

The Wheel

Southern Tablelands
Heritage Automotive Restorers Club Inc.



AUGUST 2026

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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,

The week starting Monday 10 August 2026 is an eventful one for us all. Firstly, we will need to fulfil our civic duty by completing our national census on Tuesday 11 August. But, the really exciting event is Thursday 13 August when all committee positions of STHARC will need to be voted upon. Our Annual General Meeting and Committee positions have been a regular theme over my past few submissions to the *Wheel*, but the time is fast approaching when the rubber hits the road (using a vehicle related analogy deliberately here!!).

Our association exists as a volunteer organisation. Not only does one need to volunteer to be a member, but to allow the club to function we need members to volunteer to help manage what we do and how we do it. I intend to seek re-election as your President, and as such I give my resolute commitment to anyone taking on a role within the club, that it won't be too onerous. Indeed, I like to think that the Committee team have had a good time over the past couple of years. Those choosing not to run again, are doing so for personal reasons, not because they disliked the function. My last word on this topic is to remind those sitting on the fringes, that Committee positions help you to get to know your fellow members better. Surely, getting to know and socialise with likeminded people is the real reason we join any club?

Our Silver Jubilee (25-year) anniversary function at the Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club on 19 September is building nicely. At time of writing, nearly half of the available 80 tickets have been sold. This is a reasonable start, and I assume that many members with intentions to attend still need to buy theirs. I really do ask that this event be patronised by as many members as possible. My strongest advice is to buy your tickets online early, to avoid disappointment.

Lastly, it was regrettable when at the last monthly meeting we were denied access to our regular meeting hall (through no fault of our own!). I am very appreciative to Mike Oborn, Rosalie Ryan and Christine Brown for their combined efforts to hastily arrange the alternate venue. The Scouts Hall was cavernous, hard to heat, lacked enough tables and prevented our planned guest presenter to give his talk (not to mention being unable to have our post meeting cuppa). Nonetheless, I was so pleased with the can-do attitude of everyone and we managed to have quite a fruitful and happy meeting. Thank you to all in attendance.

Yours fraternally,

Bruce Legge

President

From the Editors Desk

Front Page

Malcolm Roxburgh's – Vanguard 6 Utility – see his story on pages 12-14. Another great article is Mike Oborn's Mr Bug – 1960 Austin Healy Sprite – his story is on page 11.

STHARC GENERAL MEETING

9th July 2026 Queanbeyan Guides Hall 7pm

The President opened the meeting at 7.05 pm explaining to members that a double booking of the Guide Hall had required the meeting to be moved to the Scout Hall and that the absence of audio-visual facilities meant that the guest speaker scheduled for the meeting would be deferred until later in the year.

Attendance and apologies: as per the Attendance Book.

Visitors: Brett Ebsworth, Adam Ebsworth, Cory Milne, and Rodney Hunt introduced themselves to members, providing some background on themselves and their vehicles. The President welcomed the visitors and encouraged them to join the club, noting the expectation that all members participate actively in club meetings and events. The Committee had considered Rodney's membership application and recommended its approval. Members unanimously endorsed this recommendation.

Membership Cards: The Treasurer displayed the new club membership cards which are now available for collection. The new cards will allow digital recording of attendance at club meetings and events and greatly simplify recording of attendance data. Membership numbers have had to change as a result of the new cards. On behalf of members, the President thanked Steve for all the work he had invested in this new initiative.

Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$18,023.30 with income in the last month from membership fees, sales and raffle proceeds and expenditure comprising printing and postage of *The Wheel* and costs associated with the new membership cards. In response to a question, the Treasurer confirmed that a payment had been made to the Girl Guides for the use of their hall. Report accepted (moved Stephen Rankin; seconded, Rosalie Ryan).

Secretary's Report: The Secretary noted that hard copies of the WWVVMC, Coota Hoota and Crankhandle publications had been received and that club newsletters received electronically had been forwarded on to members. Nomination forms for Committee positions for the August Annual General Meeting had also been circulated to members and all members were encouraged to consider nominating for positions. Nominations need to be lodged no later than one week before the 13 August meeting. Report accepted (moved Bruce McCarron; seconded Chris O'Rourke).

Registrar's Report: Assistant Registrar, Malcolm Roxborough noted that vehicles with modern sound systems were not eligible for NSW Historic Vehicle registration as they are considered to have been modified. There are rumours that the NSW Government is considering introducing stamp duty on the sale of historic vehicles. Members were reminded that unless they are a financial member of an eligible club, their vehicle is unregistered.

Events: On behalf of the Events team, Rosalie Ryan highlighted the following events:

- 31 July morning tea, 10.00 am Woodworks Café, Bungendore;
- 1 August, Winter Warmer at the Ryans (BYO pizza toppings, bases supplied, RSVP to Rosalie on 0427292238);
- 28 August morning tea, 10.00 am Blackstone Café, Symonston;
- 13 September – 9.00 am “Rear Vision-the Holden Collection” community day and picnic at the National Archives of Australia, Parkes, ACT;
- 13 September – Classic Cruise to raise funds for Camp Quality, starting at the Arboretum and finishing at Questacon;

- TBA September – German Auto Day;
- 19 September – STHARC 25th Anniversary Celebration, Kangaroo Club Queanbeyan, 12:00 for 12:30. Tickets (\$50 for members; \$75 for non-members) available through Humantix;
- 18 October – 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Tarago Car, Bike and Truck Show;
- 30 October – 10.00am morning tea Rodney's Garden Café, Pialligo;
- 12-14 March 2027 – Club weekend to Pambula; more information to come but members are advised to book accommodation early.

The President thanked Rosalie and the Events team for all their hard work in arranging events and encouraged all members to support the 25th Anniversary celebration and the 2027 weekend at Pambula.

Editorial Team: On behalf of the Team, Sandra McNally encouraged members to nominate for the editorial role at the forthcoming AGM when the current team will be standing down. Sandra noted that it was a great job which essentially involved encouraging members to submit articles, monitoring the in-box, and compiling the newsletter (a relatively straightforward task using Microsoft Word). The existing editors will be happy to provide any guidance required by new editors. The President endorsed the benefits and importance of the editorial role.

Property Officer: Mike Oborn displayed the new club merchandise. Club polo shirts and jackets are now available in both women's and men's fittings. There is some old stock (mainly odd sizes) available at sell-out prices. Mike will be standing down at this year's AGM and encouraged members to consider nominating for the Property Officer role which is not a demanding job and is a great way to meet club members.

CACTMC Delegate: Ivan Zafiris reported that STHARC had complied with Council membership requirements (including the payment of fees) but should advise the Council of the number of club cars it has registered in the ACT and NSW. Ollies Garage has been made an affiliate member of the Council. The Canberra VW club will be conducting its Fish and Chip run on 16 August.

General Business: The President noted that all Committee positions are vacated at the August AGM. While some Committee members, including himself, will be renominating, there are some (including the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Editorial team, Webmaster, and the Property Officer) who will not be renominating. In any organisation it is healthy to refresh committee membership on a regular basis and all members are encouraged to consider nominating for a committee position. You do not have to have been a long-term club member to serve on the Committee. Tony Brown will act as returning officer for the AGM.

The President also reminded members that the club will need a new Public Officer (not a Committee position) as the current Public Officer, Christine Hillbrick-Boyd, is moving to the ACT and so is no longer eligible to serve in this role. This is not a demanding role and Christine can provide detail of what is involved.

Raffle: Four raffle prizes were won.

Next Meeting: 13 August 2026, General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:02pm

STHARC 25 – Celebrating 25 Years

Saturday 19th September – Queanbeyan Kangaroos Club



We are pleased to announce that the **STHARC 25th Anniversary** celebration will be held on **Saturday 19th September** at the Roos Club in Queanbeyan. The event will run from **12.00pm for a 12.30pm start** in their function room.

Members and guests are invited to join us for a **two-course meal, cake, and some fun activities**. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our club's history and the members who have shaped STHARC over the past 25 years.

Member tickets*: \$50 (subsidised price)

*Members include spouses and children under 18

Non-member tickets: \$75

We have sold 35 tickets! That's a great start. We have a capacity of 80, so don't wait, purchase your tickets today!!

Tickets are available through **Humanitix**. Please note there is a small processing fee, which Humanitix passes on to charity.

Ticket link: <https://events.humanitix.com/stharc-25-years-anniversary-lunch>



Or scan the QR code!

If you find purchasing tickets online challenging, please see Rosalie at the **August meeting** and she can assist with the purchase

On now: Exhibition – Rear Vision: the Holden Collection

Opened June 12 and running until 11th October at the National Archives of Australia. A free exhibition tracing Holden's journey from a 19th-century saddlery to Australia's own car and its lasting impact on the nation's economy, industry and identity.

August 2026

Thursday 13th August

STHARC General and Annual General Meeting (AGM) Queanbeyan Guide Hall 7pm

August Morning Tea

Friday 28th August at 10am

Blackstone Café, Geosciences Australia

Crn Jerrabomberra Avenue and Hindmarsh Drive, Symonston

September 2026

Thursday 10th September

STHARC General Meeting Queanbeyan Guide Hall 7pm

Sunday 13th September – Rear Vision – the Holden Collection

All Holden owners and lovers are invited to attend a community day being conducted by the National Archives of Australia in conjunction with the "Rear Vision - the Holden collection" exhibition.

Picnic on the lawns, view the exhibition, check out the cars.

Venue: National Archives of Australia, Kings Avenue, Parkes, ACT

Time: From 9:00 am

Entry fee: Free entry!

Food: Constitution Cafe on site

Sunday 13th September – Classic Cruise Canberra

Registrations Now Open

Grab your best superhero costume and join us on **Sunday, 13 September 2026**, as we cruise through Canberra, starting at the National Arboretum and finishing at Questacon, all to raise vital funds for Camp Quality to make life brighter for kids facing cancer.

Saturday 19th September – STHARC 25th Anniversary lunch

Please see details above

September 20th September – German Auto Day

8.00am – 2.00pm

Patrick White Lawns, Parkes Pl W, Parkes ACT

Display Entry \$10 per vehicle

More information to come.

September Morning Tea

Friday 25th September – 10am

Wildbark at Mulligans Flat

Rosenberg Street
Throsby ACT

October 2026

Thursday 8th October

STHARC General Meeting Queanbeyan Guide Hall 7pm

Sunday 18th October – Tarago Car, Bike and Truck Show

8.00am – 2.00pm

2124 Braidwood Rd, Tarago NSW

Enjoy a day admiring the cars and motorbikes on display and treat yourself to the various food and beverage stalls. There will be a raffle prize and trophies on offer on the day.

Contact Details

taragocarbikeandtruckshow@gmail.com

[0477787364](tel:0477787364)



October Morning Tea

Friday 30th October - 10am

Rodney's Garden Café

24a Beltana Road

Pialligo ACT

The Wheel

Issue 277

STHARC Inc

March 2027

Next year our annual weekend away will be a trip to the Pambula on the coast. Dates will be Friday 12th – Sunday 14th 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. If you're interested in coming, then I would say get in now and book.



Mr Bug – 1960 Austin Healey Sprite

By Mike Oborn

My father's first car was a red Austin Healey Sprite which he drove through the back streets of Melbourne during the days he was courting my Mother. They had some incredible memories from their time in the Sprite, and even on his death bed my Father could quote the specifications for adjusting the tappets and tuning the Sprite!

My Father taught both my Mother, and her younger brother to drive in his Sprite. It was therefore no surprise that my Uncle's first car, was also a 1960 Sprite, commonly referred to as the Bug Eye or Frog Eye Sprite. About 10years ago my Uncle sold this car, infamously known for 60years as Mr Bug.

Since owning Mr Bug I have reconditioned the original engine and increased it from 948cc to ~1050cc, balanced the crank and pistons, increased the compression ratio with flat top pistons and replacing the original head with a 1098cc head. But unfortunately I have developed a significant leak from the rear main (there's no seal on these A series engines) onto the clutch plate, so currently Mr Bug is off the road awaiting the engine to be removed, a new clutch plate installed and rectification of the source of the leak (still to be precisely identified).



A Triumph Departs and a Vanguard Joins the Garage My 1962 Standard Vanguard 6 Utility by Malcolm Roxburgh

Members will know that a good vehicle story often begins with a quiet browse, a promising lead, or the sudden realisation that something interesting has become available. Mine came together over the weekend of 19–21 June 2026, when I bought a 1962 Standard Vanguard 6 Utility on the Friday and sold my yellow Triumph 2500TC, which had been sitting unused for the past 18 months, on the Sunday.

The Vanguard had been advertised by a member of the other historic car club I belong to, the Standard and Triumph Car Club of NSW. I had been on the lookout for a Vanguard Ute for some time, so the advertisement caught my attention.

The Triumph went to an enthusiastic young gentleman, 13 years of age, from Bungonia. He and his father arrived early on Sunday morning with their car trailer. After a look over the car and a bit of haggling back and forth, I sold it for a little less than I had originally hoped, but we were not using the vehicle, and the young fellow clearly had his heart set on it.



My Triumph 2500TC that I sold

It was a memorable changeover. One classic departed and another arrived, each with a very different character. The Triumph had been part of our motoring life, but the Vanguard brings with it the appeal of an older, rarer, and very Australian working classic.

Looking for a Vanguard Ute

My interest in Vanguards goes back a long way. I have a 1953 Vanguard Spacemaster sedan, previously used for club runs and tours. Unfortunately, it suffered a big end failure at Wellington, NSW, on the way to Gunnedah some years ago. It now lives in the back of the shed, waiting for me to win Lotto so I can have the engine, steering, and front and rear suspension repaired. It will also require a repaint after spending so long in storage.



My Vanguard Phase2 Spacemaster

It was after the Spacemaster's failure that I bought my first, and then second, Triumph 2500TC. They filled the gap for club motoring, but I never quite lost the desire to find a Vanguard utility.

The Standard Vanguard 6 Utility is not simply an old Ute. It sits at an interesting meeting point between British engineering and Australian practicality. Although the Vanguard name came from the Standard Motor Company in the United Kingdom, the utility body was a local response to local needs: something useful, durable, and suited to Australian roads, properties, and trades.

Background

The Vanguard was originally developed as a post-war export model for Commonwealth markets. In Australia, it found a natural place, particularly once local assembly and locally suited body styles gave it a practical role beyond the saloon car market.

The utility version appealed to buyers who needed a vehicle that could work during the week but still offer comfort and road presence. By 1962, the Vanguard 6 Utility represented one of

the later examples of the line, powered by the 1,998 cc overhead-valve six-cylinder engine that would later be associated with the Triumph 2000.

- **Model:** 1962 Standard Vanguard 6 Utility
- **Engine:** 1,998 cc overhead-valve six-cylinder
- **Body:** Two-door coupe utility, produced for the Australian market
- **Character:** British mechanicals with a practical Australian Ute body
- **Appeal:** Increasingly scarce, as many were worked hard throughout their lives

Rarity and Club Interest

For many of us, part of the enjoyment of club motoring is finding vehicles that tell a broader story. The Vanguard 6 Utility does exactly that. These were working vehicles, often used by farmers, tradesmen, and families who needed practical transport. Because so many were used hard, surviving examples now have a special appeal.

A Weekend of Change

The timing made the acquisition feel like a genuine changing of the guard. I bought the Vanguard on Friday 19 June and sold the Triumph 2500TC two days later. It was a quick turnaround, but also a satisfying one: a familiar classic moved on, and a vastly different machine took its place.

There is something very appealing about a vehicle that still looks and feels connected to its original purpose. The Vanguard 6 Utility is straightforward, purposeful, and uncommon. It is the sort of vehicle that invites conversation at a club run or display day, especially among those who remember when these vehicles were simply part of everyday Australian motoring.

What Comes Next

The next stage is to get to know the Vanguard properly: its history, condition, strengths, and any jobs that need attention. As we tend to do longer trips with the Standard and Triumph Car Club, reliability will matter. For now, I am simply pleased to have secured a Vanguard utility and to have another piece of Standard motoring history in the garage.



My new Vanguard 6 Utility