensen succumbing to old age recently it was time for a new heavy duty article with lots of CCA rating. Touring all of the local suppliers to see what was on offer produced some adequate examples of batteries available, but none under \$200! I'm sure the last one cost \$130 at the most with a 680CCA rating. Hmm, if I am going to have to pay this much I'll research the market a bit more to ensure that I make an informed purchase. At one time, for example, there were super quality batteries at good prices available at the Caterpillar agent in Parramatta, but this was when the flags flying said Gough and Gilmour, not Westrac.

Perhaps some members are full bottle on matters such as this and can pass on some useful information via the magazine or website for the benefit of others?

Another thought that comes to mind around this time of year is the value of fully servicing all of your classic fleet at about the same time. I don't mean a competition with a team of simultaneously working mechanics, but as an aide-de-memoir why not do the oil and filter change at the end or beginning of the year- or the June long week end, or some other easily remembered date. In my garage I try to maintain a blackboard of what was done to what with what, when? Whilst this blackboard system mostly proves adequate as a running record of just done and next maintenance it doesn't yell out if you've gone 16 months between oil changes on an infrequently used motorcycle...

Today, if you are using modern SM or similar rated oils, and not doing too many kilometres in the course of twelve months, then annual oil changes may suit you, your vehicle and your peace of mind re care of this machinery. If not then every six months for

an oil change should be more than sufficient- like the june long week end, and the end or beginning of the year? In my garage I hope this system will ensure that the vehicle that sees frequent track events doesn't get all of the maintenance attention and budget at the expense of the others.

Last but not least- and still on servicing matters- has anybody with a comparable need (such as a vehicle with skinny 15 inch wheels)- got any info on what is available with 165 X 15 inch tyres for a Volvo. Pre FE Holden and Volkswagen beetle owners may be amongst the best equipped to answer this....

Whilst normally I use readily available 205 65 15 radials on the wider rims from the 6 cylinder model, this year I need some new 165 width tyres so snow chains can be fitted, as a group of nutters are going to the snow in classic vehicles. I already have the roof racks so why not...Although I am emphatically not a nutter I have been invited to help make up the numbers, and because the Volvo can't possibly break down. (But can it tow a 1938 Oldsmobile)?

Membership Secretary Report

By Ian Packard

If you haven't sent in your renewal yet, please mail it as soon as possible. All members who have renewed (as at 14th February) will receive their new cards in the next 10 days. If you're unsure if you've renewed, just check your membership card - if it expires at 31st March 2009 you have not renewed for this year! Again if you have any queries please contact me by email or phone.

Welcome to new members:

Bob Tazzyman Castle Hill

Ken & Barbara Glover Avalon Beach

Winton Brocklebank Hughes ACT

Gary & Narelle Beacham Warriewood

John Pattison Epping

CRC to Revisit Temora and Aviation Museum (via many points) in 2009?

By Tony Kanak

Before the event that led to Peter McAlpine's great tribute to pilot Tom Moon, there was some discussion amongst CRCs that we should visit Temora and the aviation museum again.

Now I organised the last Temora or bust expedition, and it was viewed as a success by the small number of attendees. Some of the same people who went last time have suggested we should do it again. If there is interest I'll organise it again, but the best dates are those when the planes take to the air.

The "flying" dates for 2009 are:

June 6-7

July 25-26

September 5-6

October 24-25

and

November 28-29

Check your diary and the club calendar and speak as to your preference at the next meeting.

Alternately wait for an update announcement in a following issue of Rally Directions or on the website. For more information on the aviation museum, their website will answer your questions. "Temora aviation museum" worked for my search engine.

A little boy goes to his father and asks "Daddy, how was I born?" The father answers: "Well son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your Mom and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your Mom and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, where your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months later a little Pop-Up appeared that said:

You got Male!

Vale - Tom Moon (Pilot for Temora Air Museum)

By Peter McAlpine

On the first weekend of August 2006, our Club Secretary, Tony organized a social run to the Temora Air Show. Having enjoyed the display and show, I decided to buy a DVD commemorating the Temora Air Museum's war planes. This put me in the draw to win a flight in a 1942 Wirraway to be piloted by the late Tom Moon. It was my lucky day and before I knew it Tom was getting me suited up in a Top Gun uniform.

Tom made me feel at ease with his cool, calm and direct approach to flying. He did joke about "the pilot" having the only parachute. He flew the aircraft confidently and with great skill, putting us into loops and dives.

Although I only spent little over an hour with him, I could see that he was passionate about planes and flying. He was living his dream and was tragically killed as his plane crashed to the ground at Temora Airport last month.



Five old mischievous Grandmas were sitting on a bench outside a nursing home. About then an old Grandpa walked by and one of the old Grandma's yelled out saying 'Bet'ya we can tell exactly how old you are.' The old man said...'There ain't no way you can guess it you old fools.' One of the old Grandmas said...'Sure we can...Just drop your pants and undershorts and we can tell your exact age.' Embarrassed just a little but anxious to prove they couldn't do it, he dropped his drawers. The Grandmas asked him to first turn around a couple of times and to jump up and down several times. Then they all piped up and said...'You're 91 years old!' Standing with his pants down around his ankles, the old gent asked...'How in the world did you guess?' Slapping their knees and grinning from ear to ear, all the old ladies happily yelled in unison -- 'We were at your birthday party yesterday!'

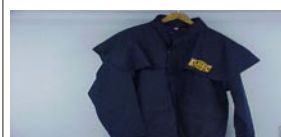
FOR SALE CLUB REGALIA

	CRC Embroidered Cloth patch	\$5.00
	CRC Windscreen Sticker (120 x 65mm)	Free Members
	CRC Windscreen Sticker (323 x 174mm)	Free Members
	CRC Polo Shirts (with pocket and club logo)	\$25.00
	CRC Nylon Jacket (with hood and club logo)	\$37.00
	CRC Sloppy Joes (with club logo)	\$25.00
	CRC Tee Shirt (with club logo)	\$18.00
	CRC Cap	\$10.00
	CRC Black Chambray Shirt (with club logo- Long sleeves)	\$33.00
	CRC Drizabone Jacket (with club logo)	\$75.00

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Fax: (02) 4727-0893



A MINUTE WITH Stephen Pryor

Nickname: Nothing current

Member of CRC since: 2008

Driver or navigator and why?: Driver – that’s what I like doing!!!

Favourite Rally as a competitor: The next one – have only done 2 so too early to say.

Current Rally Car(s): 1973 Datsun 240Z

My First Car: 1973 GB Galant

My Dream Car: 1959 Porsche 356 A Carrera 1600 GT coupe (That was a good year!!!)

Favourite Racing Car Driver: Jim Richards - especially for his success in Targa Tassie

Favourite - Movie Oceans Eleven – I enjoy a good robbery movie!!!

- Actor/Actress Jason Statham – plays a good villain

- Food Seafood – roll on summer!!!

Favourite Place to Visit in NSW: The Hunter Valley

Other Interests/Hobbies: My daughters (17) and (20), Catching-up with friends, Relaxing in front of the TV, Going for bicycle rides,

What would you do with \$100,000: Charter a luxury motor cruiser for a month around

the Greek Islands and take a bunch of friends.

My Pet Hate: Car drivers that veer into the right lane when making a left turn.



media release

12 February 2008

CAMS establishes Bushfire Support Appeal to assist members

The Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) is pledging its support to those affected by the Victorian bushfire tragedy by setting up the CAMS Bushfire Support Appeal.

The appeal will assist the many CAMS members who have been impacted by the devastating fires that have claimed the lives, homes and security of many Victorians.

The appeal has been kick-started with a \$25,000 pledge by the Victorian Rally Panel, whose members and areas used for rallying within Victoria are among the worst affected.

CAMS CEO Graham Fountain encourages everyone involved in motor sport and the broader CAMS family to contribute to the Appeal.

"While this is a tough time for everyone financially, I urge anyone who is in a position to donate to do so in this enormous time of need.

"Everyone at CAMS extends their heartfelt thoughts and sympathy to our members and to all Victorians for what is such a horrific situation.

"Already we are receiving information from our members of the impact this event has had on them and how they now need to turn to rebuilding their lives.

"Our appreciation is also extended to the CFA volunteers and other emergency and relief workers, many of whom are CAMS members, for their tireless efforts during these times of adversity."

Victorian Rally Panel Chairman and Rally Commission member Darryn Snooks said, "This natural disaster of unprecedented proportions has a direct impact on our sport and members.

"It is incumbent on us all to provide support as much as we can, so dig deep and let's show that motor sport, and CAMS, is there to support our people in times of need."

Contributions can be made through the National Australia Bank using the following account details:

Account name: CAMS Bushfire Support Appeal

BSB: 083 166

Account number: 83-304-2862

All contributions will be donated to CAMS members and the communities which have been affected by the fires. Any leftover funds will be donated to the Red Cross towards the general public Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

Sara Lettieri

CAMS Media & Communications Co-ordinator

+61 3 9593 7751

Car Is A Girl's Best Friend (or CRC goes to Gnoo Blas)

By Lui MacLennan

Where classic cars were once the domain of male enthusiasts, the 2009 Gnoo Blas car show, held in mid-February, is set to prove it's a hobby that more and more women are embracing.

One of this year's attendees is Liz Kornhaber from Mount Victoria who has owned her MGTC for 20 years.

Over the years Ms Kornhaber has chalked up a succession of events including two wins in the regularity class at the Bol'dor at Catalina Park.

She has also taken part in events at Amaroo, Oran Park and Wakefield race tracks, was a starter in the Shannon's 2001 Rally to Canberra and a two-time winner at the MG concourse in the road class category.

As an active member of the Historical Sports and Racing Car Association, MG, Aston Martin, Jaguar and Classic Rally car clubs, even Ms Kornhaber admits people are often surprised to learn of her hobby.

"This is all pretty unusual for a female," she says.

Other female car enthusiasts include Helen Dent from Forbes and Virginia Wallace from

Milsons Point who have entered XK8 Jaguars in this year's event while Orange woman Helen Mulholland, who is also a delegate to the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport, has entered a Jaguar and an Austin Healey Sprite.

Stephanie Huysmans from Orange has entered a 350 Chevrolet-engined drag car, while Trish Stammers has several cars and classic bikes, and will be at the show in force. The huge variety of cars at Jack Brabham Park, in the centre of the old road racing circuit, on Saturday will include open-wheel racers and drag cars, big American cruisers like Cadillac, Pontiac and Chevrolet and classic motorcycles.

There will be displays by the 1/19 Battalion of the Royal NSW Regiment and the Fire Brigade, a kite-flying exhibition, billy cart races and model race cars.

Spectators will be kept entertained through the day by a disco and children will be taken on a lap of the track in a classic car.

An enthusiast's dinner on Saturday night will be held at Orange Ex-Services Club with guest V8 team owner Brad Jones.



With kind permission of the Central Western Daily

One Fine Day

By Gary Maher

It's 5.00pm, I've just arrived home from the Lunch Run and 'She Who Must be Obeyed' (No, not Wendy – Kim Warner, acting on her daughter's behalf) has ordered that I write an article. You see, we won the observation run and club policy dictates that winners are writers. This has created a major problem because my kidneys, not to mention my brain, are struggling with the two bottles of rough rally red that Richo and I bought to wash down lunch so you are going to have to bear with me.

Regular readers of these hallowed pages might have noticed that I always like to lead in with a paragraph designed to tie in with the subject and keep you reading – so here goes!

Puccini wrote an opera based on Japanese classic culture called Madam Butterfly. Well there were more Japanese 'future would-be classics' on this run than at the Tokyo Motor Show – and I don't mean those lovely Z Cars either. I was shocked and stunned at the large number of 'purists' who brought out their plastic cars just because it was raining – and Kay, I'm sorry, a Prius will never be a classic unless Bob Brown becomes Minister for Motor Sport. [How are we going Renai, filling the mag. are we??]

Back to Puccini, a song from that opera was 'One Fine Day' – and it wasn't!!

The weather was appalling. The rain varied from Scotch mist to bucketing down and how nobody was killed in the pea soup fog trying to turn into and out of the Bulli Lookout is a miracle.

John & Helen Young put together an enjoyable run of 177 kms from Heathcote, down the Coast road, up Bulli Pass, then via Appin, Picton, Thirlmere, East Mittagong and Exeter to finish at the very accommodating Sutton Forest Hotel. As there was no list of starters or results I'm hard pressed to remember who was there but I'm told there were about eighty people for lunch and despite earlier paragraphs, there were some very nice classic cars in the event crewed by all the usual suspects. We saw those shutter bugs John & Anne along the route so hopefully there'll be a photo page to accompany this. ['Classics' only please Renai].

For our part, we took our Volvo P1800S which ran very nicely but in spite of a new bit in the Halda, thanks to Westie, it died just as we turned out of the start. Fortunately I had zeroed the trip meter in the car park but it was in miles and Wendy had already scribbled through the miles column of the instructions and on closer examination, the speedo was jumping all over the place! This was the first time I had driven the car in the rain with the Halda set up and the wiper arms were hitting the back of the Tee piece. We didn't get it sorted until we were near Picton so our winning figure for the length of the Sea Cliff Bridge was a bit of a 'guesstimate' based on shakey odometer figures but we did guess correctly that this might be the tie-breaker. Luckily, John's route was similar to last year's so we found it easy to follow – but without accurate distances, we were just lucky to find the answers to the questions and this put us in with the 20 plus other clean-sheeters...so it all came down to the tie-breaker. YES!!

The food at the finish was quite good and the atmosphere was great – although TWO roaring fires was a bit over the top. The crowd was swelled by the addition of Pam & Alan Watson who had been out surveying the 'Tour de Course' event for May, Jeff West & Rob Worboys who were checking some of the Riverina Run and Graham O'Connor & Jocelyn Vettoretti who are near neighbours to the pub.

Some of the 'classic' crews were concerned about getting home through the worsening weather with problems that had developed. Darren Taylor had lost the wipers in the Lancia and we saw Dave Johnson's Z Car parked in a lay-by on the M7 but there was no sign of Dave or Penny – there must be a story there!

Thank you to the Youngs and their helpers for a fun event and thanks to all the members who supported the event – not withstanding the conditions.

FOOTNOTE: The CRC displayed its usual heart-felt generosity at the Lunch Run by contributing to a 'bucket' for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. The amount raised was around the \$400.00 mark. THANK YOU.

EDITORS NOTE: Photos of this event are to follow - and of course, the 'Classics' are the first to be included. A very big thanks to Gary for putting this article together so quickly. It's been a very tough month getting articles through for the magazine.

Penrith Pas de Deux



Images by John Southgate

The Longest Day

By Gary Maher & Wendy Maher

Every now and again something comes out of the Vatican that has a huge impact on the followers of that religion. Thus it was, with what came out of the home of a Pope on 7th February. The Pope was Jim and the religion, of course, was 'Classic Rallying'.

Jim Pope admits to being 51 years old and he must have put every one of those years into dreaming up and preparing this year's 'Fluffy Duck' Rally. We have to say, at the outset, that whatever we may write further on, that this event was very well planned, with cunning navigation, interesting & testing sub events, great roads and in spite of a 'donation' (by Gary) to the Nathan Rees prop-up NSW fund, we both had a great day.

The problem was, it was just too long – too full on. There were too many over forty factors.... The temperature, at times reached over 40°, the car was over forty years (well, almost!) and the driver and navigator were also over forty – JUST!!

The event attracted only 15 starters which was a bit disappointing but any more would have been a disaster with the time taken at the sub events and economy run refuelling points.

The run started at a park near Wyong and we knew we were in trouble when we looked into the 'Rally Pack'. Besides the very comprehensive (read 'too much information') but beautifully presented Road Book, there were maps, plastic overlays, a giant Rally Roamer AND four tennis balls with our car number on them – also a disposable camera.

The first ninety odd kms incorporated an Economy Run with navigation and it was easy to cover more kms than you should and thus use more fuel. The route did a loop around Wyong, then up through Yarramalong, Kulnura, over towards Somersby then down Dog Trap Road back to Wyong and on to Wyee to refuel. The second section had a sneaky loop around Wyee that caught many napping (and used up a lot of time) then another loop out of Morisset to pass an air strip VIA point, through Dora Creek and on to the Westlake's Club Khan Cross ground at Awaba where we were supposed to do two khana cross tests. We (and a few others) arrived too late so missed out on these sub events. This had nothing to do with the organisers. In our case, the navigator was unusually sick – probably something to do with the extreme heat and eyes and glasses that she's been struggling with for ages. (Eye tests the day before indicated I needed yet another strengthening of my glasses after only 6 months!)

The next section was a 60 + km transport section that took us to the Ringwood Hill Climb where we had lunch (at about 2.45pm), did two motor khana tests – each twice – and two 'special tests', one on the Hill climb track. This is where the tennis balls were needed. As we drove around the course, the navigator had to lob the balls into bins placed next to garages set up on the hill. Needless to say there were balls all over the countryside. We managed 3 out of the 4 and were robbed by a piece of plastic that had blown over the top of one of the bins.

After all that, Section 3 took us North West towards Stroud on a big loop back to Raymond Terrace (120+ kms) where there was to be a 50 minute meal break then another section of about 120 kms.

There was only one level of navigation, for the 400 km - probably best described as 'Hard Apprentice'. Maps were photocopied Ordinance maps but unfortunately, once these were photocopied into black & white, they lost a lot of clarity – even though they had been slightly enlarged. Its hard to distinguish roads from rivers etc.

We were given clear plastic overlays (as in overhead projector transparencies) with via points marked in alphabetical order and arrows indicating the direction of entry / exit at the intersections. We were also given 'photo points' where we had to take a photo with the disposable camera to prove we had gone through that point. There were no questions but numerous VRCs. We were given an approximate distance where the VRCs would be found eg. 'Between 7 and 10 km'. If you missed one and put the rest out of order, they were all marked incorrect. There were also unmanned passage controls in the form of a 'post box' where we had to 'post' a card with our car number on it.

Another form of route check was a series of photos – as we give in the Mountain Rally. However, we obliterate part of the sign and it has to be completed, but in this event, as we found the points shown in the photograph, we had to write down the 8 digit grid reference for it. This was easy for some obvious points – railway bridges etc but if we were not always aware of where we were on the map it could prove difficult - as was the case in one section after a road closure meant a lengthy detour on an 'unplotted' road. You can see that the navigators were really kept very busy!

By the time we reached the Raymond Terrace night meal break, it was much later than anticipated and 8 of the 15 crews (mostly those who didn't live in

the area) had already decided not to continue. We did some quick mathematics and worked out that the 50 minute meal break, plus the last 120 km section would probably see us not arriving home until the wee hours of the morning. We had plotted the section but decided that, with the heat still unbearable and the car still performing fairly well, we too, should head home. This meant that 9 crews (60% of the field) retired early.

We were the only TCC crew to compete and CRC had one other competitor – Ian Packard in his Peugeot who also decided to retire at the dinner break.

At the time of writing, we have no results. Thanks Jim and your crew of officials. All in all, it was a great concept for an event but just too long for one day. A similar event, organised with an overnight stop and dinner etc would have been a great weekend.

FOOTNOTE: 'CLASSIC EARNS ITS KEEP'

The grey Triumph 2000 Mk 1 that C. of C. Jim Pope was driving at the 'Fluffy Duck' belongs to his Dad, Ron. It is the very same car that Kiwi Terry Clark (Mathew Newton) drives in 'Underbelly 2'. Ron hired it to the film makers for \$400 a day. As a lot of the series was filmed around Richmond, near our place, Gary's spewing that they didn't chose a Volvo!!

One afternoon, a wealthy lawyer was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two men eating grass by the road side. He ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. "Why are you eating grass?" he asked one man. "We don't have any money for food." The poor man replied, "Oh, come along with me then." "But sir, I have a wife and two children!" "Bring them along! And you, come with us too!" he said to the other man. "But sir, I have a wife and six children!" the second man answered. "Bring them as well!" They all climbed into the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as a limo. Once underway, one of the poor fellows says, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you." The lawyer replied, "No problem, the grass at my home is about two feet tall."

Perks of Being Over 50

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 9 pm and ask, " Did I wake you ????? "
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat dinner at 4 pm.
9. You can live without sex but not your glasses.
10. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
11. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
12. You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
13. You sing along with elevator music.
14. Your eyes won't get much worse.
15. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
16. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
17. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
18. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
19. You can't remember who sent you this list
And you notice these are all in Big Print for your convenience.

Top Gear Live at Acer Arena - 7th February at 5pm

By Brian and Michele Madigan



Arrived at Acer Arena on one of the most hottest days this year, with much anticipation at what we were going to see. Would it come up to the standard of the television series we have come to love?? We were not disappointed. Even though it was 40oC outside, it was "sub zero" in the foyer, with the coolest of the cool wall cars rising up to greet us, from the beautiful Aston Martin DBS and DB9 to Audi R8's, Maseratis, Ferraris and even Hyundai's(?) (more on them later).



Armed with our 3D glasses, we ventured into rev head heaven. We were treated to a feast of stunning and very clever car advertising (well, you have to have advertising, don't you?) From a mini F1 coming out of a Ford transit van (Shell) to a police chase involving Audi A8's and V8 Holdens!

Jeremy arrived on the scene in his SLK and Richard in his 911 (well you would, wouldn't you?) Australian Top Gear presenter Steve Pizzati arrived in a Maloo (James couldn't make it – something about being dropped off at Kings Cross and not being seen again!)

They proceeded to have a tiny car race – Jeremy of course had a "power!!!" jet engine, Steve's came out of a suitcase and Hamster's was powered by twin



sanders! You guessed it – Jeremy won (eventually). The losers (Steve and Hamster) were subject to some cruel punishments – Steve was physically abused by a motorcycle and Hamster had "the cage of death" with 2 motorbikes racing around his ears! At one stage, the cage of death had 4 French "kamikaze" motorbikes racing around.

One of the highlights was an Australia v England soccer match using Hyundai's and an oversized



soccer ball. It was an intense match – car parts and balls flying everywhere(!), ending in a 4-2 win for Australia. Aussie, Aussie, Aussie – Oi! Oi! Oi!

From the Top Gear Stunt Driving Team performing incredible stunts in Peugeots (Ian!) to Ferraris, it was a meathead heaven. The stage flamed up with jets and fireworks that singed your eyeballs. The performance ended with a simulated Apache helicopter chase involving the Stig in a Lotus (his only performance – we were disappointed!) Using the 3D glasses, the Apache fired off rockets which looked as though they were heading right at you, making you duck for cover!

As fans of the Top Gear show (both UK and Australia), we were impressed by the translation from television to a live stage show. As it would be unlikely ever to see the UK guys live (if they were in line, the people waiting to see the UK show would circle the earth 4 ¾ times!) it was great to see the chemistry of Clarkson, Hammond and the Stig in action.

P.S. I found out this week that the Australian Stig for the first episodes was Grant Denyer until he had his monster truck accident and I believe that Ross Warner has been filling in. Funny enough, guess who I saw after the show?

CRC Christmas Party 2008




Images by John Southgate

CRC Classifieds - For Sale and Wanted

Got something you want to sell, buy or swap? Email the Webmaster.

To see complete ads with photos go to www.classicrallyclub.com.au

Photo	Details
<p>24 Nov 2008</p>	<p>Refurbished Philtronics Rallytrip OR Halda Twinmaster</p> <p>After last week's Classic Adelaide, I now have a redundant Philtronics Rallytrip, refurbished by Phil@philtronics, for sale.</p> <p>It failed during scrutineering, so I sent it to be refurbished. But as it did not arrive back in Adelaide in time, I purchased a new Monit and that is now installed in the car.</p> <p>As I cannot be bothered taking out the Monit to replace the Rallytrip, I'll sell the Rallytrip to the best offeror. It needs a probe/sensor, available from Philtronics for \$100.</p> <p>Alternatively, I also have a genuine Halda Twinmaster, metal casing, with plenty of gears and a T piece, in my 67 Alfa Duetto. I might sell that instead of the Rallytrip – and install the Rallytrip in the Alfa. But probably not, as it's nice to have a period Halda in the Alfa!</p> <p>The choice is yours. First in best dressed.</p> <p>Kingsley Wallman - 0421 685820</p>
<p>5 Oct 2008</p> 	<p>1966 Mercedes 250S</p> <p>White with beige trim.</p> <p>Good potential rally car or restore. Some rust.</p> <p>Can send detailed pics by email.</p> <p>Best offer.</p> <p>Reasons for sale: no money to restore her, getting married, and have too many cars.</p> <p>Enquiries: Mark Pentecost on 047 400 583 or email markATfantastic-aussie-tours.com.au</p>
<p>13 May 2008</p>	<p>Car Storage</p> <p>I'm moving houses in Sydney shortly and will then have more cars than spaces. I'm sure I won't be the only one in that boat. I'm thinking about buying a small factory unit in Gladesville or nearby, and wonder whether any CRCers have interest in co-investing or renting with or from me. I'm not looking to do anything more than break square on any sharing, so the price will be right! I haven't done the numbers yet, just wanted to see now if there's interest or not.</p> <p>Email or phone Tony South on tony.southATihg.com or (in Singapore) on 0011 65 9018 7054</p>

2009 Events Calendar

Date	Event	Contact
27 Jan	CRC monthly meeting	
15 Feb	Summer Lunch Run	John Young - 0412 246 911
24 Feb	CRC monthly meeting	
7-8 Mar	Riverina Run	Jeff West - 0427 263 757
24 Mar	CRC monthly meeting	
28 Apr	CRC monthly meeting	
24 May	AROCA Tour d'Corse	Tony Wise - 0417 211 848
26 May	CRC monthly meeting	
14 Jun	Highland Fling	Wendy Gibbs
23 Jun	CRC monthly meeting	
28 Jun	Christmas in June - Winter Lunch Run	Brian Madigan - 0400 736 637
18-19 Jul	Mountain Rally Tour	Wendy+Gary Maher - 02 4571 1229
28 Jul	CRC monthly meeting	
8-9 Aug	MG Classic TENTATIVE DATES	
25 Aug	CRC monthly meeting	
22 Sep	CRC monthly meeting	
17-18 Oct	Alpine Classic	Lui MacLennan - 02 9460 6909
27 Oct	CRC monthly meeting	
24 Nov	CRC monthly meeting	
TBA	Club end-of-year/Christmas function	

Unfortunately the **Forest Classic Rally** will **not** be run in 2009. However it will return, bigger and better, in 2010.

The **South Coast Rally** is also not happening this year, but will be on the calendar for 2010, probably in May.

BOLD = Club Championship event

*Information, entry forms and supplementary regulations for events can be downloaded from www.classicrallyclub.com.au
All other events can be found on the 'Other Event's page of the Classic Rally Club website.*

This month's Mystery Member is Joyce Innes.

