



Rally Directions

January/February
2024

Issue #01

Dates to remember

- Next meeting January 23
- Magazine deadline March 19

*The official Organ of the Classic Rally Club Inc.
(Affiliated with Motorsport Australia)*



**The next event is The Final Countdown on February 17,
entries close Monday February 12 (see flyer inside)**

Turn the page to read about;

- John's Jabber
- Unpresented Trophies
- The Final Countdown Flyer
- Welcome to the CRC Rally Year
- 2024 Event Secretary Alan Walker
- 2023 Christmas Lunch—Trophy Presentation
- John Cooper Life Membership
- 2023 President's Award
- CRC Legend Mike Batten Presentation
- 2023 Sportsmanship Award
- 2023 AGM Minutes
- Vale Jeff Whitten
- Conditional Registration Instructions
- CRC Event Calendar

CRC meetings are usually held at the Strathfield Golf Club, 52 Weeroona Rd, Strathfield at 8.00pm sharp.

Classic Rally Club Officers and Contacts 2021

Position: Name	email	Phone (please make calls before 9.00pm)
President: John Cooper	crc.pres@classicrallyclub.com.au	0414 246 157
Secretary: Tony Kanak	crc.sec@classicrallyclub.com.au	0419 233 494
Treasurer: Peter Reed	crc.treas@classicrallyclub.com.au	0418 802 972
Membership: Glenn Evans	crc.mem@classicrallyclub.com.au	0414 453 663
Newsletter Editor: Chris McDonald	crc.editor@classicrallyclub.com.au	0419 255 032
Competition Secretary: Alan Walker	crc.comp@classicrallyclub.com.au	0432 511 709
Championship Pointscorer: Mike Batten		0400 174 579
Historic Vehicle Plates: Ron Cooper	crc.hvp@classicrallyclub.com.au	0403 037 137
Webmaster: Harriet Jordan	crc.wm@classicrallyclub.com.au	
C.A.M.S. Scrutineers	email/location	Phone (please make calls before 9.00pm)
Tim McGrath (Bronze)	tpmcgrath@bigpond.com.au	0419 587 887
John Henderson (Bronze)	Newport / Bathurst	0408 118 427
Tony Kanak (Bronze)	Eastwood	(02) 9858 2662 (H) or 0419 233 494
Gary Maher (Bronze)	North Richmond	(02) 4571 1229
Rob Panetta (Silver)	Killara (H) / Brookvale (W)	(02) 9939 2069 (W) or 0418 963 091
Jim Richardson (Bronze)	Baulkham Hills (H)	(02) 9639 0638 (H) or 0418 644 284
Peter Jakrot (Bronze)	Willoughby	0419 983 247
Glen Innes (Bronze)	Figtree	0409 293 241
R.M.S. Inspectors for Club Plate vehicles	email	Phone (please make calls before 9.00pm)
Tim McGrath	tpmcgrath@bigpond.com.au	0419 587 887
Peter Thomson		(02) 9419 5774



John's January/February Jabber

Hi everyone, yes that's right January / February Jabber. Our Editor in Chief Chris, is taking a well earned break in February 2023. It has been a pretty eventful year for Julia and Chris, a full year of recovery, lots of medical and rehabilitation, moving into their new home just

before Christmas and always getting our Rally Directions Magazine out on time. So enjoy the month off and see you back with a bumper March edition.

We can now put 2023 behind us and move onto a completely new year. If you blink you may just miss something. Going by 2023, the years just seem to be flying past. We finished last year off with the November AGM. Welcome back to all the Committee and Registrars. One change we had was the appointment of Alan Walker, filling the vacant position as the new Competition Secretary. Welcome Alan and all the returning office bearers for another year of giving up your time to help run this Club. Thank you in advance for your commitment. Thanks to Tony Wise for being the Returning Officer at the meeting. Going into my tenth year as President, I was honoured to be bestowed the prestigious appointment of Life Membership, something very special to me after 30 years with the Club right from the beginning.

We finished the year off with the annual CRC Presentation of trophies and Christmas Party. A pretty good roll up, something to give back to the members. A big thank you to my wife Wendy who does most of the organising to put this spread on. It's her tenth year also doing this for me. Thanks to all who helped set up and stay back to clean up and pack up. A great job by our new team for the Christmas Fun Rally, Andrew, Bruce and wives. Excellent work, maybe start planning this year's to get in early. A big congratulations to Mike Batten on his appointment of CRC Rally Legend status, well deserved.

Look for the separate piece in this mag about unclaimed trophies. If your name is on the list, get in touch with me to arrange pick up at a meeting or event that I may be at.

By now you should have renewed your membership for the coming year. Our membership officer has sent out the first batch of renewal cards in the post. If you have a car on Historic Plates with us and haven't renewed, your vehicle is unregistered. I have seen the list and there are a few of you still outstanding. I have been asked if there is a simpler way to do our registration renewals that other clubs may do. Our club sticks by the RMS and CMC guidelines with our paperwork and if you follow the layout procedure that is in every magazine and send off your renewal as soon as you get it and not leave it to the last minute, you will not have an issue.

Congratulations to Robbie Panetta on advancing to be now a Motorsport Australia Gold Level Scrutineer, well done Robbie.

Those on Facebook or YouTube may have seen some promotional videos about Tony Norman's rally, The Final Countdown, Saturday 17th February. Tony's hanging out for your entry so don't keep him waiting. Let's see if we can break last year's entry numbers. Remember there's no need for MA licensing anymore.

Geoff Bott has taken up the cause to promote our Club and events with his videos. Keep an eye out for them and please share them with any other relevant page you may be involved with. The further we share and spread it the more likelihood of getting additional entries and possible new people in our Club.

Check out the Historic Rally Club's March event, Tour of the Snowy. Come and join us on the noncompetitive run through the Snowy Mountains area. I'm looking forward to both Tony's rally and the Snowy trip. Get in early to book your accommodation.

Don't forget to dust off your Hawaiian shirt for this January meeting, pretty informal gathering so come along for a feed, a drink and a catch up to kick off 2024. See you there, cheers for now.

Regards,

John Cooper

President

Classic Rally Club NSW

crc.pres@classicrallyclub.com.au

johncoopclassic@gmail.com

0414 246 157

UNPRESENTED CRC TROPHIES

I have a large collection of CRC trophies that have not been collected or presented to the following people. If you are one of these people on this list or know someone on the list you can collect for please contact me to arrange a collection, either at a CRC meeting, rally, or some other convenient place and time suitable to you and myself. I can't keep lugging them around everywhere in the hope you may be in attendance, CALL ME. 0414246157, johncoopclassic@gmail.com

2023, Analogue Run, Alan Watson. Pam Watson

2023 Barry Ferguson Shield and trophy Andrew Inglis
Dave Johnson Shield and Trophy Martin Leaver
Jon Mansell , Tina Mansell

Dennis Oste + Alpine

Jim Deves

John Learson + Alpine

Dominic Vitano Mike Stephenson

Roger Banham Roger Barlow

Geoff Hemsall Micheal Malgo

Jeremy Loosli Jonathan Loosli

Justin Bedingfield Mark Tolhurst

Paul Koper Greg Newton

Tanaz Hoyle



Classic Rally Club Inc.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN - SATURDAY 17 FEB 2024

A one day Navigation Assembly to be run in the Illawarra area.

- Please note that the Entry closing date is **MONDAY 12th FEBRUARY**. I need to confirm final lunch numbers with the caterers by this date.
- The best news to have come out of Motorsport Australia in late 2023 is their decision, following representations from the CRC, that Speed Licences will **no longer be required** by any crew members in any Category of our regular Navigation Assemblies. Note that this will negate the Social Run Category as used previously by entrants who did not have a Speed Licence.
- If you are a member of any other Motorsport Australia affiliated car club/s it would be appreciated if you could promote this Event with these organisations by contacting the relevant Club Officials.
- We have Motorsport Australia Event approval - Permit No: 224/1702/01. Event documents can be found on the following CRC website link: **classicrallyclub.com.au/index.php/the-club/calendar/countdown 24**
The Event will start at **HUNGRY JACK'S** carpark, Haywards Bay.
- As the first Event of the New Year I hope we can have a good turnout to set the Club up for the rest of year. I look forward to your Entry.
- Please contact me on **0402 759 811** or **02 4293 1574** - or by email at **normansoz@optusnet.com.au** if you need further details.
TONY NORMAN - EVENT DIRECTOR (and eternal optimist.)

Welcome to the 2024 CRC rally year.

I am sure you've all been brushing up on all aspects of navigation and bringing your vehicles up to speck ready for another great year. This is some of what's on offer to you all in 2024.

We have some really good events in the works and the directors are giving their all to bring you some wonderful drives, a great social atmosphere, and of course the right level of challenge for all.

First out of the blocks is 'The Final Countdown' being held on Saturday the 17th of February. For many years Tony Norman has put huge amounts of effort into his rallies and this one will be no exception. A one-dayer, being held on a Saturday to ease into the year, just in case you need a rest on the Sunday! If you haven't got your entry in yet – NOW is the time to do it. The power of the fear of missing out is a big one – and this is one not to miss!

Further on into the year we have an invitational (non championship) event for those that would like to tour the Snowy region. The HRC is running the 'Tour of the Snowy' over the 19th - 23rd of March.

If interested please keep an eye out for details and contact Dave Johnson about that one.

April looks to bring us the opportunity to venture back down to the area around Cootamundra. with Ian Gilholme and Peter Parry putting together a two-dayer, that may well include a little bit more unsealed than other events, but will be full of some great scenic roads to get out and enjoy along the way. You'll have to check and see if the local mullet comp will be back this time round and if so might be best to give that haircut a miss – for those that can still grow it (on their head!) of course.

Martin Leaver is back with partner in crime Andrew Inglis to host this year's AROCA Tour d Course.

A very well respected and always enjoyed challenging one day run with a scrumptious lunch to enjoy along the way.

Mid year might just bring us all a well deserved 'Hidden Gems' social escape too.

Stretching ahead a little and to bring the competition year to a close, will of course be the Alpine Classic on the 26/27th of October. Lauren, Lui and I will again bring the biggest and best challenge to life again, building upon a fantastic event held last year. So certainly get that one in the diary – if you're supposed to go to a wedding – cancel it, have a Birthday – move it, or even better come celebrate with all of your CRC friends! Do not miss this one.

Kicking the holidays off will be the Xmas party, celebrating the winners and best of all spending more time with some great friends.

2024 also heralds the CRC's 30th Anniversary. There will be a special event held to commemorate this achievement. It will be fantastic to get as many original and of course new CRCers out to celebrate where it all started, the wonderful journey the club has been on and of course the incredible places we have our sights set on for the future.

Alan Walker

2024 Events Secretary – Alan Walker

I would like to thank you for allowing me to take on the reins of Events Secretary for 2024. It's certainly a rare occasion that the members have the chance to vote at an AGM, and with two very credible options on the table – the club was in good hands either way. Thanks to Jon Mansell and of course Tina to, for all of the efforts put into the role over the past year. I will certainly be more than happy to work with you throughout 2024 to keep the momentum growing.

I am looking forward to working with the committee and all others that wish to volunteer their time and efforts into making the CRC the great club it deserves to be.

We have a great group of members, an awesome product (our incredible rallies and social events), we just need to work on our promotion efforts and fostering new talent. A great 30 years to build on.

So lets ALL, get out there and enjoy what our club, our members and our events have on offer !

I really like the idea promoted by Ron Cooper ' From the Shed '. Allowing members to share an insight about themselves, projects, collections, experiences and even interesting occupations they may have.

I'd like to see this turn in to a 'series' at club nights, book-ended with an article to explore the social side of members.

Aside from that I would also like to put together short presentations of 'tips and tricks' of rallying and how to learn and enjoy what our club has to offer.

These presentations would be around the 5 – 10min and just bring something else to enjoy at club nights. If this idea peaks your interest, drop me a message about what you'd like to know more about, or if you'd like to share your insights we should be able to put something of interest together.

Thanks again,
I'll catch you at club nights, or even better out on the roads this year.

Here's to 2024 !

Classic Rally Club 2023

Christmas Lunch and Presentation of Trophies









2nd Place Masters Driver — John Cooper
Navigator — Ross Warner
Presenter — Dave Johnson



3rd Place Masters Driver — Rob Panetta
Presenter — Dave Johnson



3rd Place Masters Navigator — Mike Batten
Presenter — Dave Johnson



Gerry Crown Memorial Shield
1st Place Apprentice Driver — Michael Brandt
Presenter — Matt Bryson



Shane Navin Memorial Shield
1st Place Apprentice Navigator — Glenn Evans
Presenter — Matt Bryson



2nd Place Apprentice Navigator — Andrew Taurins
Presenter — Matt Bryson



**2nd Place Apprentice Driver — Bruce Miller
Presenter — Matt Bryson**



**3rd Place Apprentice Navigator — Andrzej Cieslak
Presenter — Matt Bryson**



**Geoff Bott Shield
1st Place Tour Navigator — Glenda Lawrence
Presenter — Geoff Bott**



**Brian Cooper Memorial Shield
1st Place Tour Driver — Warren Herrick
Presenter — Geoff Bott**



**The Sheep Station Award
Driver — Graham Pettit
Navigator — Phil Stead
Presenter — Ross Warner**



**John Cooper — Life Membership Award
Presenter — Ross Warner**



John Cooper awarded CRC Life Membership!



At the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the CRC, the long-serving- and still serving President John Cooper was awarded life membership.

Now John is certainly one of the best known and most visible of CRC members, with membership number 3, dating back to the formation of the club three decades ago!

Always active in the club's activities, John's resume includes:

Serving as Competition (Events) Secretary,
Regalia Officer,
Club Historian/archivist,
and TEN years as President.

As President John has also represented the Club at the inevitable funerals of CRC members wherever possible, and has written tributes to late members.

Always wanting to contribute to the Club's operations, last century John became an accredited official with CAMS, now Motorsport Australia and served as Clerk of Course on 5 X MG Spring classic events and 5 X Alpine Classic Rallies, as well as many others.

John has also been the event liaison officer for, I

think, all of the CMC Display Days, with on- site organisation of the display and attendance to the other details. If not for Covid caused cancellation/ delays he would have done even more of these!

Showing increasing skills as a student of rally history and as a raconteur John has been a key player in the evolution of the Rally Legends concept, and has organised guest speakers at a number of CRC events. John has also been the organiser of the CRC end of year functions and chased up all of the details for this Xmas Party- including the trophies! As one other example, the Mountain Rally retrospective event at Penrith was another occasion benefitting from John's energy and ideas.

Before retirement, John's company provided a start and scrutineering venue for numerous events, and since John's retirement and his recovery from major illness, his commitment as an entrant in even the most challenging endurance events has not waned- even if the Falcon ute was looking forward to a rest.

Well done John, on this well- deserved award. The table for the life members at the CRC 30th celebrations will have an extra seat now.

Tony Kanak

2023 President's Award

The Classic Rally Club was formed in 1994 and with the introduction of the Classic Vehicle Registration Scheme soon after the club commenced we investigated the possibility in 1996 for us to also meet the criteria to be eligible to join in the NSW club plate scheme.

It wasn't until 1999 that Lui MacLennan took up the challenge and got the ball rolling for us to take up and join in with the scheme. One of the requirements was that the club had to have a minimum of five cars to be included in the scheme as this was the smallest number of number plates that could be ordered and made. Expressions of interest resulted in ten wanting to join in or transfer from another Club. The Club needed to order special number plates which were in our club Blue and Yellow colours with a separate Club name badge that went on top of the number, 001 through to 010, and with the wording Vintage Car. The applicant was then required to pay for the plate with a one off fee, meaning you then owned that plate.



So by 2000 Lui became our Club's first "Club Plate Registrar," a job she held until the end of 2024. With

the unfortunate passing of our then President, Brian Cooper saw Lui taking over the President's position and a new Club Plate Registrar was required. In 2022 the NSW RTA introduced the change over from the old plates to the new Historic H plates and club member Tim McGrath was the first to be issued these plates in June that year onto his Mini.

Which now leads us to, that in 2025, Ron Cooper took over the position and has continued on with this role for a consecutive 19 years carrying out all the administration of processing, recording and providing for now over 80 vehicles on the Club Plates system. A system that has had numerous changes, including a complete overhaul with the change over to the Historic Plates registration and then including Classic Plate registration, the 60

day log book where previous to this every vehicle movement needed to be logged in with Ron and recorded. This is a job where keeping abreast of all the changing regulations, compliance, making sure our CRC members comply with all these such rules so as our club will not put the scheme in jeopardy with the authorities with all these regulations imposed.

Ron has had his fair share of occasional issues with some members with renewals which has made his life and task a little trying at times. But he has managed to overcome most and assisted those in need to keep their car on the road. To hold the position for 19 years, probably without much thanks, recognition or consideration at times from the members for the amount of work involved, especially when we don't follow the simple renewal process or asking for favours of Ron or short cuts. This award has probably been overshadowed by the President for nomination, maybe due to the sibling issue, but I now believe this is long overdue.

So, it gives me great pleasure to finally present **Ron Cooper** and award him the **2023**

President's Award in recognition for his continued contribution to the CRC over such a long period and providing the CRC members with a huge saving in cost, keeping our beloved 30 plus year old classic cars legally on the road. Not for just cheap rego but to the benefit of our members being able to afford keeping their classic car or having the opportunity to have additional cars in the shed registered and be able to be used.



PRESENTATION TO CRC RALLY LEGEND

MIKE BATTEN

Back in 2014 when I became President of our Club I felt it necessary to acknowledge some of our members who were contributing to the CRC in various ways and to recognise the outstanding achievements they had all accomplished in their younger days of rallying, so The Classic Rally Club's **RALLY LEGEND** status was introduced.

The first inductees were Dave Johnson, Barry Ferguson, John Bryson and Bob Holden. Gerry Crown was inducted a year or two later. Unfortunately, we have had the passing of two of our Legends, John and Gerry. Two others are now an incredible 91 years old and still involved in the sport.

Now to be a rally legend with the CRC you need to be firstly old, have plenty of runs on the board with a reasonably high standard of performance and contribution to the sport of car Rallying. There are plenty of us who may consider ourselves Rally Legends in our own lunchbox but fall way short of true worthiness of Rally Legend recognition,

It gives me great pleasure to now appoint **Mr Mike Batten** as an honored Classic Rally

Club "RALLY LEGEND "

Mike started to be involved with rallies way back as a young fellow with the University Car Club and over the years has contributed and competed at all levels of car rallying. As basically a privateer, he managed to win the 1978, the 1980

and the 1982 NSW Drivers Rally Championship in a self prepared and funded Datsun 510. He scored numerous podium finishes against some pretty red hot works drivers, cars and teams. Competing in



rallying on both gravel and tarmac from Club level, NSW and Australian Rally Championship, including multiple Targa

Tasmania rallies. Mike was awarded Rally Legend status in the NSW Rally awards in November 2019.

He was the winner of the NSW Clubman Rally Series, the Group 9 Championship, AMSAG Championship and Classic Handicap Category in Targa Tasmania in his very quick Volvo. Mike is a very successful CRC multiple Champion. Masters winner as both a Driver and a Navigator. He is always at the pointy end of the leaderboard in almost all our events no matter what seat in the car he occupies. Mike's contribution to setting up and conducting our rallies, helping and mentoring our newer rally directors, behind the scenes admin with point scoring, sub regs, Motorsport Australia liaising is much appreciated by the members.

He is a true benchmark competitor. He is one for us not only try to beat in competitions but for us to try to emulate his high standards and still maintaining the fun aspects of involvement with the Classic Rally Club



2023 Sportsmanship Award

It gives me great pleasure to award for 2023, **The Bryson Family Sportsmanship Award** jointly to, **Warren Herrick and Glenda Lawrence,**

They have come to my attention over the last few years as worthy recipients, not shy of adversity and willing to overcome their own, sometimes unfortunate, issues and continue on, regroup, enter and support many of our rallies each year. Not just with the CRC but whatever is out there to enter, support and conquer. They give full on commitment, enthusiasm and are always committed, extremely friendly and always willing to lend a hand to others in need.

Major adversity struck last year with the unfortunate and serious rear end accident on day

one of the Perth to Sydney Marathon rally, not their fault, in the middle of virtually no man's land in Western Australia. They needed some serious medical attention and had to be airlifted all the way back to Perth for treatment. Some serious recovery was required, but to their credit, dedication and sportsmanship they made the effort to be at the finish in Sydney, a little worse for wear but wanting to congratulate all of those who completed the marathon across Australia.

If you ever need a hand with anything both are always willing to step up and assist as best they can in true sportsmanship manner.

Congratulations Warren and Glenda.



Record of the 28/11/2023 Annual General Meeting of the Classic Rally Club Inc, at Strathfield Golf Club.

1. The Meeting was opened at 7.57 pm by President J Cooper. The Attendance Book was circulated, confirming that a more than adequate quorum of members (27) were in attendance. All club officers, members and event entrants were thanked for their support during 2023.

2. Adoption of the 2022 AGM minutes: No matters arising, it was moved by J Mansell, 2nd by A Walker to accept the minutes as printed earlier in Rally Directions, carried.

The President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary had provided reports for the year in review prior to the meeting. Predominantly these had appeared in Rally Directions. There being no matters arising, it was moved by T Norman to adopt the reports en bloc. 2nd G Bott, carried.

3. Election of club officers:

Prior to the meeting all nominations received in accordance with the Rules had been noted and checked by the Secretary. The Committee stood down for the conduct of the election by Tony Wise, as returning officer. With the exception of the Event Secretary position, for which there were two nominations, the other positions had only single nominations.

Results of the election process were:

President John Cooper

Secretary Anthony Kanak

Treasurer Peter Reed

Event Secretary Alan Walker

Point Score Mike Batten

Historic Registration Officer Ron Cooper

Membership officer Glenn Evans

The other roles appointed by the Executive Committee also continue unchanged:

Facebook contact Greg Yates

Editor of Rally Directions Chris Mc Donald

Website Development Harriet Jordan

Tony Wise was thanked by the meeting for his assistance with the election process and the C'tee resumed the meeting.

4. Setting of membership fees for 2024:

John Cooper provided a summary of changes to membership fees during the Covid period's disruption to normal CRC activities, and of discussions held by the C'tee in determining the proposed fee structure for 2024- being \$50 for singles and \$65 for families. It was moved by J Cooper to adopt the C'tee's recommendation, 2nd by Glenn Evans, Carried.

It was moved by A Kanak- that the CRC continue its policy to absorb the annual fees for life members, honorary members, and certain other special category members. 2nd by P Morton, the motion was carried.

It was noted that this policy justified restating at this time partly in order to prevent potential ambiguity from Transport NSW current form 1259 wording.

5. Other business in accordance with the Rules:

It was moved by R Warner (a former President of the CRC)- To appoint John Cooper as a life member of the Club. 2nd M Batten, carried. (This was as per a notice of motion previously provided to the Secretary). The meeting congratulated John Cooper after his long successful term as President, and in recognition of his other contributions since the beginning of the Club.

6. Other matters:

A Walker announced some trophy recipients from the recent Alpine Classic event, and John Cooper mentioned that some rapid engraving was required prior to their formal award at the CRC Christmas function on Sunday next. The meeting noted the presence of the Bransgrove family, long time special supporters of the CRC, and of the Alpine Classic event in particular.

T Norman outlined the 17/2/24 event, broadly as per the flyer in the November Rally directions. As at the meeting date, some details are yet to be confirmed. Single event club membership at \$10 per head/event will apply- to encourage new entrants. The \$10 fee can be offset against later proceeding with normal membership, with a limit of one such event on this basis per year.

G Bott is developing a short multi- purpose A/V presentation to promote the CRC events. This will be seen during 2024.

R Cooper offered to develop a list of providers of Transport NSW safety inspections (pink slips) who are ready/willing/able to issue paper inspection reports. Such businesses/individuals are not common any more, and a list of helpful contacts will aid members who need this inspection service.

The meeting was closed at 9.16 pm.

Tony Kanak

Secretary

30/11/22

VALE Jeff Whitten, 1942—2023



It was very sad news to hear of Jeff's passing earlier in December last year. With the permission of his son, Peter I have included Peter's Vale he wrote in RallySport news. Who better to put in words, remembering his father, his mentor and working partner.

Our condolences to Betty, Peter, Caroline and all the family. Jeff was a very active member of the Classic Rally Club from the early Repco Mountain days teaming up with Jeff West and with our club venturing down to Wangaratta. I have many fond memories competing in his Forest Classic Rallies.

John Cooper

The following article appeared in RallySport magazine issue 22nd December 2023 and has been reproduced here with the kind permission of Jeff's son Peter.

Vale: Jeff Whitten, 1942 – 2023

RallySport Magazine founder, Jeff Whitten, is being remembered as a visionary who changed the face of how rallying was reported in Australia.

After passing away on December 6 at the age of 81, the family has received hundreds of messages from friends and acquaintances, heralding his life and accomplishments.

A life dedicated to motorsport

Born in the New South Wales border town of Corowa in 1942, Jeff Whitten became involved in motorsport in the early 1960s, originally attending race meetings in Wangaratta and Tarrawingee organised by the North Eastern Car Club (NECC).

Along with his wife of 58 years, Betty, the club became the backbone of his life. Such was his involvement in the NECC, he was made a life member as early as 1970. Over the next 50-plus years he was a competitor, organiser and promoter of motorsport, specifically,



Jeff Whitten with Colin Bond, Greg Carr and Peter Whitten at the start of the 1977 North Eastern Rally.

rallying. He was an accredited course checker, steward and senior official.

Although he began rallying in a Mini Deluxe, Jeff soon became a Ford man through and through. His rally cars were a long list of some of the Blue Oval's most popular 'small Fords': Anglias, Cortina Mk1s and Mk2s and, of course, Escort Mk1s and Mk2s.

As a guiding light in his beloved NECC, he organised nearly 100 motorsport events, including the Forest Classic Rally, which he ran 18 times.

Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, he was president of the NECC five times, secretary 13 times, and was awarded the 'Club Champion' trophy 11 times. However, in rallying terms, Jeff is best known as the co-founder of Australian Rallysport News in September 1989, a launch that coincided with the first round of the World Rally Championship on home soil.

Along with his son and co-founder, Peter, over 200 issues of the tabloid newspaper were printed between 1989 and 2005, giving rallying a voice in Australia that it had never before been provided with.

The newspaper evolved into the glossy A4 RallySport Magazine in January 2005, before technology forced the publication online at the end of 2006.

Never one to blow his own trumpet or to seek recognition of his achievements, Jeff was acknowledged in 2000 with the presentation of the Australian Sports Medal to commemorate his achievements in the sporting world.

National recognition for services to rallying

In March of 2015, he was inducted into the Victorian Rallying Hall of Fame, followed in May 2015 with inclusion into the Australian Rally Hall of Fame, achievements that he was immensely proud of.

While Parkinson's Disease slowed Jeff down in his final years, he remained passionate about rallying and took a keen interest in everything that was happening, even if he was unable to travel to events or become as involved as he once was.

Working with Peter on a project they both loved dearly gave him great joy, as did the involvement of grandsons, Luke and Matt, who are helping to continue the RallySport Magazine legacy today.

Jeff Whitten will certainly be remembered as the man who gave Australian rallying its voice, but for his many friends in rallying, it will also be his humble, welcoming nature that will stick with them for years to come.

As was said more than once in the aftermath of his sad passing, "he was one of life's gentlemen".

Jeff is survived by his wife Betty, children Carolyn and Peter, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Jeff Whitten with his Mini Deluxe in the early 1970s.



Always a Ford man, Jeff Whitten in a Ford Anglia in a North Eastern Rally.



Jeff's beloved Mk1 Escort is still in the family, and formed part of his funeral procession.



Jeff Whitten and Bill Aggenbach show the spoils of a successful season.



The ARN founder was a prolific event director.



Always the family man, Jeff with grandson Matt.



Celebrating induction into the Australian Rally Hall of Fame with wife Betty.

Conditional Registration of Historic Vehicles

For all enquiries regarding club plates please contact

Ron Cooper CRC Club Plates Registrar
rondcooper1275@gmail.com Mobile 0403 037 137

49 Wongawilli Rd Wongawilli NSW 2530

The scheme is designed to allow historic vehicles (more than 30 years old) to be registered under conditional registration which provides limited usage of the vehicle and also provides Compulsory Third Party insurance cover both at a very reduced cost. The Classic Rally Club is very grateful to the RMS and the relevant Minister for the scheme which allows the preservation of historic vehicles for road use without incurring the cost of full registration and insurance. The scheme works very well so long as it is not abused; it is not intended for day to day driving such as driving to work, going shopping, commuting to the railway station or driving the kids to school. The introduction of the 60 day log book trial allows members to enjoy 60 days use of the car for driving sake. The Classic Rally Club will not tolerate any abuse of the scheme by club members.

Types of Conditional Registration available to CRC members

1. Historic Vehicle Registration H Plates (HVS)60 day log book which allows 60 days per year use plus club events This an accord between the RMS and individual car clubs
2. An annual signature and club stamp required to ensure you are a financial member of the CRC RMS Form for HVS 1259
3. Classic Vehicle Registration (CVS) similar to above but with modification allowed provided they are certified by and engineer's report. This is an accord between RMS and the CMC /ACMC An annual club RMS form for CVS 1835
4. Rally Registration for outright rally cars, note this is the only way cars with full roll cages can be registered in NSW.

When your renewal with the RMS falls due, they will send you a new Historic Vehicle Declaration form. You MUST have that form signed by the Club Plate Registrar, so allow enough time for this to be done before your registration falls due.

Procedure for renewing at the RMS:

- **Get a pink slip. (The preferred option) You need to send a copy of the pink slip to me.**
- **A return stamped address envelope would be appreciated.**
- **Fill in the Historical Vehicle Declaration and mail to me. Email copies not permitted by RMS. Alternatively you can complete the writeable PDF on the RMS web site and that can be emailed to me but it needs to be posted back.**
- **Club Plates Registrar will complete Section 4. and sign**
- **Take or post your Conditional Registration renewal and pink slip to RMS or Services NSW for processing.**

Don't forget that all movements of your car, other than those set out in the constitution, must be logged with the Club Plates Registrar or logged in your logbook if your car is on the 60 day scheme to ensure your CTP insurance is valid. To log in vehicles not on the 60 day scheme contact me on mobile 0403 037 137 or email rondcooper1275@gmail.com.

Club Rules in addition to RMS Conditions

The scheme is designed for Classic Rally Club members who will be active in club events not just to provide cheap registration as per the overview of the scheme.

The club reserves the right to withdraw eligibility to those who do not participate in club activities.

Members should be financial members for 12 months prior to applying for club plates.

Members with club plates must comply with all RMS conditions and club rules and directions from club officials.

The club reserves the right to accept or reject any cars and to withdraw acceptance to the Historic and Classic Plate schemes.

In addition to the RMS costs the Classic Rally Club charges members on the HVP scheme \$25 per year and require them to sign a document annually requiring members to agree to the conditions of the scheme and to provide information on the insurance of their vehicles.

CRC Event Calendar 2024

Day	CRC Championship Events	Other events / notes
January		
Tuesday 23rd		Club Meeting (Hawaiian shirt night!)
February		
Saturday 17th	The Final Countdown Rally (NA) Tony Norman	Sup Regs expected before Christmas
Tuesday 27th		Club Meeting
March		
Tuesday 19th -23rd	HRC Tour of the Snowy - Dave Johnson	<i>Non CRC Championship days</i>
Tuesday 26th		Club Meeting
April		
Saturday 20th	Cootamundra Classic 900 (NA) Ian Gilholme and Peter Parry	
Sunday 21st		
Tuesday 23rd		Club Meeting
May		
Friday 3rd	Autumn Glory Trial VIC/NSW - Steuart Snooks	<i>Non CRC Championship day</i>
Saturday 4th	Autumn Glory Trial VIC/NSW - Steuart Snooks	
Sunday 5th	Autumn Glory Trial VIC/NSW - Steuart Snooks	
Sunday 19th	Tour d'Course (NA) - Martin Leaver	To be Confirmed
Tuesday 28th		Club Meeting
June		
Saturday 15th	Hidden Gems Social Weekend Tour and Fun Run - Glenda Lawrence and Warren Herrick	Upper Hunter Region - Date to be Confirmed
Sunday 16th		
Tuesday 25th		Club Meeting
July		
Tuesday 2nd	Social Tour Lithgow Small Arms Factory and Lunch Run - John Cooper	
Tuesday 23rd		Club Meeting
Sunday 28th	Date Free to run a Rally (NA)	Volunteers required
August		
Wed. 14th - 17th	HRC Tour to the Sunshine State	Ian Richards/Dave Johnson TBC
Sunday 25th	CMC Shannons Display Day, CRC 30th Display	
Tuesday 27th		Club Meeting
September		
Sunday 15th	Date Free to run a Rally (NA)	Volunteers required
Tuesday 24th		Club Meeting
October		
Saturday 26th	Alpine Classic (TRE) - Alan Walker	
Sunday 27th	Alpine Classic (TRE) - Alan Walker	
Tuesday 22nd		Club Meeting
November		
Tuesday 26th		Club Meeting- AGM
December		
Sunday 1st	Club Christmas Party	To be Confirmed