

The Wheel

**Southern Tablelands
Heritage Automotive Restorers Club Inc.**



Rob Smith-Saarinen's 1972 Chrysler Valiant VH Wagon

November 2026

President	Bruce Legge	0432 212 352
Vice President	Ivan Zafiris	0417 669 719 ivan.zafiris@gmail.com
Public Officer	Anthony Brown	
Treasurer	Rebecca Templeman	stharctreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary/Membership	Bruce McCarron	0407 090 360
Minutes	Ian Robinson	0417 892 482
Property Officer	Vacant	
Registrar	John Morland	0406 375 640
Assistant – ACT		
Assistant – NSW	Malcolm Roxborough	0402 221 878
Webmaster	Steve Rankine	
Editor	Bev Lang & Pam Corbett	editor@stharc.org.au
Events Director	Rosalie Ryan	events@stharc.org.au
Events Committee	Rebecca Templeman David Sullivan	

Website: www.stharc.org.au

Mail: PO Box 1420, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

Bank Details: STHARC BSB 633000 Account 164876989

Club Meetings

When: 7pm, 2nd Thursday of each month (except January)

Where: Girl Guides Hall, Erin St, Queanbeyan

Contributions should be submitted **before the 22nd of the month** for the following month's issue. Articles covering events, members' experiences, automotive/mechanical items or photographs welcomed. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or modify any section of any article submitted for publication.

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From The President's Driver Seat

Hello STHARC Members,

At last, I feel free to write about something other than elections and committee positions. After our last meeting I was approached by a member who expressed a willingness to be our new property officer. Members will vote on this candidate at the November meeting. Nonetheless, I still think that this is one of those positions which can be shared between 2-3 people, so if you think you could help out too in this role, please come forward quickly.

We are getting near the pointy end of the year, and it's quite possible that some of you will take the opportunity to drive longer than normal distances to see loved ones or to holiday away from home. This got me thinking about drowsy or tired drivers and the usefulness of a nap. Did you know that there are Napping Strategies that one should consider before napping (No joke!). Naps are a temporary aid to improve alertness, not a replacement for getting a regular, long period of sleep at night. A modicum of research led me to the US Mayo Clinic website on this subject which offers a full suite of what to do and what not to do. For instance, naps should be kept to no more than 20-30 minutes (keeping the body in light-sleep mode); done early in the afternoon (before 1500) so as not to interfere with the coming night's sleep; and be done in a restful space. After you nap, give yourself time to wake up (this can vary for people, but is generally about ten minutes) before you get back to your activities. This is key if you need to do a task that requires a quick or sharp response (like driving). Therefore, napping at the wrong time of day or for too long could be counter-productive and require much longer post-nap periods (up to 35 minutes) to thwart unwanted sleep inertia (groggy feeling). Interestingly, naps are better when done before any anticipated sleep loss rather than something one employs to "catch up". Therefore, while naps can be taken if you're feeling tired, if you really are sleep deprived then a proper night's rest is the best course of action. A pithy saying in the military is that: "*sleep is a weapon*". Manage your rest and alert levels to avoid becoming a "weapon" on the roads. Naps may improve your alertness, help you to perform better and feel happier. But, remember that if you nap during a break from a long drive, take a few minutes to walk around the car after your nap and only get back behind the wheel when you are fully alert.

Speaking of the "pointy end of the year" our focus as a club can now be on the STHARC Christmas party which is now down to a single digit number of weeks away. A great part of the day is the fun raffle drawing throughout the festive occasion which historically has seen a great number of prizes on offer. Rebecca Templeman is coordinating this aspect of the day this year and the call for donated items or hampers is now a siren song. Please bring items to the next meeting, or contact Rebecca to arrange a drop off. The quality of Christmas function is really up to all members to contribute.

Yours fraternally, Bruce Legge, President

Club Person of the Year

Reminder: this is your last opportunity to nominate your choice for Club Person of the Year. Nominations can be emailed to our club secretary Bruce McCarron on brucemc@icloud.com or by completing a nomination form. Forms will be handed out at the next general meeting October 8th, 2026. Completed forms can be mailed to our PO Box 1420 Queanbeyan NSW 2620 or handed in at the next general meeting November 12th, 2026. The closing date for nominations is November 12th, 2026. So put your thinking caps on. 😊

STHARC GENERAL MEETING

8 October 2026 Queanbeyan Guide Hall

The President opened the meeting at 7:09 pm asking members to scan their membership cards and to place their phones on silent. A hard copy attendance sheet was available for those members whose cards were not scanning.

Attendance and apologies: as per the Attendance Book.

Minutes of the 10 September 2026 General Meeting were accepted (moved Bruce Legge; seconded Chris O'Rourke,)

Visitors: Patrick Gagel introduced himself to club members and was warmly welcomed by the President. Pat is a long term Queanbeyan resident with extensive involvement in local motoring organisations and a passion for Toranas.

Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$13,253.12, with income in the last month from the sale of Silver Jubilee Lunch tickets, merchandise and raffle proceeds and interest, and expenditure on insurance, Silver Jubilee lunch expenses, postage, name badges and raffle prizes. Report accepted (moved Rebecca Templeman; seconded, Ivan Zafiris).

Secretary's Report: The Secretary noted that the hard copies of the club newsletters which had been received in the past month were available for members to peruse and that electronic newsletters received had been forwarded to members. Nominations forms for Club Person(s) of the Year were available and members were encouraged to nominate candidates before the November general meeting. Membership cards and some name tags are available for collection. Report accepted (moved Bruce McCarron; seconded Rosalie Ryan).

Registrar's Report: John Morland noted that Transport for NSW now required the Club Registrar to sign both Sections 3 and 4 of the Historic Vehicle Declaration form. While there is an option for members to sign a separate Vehicle Suitable for Safe Use Declaration, and avoid obtaining a pink slip, STHARC policy is to require all members to obtain a pink slip to establish the vehicle's roadworthiness. The Registrar needs to sign off that the car is 'clubworthy' (ie conforms with the requirements of the conditional registration scheme). Ivan Zafiris is preparing a policy document setting out the club's practice for consideration by the Committee and, then, members.

Events: On behalf of the Events team, Rosalie Ryan thanked everyone who helped organise and attend the Silver Jubilee Lunch on 19 September, which was a superb day. The President strongly endorsed these views, noting that the lunch was a great event and that Rosalie and the organising team could not have done better. The dinner and mid-week run at Campbell and George, Queanbeyan, on 7 October had been very successful and a similar event is planned for the new year.

Rosalie highlighted the following coming events:

- 10 October – Braidwood Big Wheels (details in *The Wheel*);
- 18 October – 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Tarago Car, Bike and Truck Show;
- 18 October – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Canberra Japanese Motor Festival, Thoroughbred Park, Canberra;
- 25 October – 7:00 am to 2:00 pm, Canberra Swap Meet, Hall Showgrounds, ACT;
- 30 October – 10:00am Morning Tea, Pialligo Bakesmith, Pialligo;

- 7 November – 7.00 am to 4.00 pm, Cooma Motorfest, Cooma Showground;
- 22 November – 9.00 am to 2.00 pm, STHARC display at Canberra Railway Museum; cars to arrive at 9.30 am and stay until 1.00 pm; BBQ lunch provided by the Museum; STHARC members to provide slice or cake for dessert;
- 27 November – 10.00 am Morning Tea, Kiln, 118 Emu Bank, Belconnen, ACT;
- 6 December – 10.00 am Terribly British Day, Queanbeyan Park;
- 13 December – 12.00pm STHARC Christmas Party, Wamboin Community Hall; RSVP essential (members can register on-line through the member portal but non-members will need to be registered on an attendance sheet); club to provide meat and bread; members asked to bring salads and dessert; BYO drinks and nibbles. Donations for the Christmas Party raffles welcome by the November General Meeting;
- 5-7 March 2027 – Club weekend to Pambula; members are advised to book accommodation early.

Rosalie presented the Life Members attending the meeting with their new badges.

Editorial Team: On behalf of the editorial team, Pam Corbett expressed the team's thanks to the former editors for the comprehensive handover briefing they provided, which greatly assisted the transition. Pam encouraged members to continue submitting articles for *The Wheel*. Rosalie and the President congratulated the new Editors on the 25th Anniversary edition of *The Wheel*.

Webmaster: In Steve Rankine's absence, the President noted that Steve is working on a mobile phone version of the new website and reminded members that if they wanted their car to be added to STHARC's on-line gallery of member vehicles they should send a photo and a brief description of their vehicle to the webmaster.

Property Officer: Retiring Property Officer, Mike Oborn, displayed the new club merchandise and urged members to nominate for the Property Officer role which he will vacate shortly. Mike will provide a detailed hand-over to any new Property Officer.

CACTMC Delegate: Ivan Zafiris noted that the recent CACTMC AGM essentially rolled over the existing Committee and that the Council was continuing to make arrangements for the 2027 Wheels of Canberra.

CHMC Delegate: Allan Boyd noted that he and Christine would be attending the CHMC AGM and Delegates meeting to be held in Armidale on 24 October 2026 and will report back at the November meeting. STHARC members were invited to advise Allan of any concerns they may have about the HVS and CVS schemes or the proposed changes to CHMC's constitution, policies and procedures.

General Business: Members exchanged views about recommended upholsters and chrome platers. The President noted that the club was always on the lookout for guest speakers.

Raffle: Four raffle prizes were won.

Next Meeting: 12 November 2026, General Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:00 pm

Registrar's Update

by John Morland

I attended the **Council of ACT Motor Clubs (CACTMC)** seminar for **ACT Registrars** on Saturday 17 October at the Spanish Club, Narrabundah. The seminar lasted well over 3 hours. Many rules, obligations and expectations were discussed. It was a good but intensive seminar. Coffee, tea, biscuits & cake were provided. We needed them!



The Council operates as the sole conduit linking member clubs and individual owners with Access Canberra. As our club, STHARC, has ACT members, we are affiliated with the Council.

The role of the car club.

Each car club has the right to run its club under its own decision process. STHARC must abide by government laws and regulations, we can harden the rules but not loosen.

The vehicles must be at least 30 years old and weigh no more than 3.5 tonnes.

Where the vehicle is garaged

Storage dictates Jurisdiction.

So, if an ACT resident is storing their historic car in Queanbeyan, the vehicle must be registered in NSW, the ACT owner can legally use the NSW CVS/HVS framework.

Vehicle Owners

Vehicle owners must maintain an active financial membership with the car club in exchange for concessional registration and agree to strict public road usage. Conditional historic registration validity is **explicitly** contingent upon holding a current financial club membership.

Logbooks

- Historic Vehicle owners **MUST** use the logbook issued by Access Canberra
- The logbook **MUST** be kept inside the vehicle, including on club runs
- The logbook **MUST** be used to record before each trip.
- The logbook entry line expires at 11:59 pm on the day it is entered. A new logbook entry **MUST** be completed for the following day, if the vehicle is still in use at 11: 59pm. Crossing the 11:59pm timeline whilst still on the road requires another entry ASAP. If the 60 logbook days are used within a year, the vehicle can only be used on club runs for the remainder of the year, as these are exempt from the 60-day rule. The 60-day rule is reduced, pro-rata to 30 days for 6 months registrations and 15 days for 3-month registration. The ACT completion entry requires driver name, calendar date, destination, odometer reading, trip intended prior to driving. NSW completion entry only requires date and driver name.

In short, logbook entry is required when the vehicle actively turns its wheels and keeping copy prints of official club event itineraries protects drivers during multi-jurisdictional transit checks.

THE GOLDEN RULE: Ensure the logbook line is fully filled out in ink before you twist the vehicle car key.

Historic registrations re-affiliation

It is CACTMC's requirement that each club's list of historic registrations be submitted to the council yearly with club re-affiliation.

If affiliated with NSW CRS through the CACTMC they must provide a list of all cars historically registered, including NSW CRS cars with each re-affiliation process.

The four critical vehicle information items: Make, Model, Year, Registration number.

Car Club Process for Initial Registration

- . Ensure owner is a current financial member, and the vehicle is at least 30 years old.
- . The car club, as well as the Registrar, can knock back a car.
- . Request previous registration paperwork (if registered) VIN and engine number must match.
- . Inspect vehicle for obvious modifications. If you have any doubt, request an inspection report.
- . Complete form and keep a copy.

Car Club Process for Registration Renewal

- . Ensure member is still a current member.
- . Request previous copy of registration paperwork check VIN and engine number match.
- . Inspect vehicle for obvious modifications.
- . Ask for logbook, check yearly financial membership status and zero out unused lines in personal 60 days.
- . Complete form and keep a copy.



September Morning Tea

by Sandra McNally



September morning tea on Friday 25th saw us at the renamed Café Kodo at the Wildbark visitor centre on the edge of Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary in Throsby. Lovely location to enjoy the spring sunshine in great company.

Attendees: Pam Corbett, Ronda Cornwell, Tony & Christine Brown, Allan Boyd, Chris Hillbrick-Boyd, Ray Mallam, Hugh Spencer, Bev Lang, Daryl Bourke, Rhonda Ahearn, Geoff Rudd, Bruce Legge, Alida & Graham Bell and Brian & Sandra McNally.



EVENTS UPDATE

October

October Morning Tea

Friday 30th October 10 am – The Pialligo Bakesmith

Beltana Rd, Pialligo, ACT

November

Saturday 7th November - Cooma Motorfest 2026

7.00am – 4.00pm

Cooma Showground

General entry \$40 Motorcycles , Stationary engines and Trucks

<https://www.coomacarclub.com.au/event-6736486>

Cooma Car Club - Cooma Motorfest 2026

Rosalie intends to drive up to see the show as a spectator. Members are welcome to enter their own vehicles individually.

Sunday 22nd November – Canberra Railway Museum Display

9.30 am – 2.00 pm

Please arrive at the Museum, located at 2 Geijera Place, Kingston at 9.30am. STHARC cars need to be in place before the gates open to the public at 10.00am.

We are encouraging all members to stay until 1pm, the Canberra Railway Museum will be putting on a BBQ lunch at midday.

It would be great to get a decent group of members to attend!!

Please bring a slice, cake or biscuits for dessert, if possible.

For more information, please contact Bob Hall 0420 529 901

NOVEMBER MORNING TEA – LAST ONE FOR THE YEAR!

Friday 27th November at 10am

Kiln @ Belconnen Arts Centre

118 Emu Bank, Belconnen

December

Sunday 6th December – Terribly British Day

STHARC members who own a British vehicle are invited to participate in the Terribly British Day at the Queanbeyan Town Park.

- All display vehicles are to be on site by 9:30am and should remain on site until 2:00pm.
- Vehicle entry is \$5 per vehicle, payable on the day.
- For safety reasons, entry is only from Campbell Street (no entry from Lowe street)
- Pedestrian entry is free - public are welcome!
- Refreshments will be on sale

For any questions or updates, please contact:

Malcolm Noad mwnoad@gmail.com or phone/text 0420 762 453

TERRIBLY BRITISH DAY
CAR & BIKE SHOW
A Celebration of British Motoring Heritage

CARS
BIKES
PEOPLE
HERITAGE
ALWAYS A
GOOD DAY

BRITISH
MOTORS
BRITISH
SPIRIT
A TIMELESS
PASSION

CLASSIC
HISTORY
COMMUNITY

KEEP
CALM
LOVE
BRITISH
CARS

DRIVE IT
RIDE IT
SHOW IT
SHARE IT

QUEANBEYAN
TOWN PARK

SUNDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2026
10:00am to 2:00pm
QUEANBEYAN TOWN PARK

Featuring Classic & Historic British Cars and Motorcycles
From Morris, MG, Austin, Jaguar, Riley, Triumph and Mini
to BSA, Norton and Triumph Motorcycles.

Bring your pride and joy and enjoy a relaxed day celebrating the best of British engineering and motoring heritage.

Spectators Welcome

IMPORTANT ENTRY INFORMATION

ONLY 1 ENTRY
VIA CAMPBELL ST

NO ENTRY
FROM LOWE ST

ALL VEHICLES TO
REMAIN ON SITE
UNTIL 2:00PM

VEHICLE
ENTRY
\$5
PER VEHICLE

CONTACT
events@cacmc.org.au

Great Vehicles
Last Longer

Some Roads
A Stronger Tomorrow

BRITISH CARS • BRITISH BIKES • BRITISH PEOPLE • A BRIGHTER COMMUNITY

Sunday 13th December - STHARC CHRISTMAS PARTY

12.00pm, The Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way, Wamboin.

RSVP is essential for catering, please RSVP via the Join It membership website via this link
<https://app.joinit.com/o/stharc/event/XEk7vRDB7y9XMDiSy>

An event has been created in which you can indicate your or your family's attendance, as well as if you can bring a salad or dessert. Any issues please email Rosalie at
events@stharc.org.au

The Club will provide meet, bread and condiments, including gluten free options.

Members need to:

- BYO plates, cutlery, drinks and any nibbles
- Wear a festive shirt or outfit
- Bring your historic/classic vehicle and decorate it in Christmas cheer! (this is optional but get involved!)

There will be:

- A prize for the best decorated vehicle
- Giant raffle – bring cash to buy tickets
- Annual club presentations
- Lots of food
- A fun time had by all

See flier for more information

Christmas Hamper!

With our Christmas Party fast approaching on Sunday, 13th December, we would like members to give generously to our Giant Christmas Raffle/Hamper. The more prizes we have, the more chances you have to win.

The deadline to receive donations will be 28th November. There will be a box at the November meeting to put your donations in before the Christmas Party.

Items could include Christmas-themed items, plants, art, wine or spirits, vouchers, car-related items or any non-perishable food items. These items will either be bundled or could be a separate prize depending on what it is.

If you can't bring your donation to a meeting and would like to donate, please contact Rebecca Templeman **0412 252 935** or stharctreasurer@gmail.com.

See flier for more information



STHARC 2026 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 13th December

12.00PM

The Wamboin Community Hall

Bingley Way, Wamboin

RSVP by Friday, 27th November

**[https://app.joinit.com/o/stharc/event/XEk7vR
DB7y9XMDiSy](https://app.joinit.com/o/stharc/event/XEk7vRDB7y9XMDiSy)**

Or email events@stharc.org.au



RSVP is essential to cater for this event.
PLEASE register your attendance via the *Join It*
Membership website (see events).
PLEASE READ OVER FOR MORE INFO

INFORMATION

Club members are to make their own way
to the hall.

The club will provide BBQ meats
(sausages, chicken etc. (gluten free), bbq onions,
bread and condiments.

**Please bring a salad or dessert as indicated on
your ticket registration.**



BYO

Plates

Cutlery

Drinks

Nibbles.

Salad or Dessert

Your decked-out vehicle



DRESS

Wear a Christmas Shirt! (or any other festive attire)

GIANT RAFFLE

Tickets are available for purchase; please bring cash.

Lots of other great prizes

BEST DECORATED VEHICLE

Prize for the best decorated vehicle: let your imagination run
wild with your car, truck, tractor or bike.

ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS

Including Club Member of the Year

This day is a great day for members old and new to take the
opportunity to get together!

For more information please contact Rosalie on 0427292238

STHARC CHRISTMAS HAMPER

**Please give generously to our Giant Christmas
Raffle & Hamper!**

Christmas Party Date: Sunday 13th December

The more prizes we have, the more chances you have to win.

Donations deadline: 28th November

Please bring your donations to the October and November meetings and place them in the designated basket.

Items could include: Christmas-themed items, plants, art, wine or spirits, vouchers, car-related items, or any other non-perishable food items.

Items can either be placed in a hamper or be awarded as a separate prize. All items are greatly appreciated!

If you can't make it to a meeting and would like to donate, please contact:

**Rebecca Templeman 0412 252 935 or
stharctreasurer@gmail.com**



March 2027

Next year our annual weekend away will be a trip to the Pambula on the coast. Dates will be Friday 5th – Sunday 7th March.

Rod is again organising another wonderful weekend away and has made contact with the Pamula Car Club who will look forward to hosting us.

Accommodation will be a book your own way as was Temora. The Discovery Parks – Pambula Beach have varying accommodation options. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



My COVID Car - 1972 Chrysler Valiant VH Wagon

by Rob Smith-Saarinen

I bought my 1972 Chrysler Valiant station wagon about five years ago, and I tend to think of it as my "COVID car".

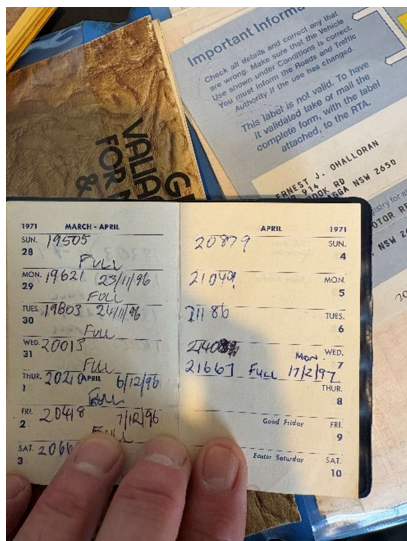
Like a lot of people during the lockdowns, I suddenly had a bit more time on my hands and spent probably far too much of it looking at old cars online. I started researching this Valiant and, the more I found out about it, the more I liked it. Eventually I decided I had to buy it.

It actually wasn't the sort of car I would normally have bought. I've always liked station wagons and have always had a soft spot for the early-1970s Australian cars, but what really attracted me to this particular car was its originality and history. I was looking for something that hadn't been pulled apart or heavily restored, and, most importantly, something that was rust-free.



The car was built in December 1972 and first registered in February 1973. It is a base model VH wagon, fitted with the 215 Hemi six, paired with a 3 speed manual on the tree and 4 wheel drum brakes. It has travelled only around 23,500 miles and remains remarkably original for a car that is now more than 50 years old.

The original owner was a farmer from Wagga Wagga who apparently used the Valiant mainly as his town car. He owned it from new until around 2010, when it was sold to a collector.



One of my favourite parts of the car's history is a fuel consumption log kept by the original owner. Every time he filled the car with petrol, he recorded the mileage and fuel usage. The last entry was made in 1997 when the car had travelled 21,667 miles. Today the speedometer shows only around 23,500 miles, and the documentation and general condition of the car seem to support that mileage.

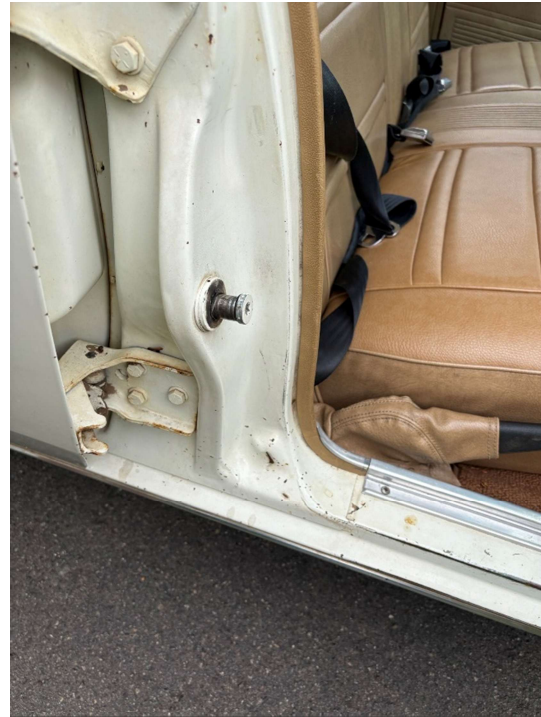
It is those sorts of details that make an old car particularly interesting to me. I still have the original Chrysler sales documentation, first registration papers, old receipts and other paperwork that has followed the car throughout its life. It even has the original spare keys, complete with their factory codes, which appear never to have been used.

There are also some great little period details still on the car. The driver's sun visor retains the original information relating to the ignition lock and seatbelt safety warning. They are small things, but they help tell the story of a car that has largely escaped being modified or restored over the years.

The interior is completely original and exceptionally well preserved. The seats remain in excellent condition, the dashboard is unmarked and crack-free, and overall it is difficult to believe the interior is more than half a century old.



The body is similarly well preserved, with no obvious rust in the usual problem areas. Around 90 per cent of the paint is believed to be original. At some stage a previous owner repainted part of a quarter panel and the tailgate, but otherwise the car still wears the paint it left the factory with.



For me, that originality is probably the best thing about the Valiant. There are plenty of beautifully restored old cars around, but there is something quite different about a genuine survivor. The little marks and imperfections are part of its history, and I have no intention of turning it into something it has never been.

Since buying it, the Valiant has spent most of its time safely in storage. One of those jobs I keep promising myself I will get around to is putting it back on club registration.

Hopefully I'll finally get that organised soon, as I'd really like to bring the old girl along to one of the club events.

2026 Border Run - Austin Seven Clubs Victoria and South Australia

Mildura, 4th to 7th September 2006

by Elisabeth Stanger

Driving a nearly 100 year old Austin Seven Ulster on a return trip to Mildura for the annual Border Run, organised by the Austin Seven clubs of Victoria and South Australia, can lead to some challenges. Distance driving is not recommended unless you travel with someone with the skills necessary to complete the trip. Luckily I have someone to do the trip with, with those skills.



We commenced our trip on Wednesday 2nd September we arrived without incident at Darlington Point. The next morning we were joined by Harry Crawford, who was driving his Austin 7 Roadster.

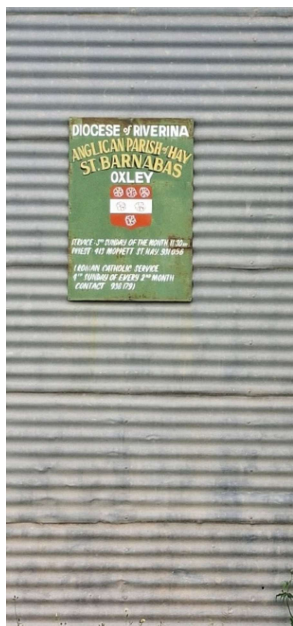


Leaving Darlington point, to avoid trucks, we selected the bicycle route option, which guided us onto a gravel track, lots of pot holes and very bumpy. Before getting back onto the bitumen we had to cross an irrigation channel, sadly our little car stopped in the middle and we had to push it out, Harry was lucky to make it through without incident. We did manage to get the car restarted; it did take a number of days for the seats to dry out.

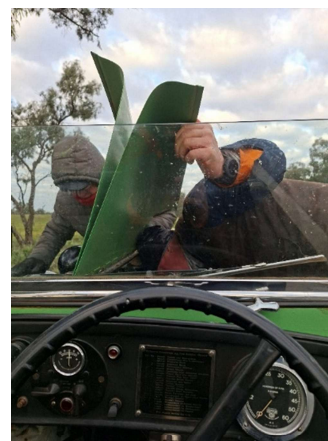


Traveling onto Hay we both ran out of fuel, luckily being Austin drivers we are prepared for such events as our little cars were built before such a thing as a fuel gauge.

After a short discussion it was decided to check out what Oxley had to offer, lovely spot to eat lunch.



On our way to Balranald we had an issue with the carby. After getting a tow from Harry to try to sort the problem out we ended up at a mechanics, Balranald Diesel Service, they were generous enough to let us use their workshop and it was a great opportunity for the younger staff to check out a vintage car. Their air compressor cleared the gunk, but one of the young staff assembled the linkage incorrectly, which we discovered the next morning breaking down on the side of the Sturt Highway, 7km from Euston.





Once we managed to sort out the problem we made it to Mildura, one day late. While in Mildura we enjoyed the various rally events which included visiting the Mildura Botanic Gardens, Merbein South Community Hall, Mildura Psyche Bend Pump Station built in 1891, Wentworth Goal and Pioneer Museum, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Mildura Vintage Vehicle Club and the Mildura Holden Motor Museum.



While in Mildura we had an issue with the battery and while waiting near Repco, we met a retired auto electrician, Adam, who helped us out, always grateful for any help.

Started heading back on Tuesday 9th September, after a wonderful event, made it to Balranald, the next day we made it to Hay but due to an electrical issue we ended up staying the night, as we had a problem we couldn't sort, even with the help of the lovely staff at Auto Go Hay, our wonderful eldest daughter drove all the way to rescue us.



Classic Cruise for Cancer

Canberra , 13 September 2026

by Dave Arton



As planned for the Classic Cruise for Cancer, I met Colin and Annette at the proposed meeting place — with me running slightly late.



First time for everything.

We arrived at the Arboretum at 8.25am and were directed to park at the tail end of the first row of cars. Once parked, there was only one sensible thing to do - grab a



With that important job done, it was time for a wander around and admire the enormous variety cars and bikes. There were plenty of familiar faces along the way including people I know from other car clubs and car shows, so there was time for a few chats and chin wags along the way.



At 9.45am it was time for the driver/rider briefing. Among other things, we were asked to leave in a quick and safe manner in an attempt to keep the cars bunched together. This worked to a degree. Well, trying to keep 420-plus cars and bikes together was always going to be an interesting exercise! I think the organisers deserve a medal for attempting it.

At the end of the briefing came the words everyone was waiting for: "Start your engines!" Once on the road, we pretty much stayed together in groups, travelling at a steady pace. We headed down Tuggeranong Parkway, through Coppins Crossing and Wright, before joining Cotter Road.

Murray's had a bus at the Cotter carrying a group of kids from Camp Quality. As we passed, all the cars and bikes were honking their horns and making as much noise as possible with whatever else was fitted to their vehicles. Some of the Variety Bash cars had sirens! Just about anything that could make noise was being put to good use. It was fantastic to see the kids enjoying the spectacle.

From there we drove to the Cotter and turned left onto Discovery Drive towards the Tidbinbilla Tracking Station. This was only a short 4km run to the station, but the cars were almost bumper to bumper, making it fantastic to see and be part of. One of the highlights of the day.

There was plenty of horn blowing, light flashing and waving as we drove through the car park and then back onto Cotter Road.

We turned left towards Point Hut Crossing, then onto Johnson Drive and eventually the Monaro Highway. At various points along the route, people had stopped to watch and wave as the convoy made its way towards Questacon.

Once parked at Questacon, it was time for lunch and a sit in the sun while watching the last of the convoy arrive.



During one of my wanders I spotted another couple of fellow STHARC members, Ian and Tina Oliver, out with the green Bentley. A quick chat with them and it was time for the presentations.

As usual, there were numerous awards, including Most Money Raised, People's Choice, best super hero costume and many more. Ian and Tina won an award, finishing in the top 10 for raising around \$6,500. A great effort in my books!

In summary

With 420-plus vehicles taking part and, at last count, \$220,000 raised for Camp Quality, it was a fantastic result.

A great way to spend a beautiful sunny day with like-minded people, enjoying some fantastic cars and bikes while supporting such a good cause.

Cars, coffee, camaraderie and charity - sounds like a pretty good STHARC day to me.

From the Vault As we prepare to return to the Canberra Railway Museum in November, a look back at one of our first club runs...from *The Wheel* Issue 2 September 2001

Canberra Miniature Railway and Railway Museum Sunday 26 August 2001



Our run began with some people meeting at the clubhouse for a cuppa and a chat, then at 10:45am travelling on to the miniature railway and steam railway museum at Kingston where we met up with more members ready to view the museum. This was a great day for both young and young at heart with a total of 23 people in attendance.

The miniature train provided much enjoyment, **especially for the adults**, with some having several rides. (We won't mention any names). At 12:00 noon the BBQ was to be lit, but down came the rain. Ron and Anne suggested we set up at the old goods shed building in the railway yards.



LEFT: Weathering the storm STHARC style - lunch on the goods shed loading platform.

Everyone, without getting wet, had a good lunch. We then went to the 'Big Boys Trains' where arrangements were made for a guided tour. This turned out to be very informative. The guide was fantastic, showing and telling us about the set-up. The tour took approximately 2 hours and we came away with a great knowledge of how the museum came to be and the amount of volunteer work given to maintain this valuable asset to ensure it is always there for us to enjoy.

LEFT: Enthusiastic young-at-heart members getting off the miniature train.

BELOW: Loco 1210, which pulled the first train into Canberra in 1926.



STHARC EVENTS CALENDAR

OCT EVENTS

FRI 30TH

October Morning Tea - 10am
The Pialligo Bakesmith - Beltana Ave
Pialligo

NOV EVENTS

SAT 7 TH

Cooma Motorfest 2026
7.00am - 4.00pm
Cooma Showground -
<https://www.coomacarclub.com.au/event-6736486>
(Rosalie's planning on going as a spectator)

SUN 22ND

Canberra Railway Museum Display
2 Geijera Place, Kingston at 9.30am
STHARC cars need to be in place before
10.00am
BBQ lunch provided
BYO a slice/ cake or biscuits.
Contact Bob Hall 0420 529 901 for more info

FRI 27TH

Last morning tea for 2026!
Kiln @ Belconnen Arts Centre 10am
118 Emu Bank, Belconnen

EVENTS@STHARC.ORG.AU
ROSALIE 0427292238

DEC EVENTS

SUN 6TH

Terribly British Day
10.00 am - 2pm
Queanbeyan Town Park

SUN 13TH

STHARC Christmas Party
Wamboin Community Hall, Bingley Way
Sunday 13th Dec, 12pm
Please RSVP via
<https://app.joinit.com/o/stharc/event/XEk7vRDBZy9XMDiSy>

MARCH 2027

Pambula Weekend Away
5-7th March
The Discovery Parks – Pambula Beach
(or own choice)

TO DO



**RSVP to Bob Hall for the Railway
Museum visit**



Donate to the Christmas Raffle!



**Get your free tickets to the
Christmas Party**



Book accommodation to Pambula