

NEWSLETTER



A handsome line-up: Rolls-Royce, Hotchkiss, Bentley, Packard, Vauxhall

Blue Mountains Run

15th and 16th March

Organiser: Todd Barker 0409 302 507 toddbarker240@optusnet.com.au

A run for all car types, mostly off the main roads, staying overnight in Bathurst (details below) and finishing at lunch-time on Sunday in the mountains.

We leave from Ham Common (opposite the Richmond Air Base) from 8.30am on the Saturday so arrive before then. Maps and instructions will be provided at the start, but if you would like to join the run along the way, contact the organisers. The route has been planned to use quieter roads making it suitable for small and older cars.

The run will include some minor driving tests and some interesting questions which will be added to a points score, with handicap points will be awarded for such things as the age youth of the navigator, and so on. Prizes - and protests - will be sorted out at lunch on Sunday.

This promises to be a great weekend with excellent driving, the usual good company and some extra fun along the way. Contact Todd Barker or Jeremy Morris a.s.a.p. to let them know that you'll be there.

Accommodation for the 15th March: Goldfields Bathurst. Contact Dan Howard 6332 2022 and mention the VSCCA. Rooms are \$115 or \$126, both twin share, and \$15 per extra person.

E-mail: dan@bathurstgoldfields.com.au

1944 - VSCCA - 2014

THE VINTAGE SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

www.vscca.org.au

All correspondence should be above address.
second Tuesday of each month (except rooms, 134 Queens Rd, Five Dock, beginning



GPO BOX 2365 SYDNEY 2001

ACN 000 163 084

addressed to the Secretary at the Club meetings are held on the January) at the Veteran Car Club's at 8pm.

Sackville Jazz Picnic - Sunday, 13th April



After last year's enjoyable picnic at Sackville beside the Hawkesbury River, the Lamrocks have kindly invited us back again this year.

We'll meet at the Cumberland Sate Forest Centre (The entrance is off Castle Hill Road, near the intersection of Coonara Road in West Pennant Hills) at around 9am before leaving for an interesting drive

of about an hour to the Lamrocks' property, "Wingate".

The drive in to "Wingate" is along an unsealed but good road. There is plenty of grass for parking, and for picnics, with trees for shade. Bring your own food and drink, and tables and chairs. Entertainment will be provided by the "Bridge City" four-piece jazz band.

There is no need to book; just turn up on the day, but if you have any enquiries phone Todd Barker on 0409 302 507.

Pictures and a report about last year's event are on the Club website.

Calendar this Month

5th March

GEAR; Mid-Week Lunch (Pie-in-the-Sky)

11th March

Club Meeting, Five Dock

15th & 16th March

Blue Mountains Run

19th March

Mid-Week Lunch, Terrey Hills

25th March

Committee Meeting

29th March

Castle Hill Show Parade

30th March

Breakfast Runs (see magazine for details)

ALL IN FAVOUR OF SAVING FUEL, RAISE YOUR RIGHT FOOT. (FROM A SIGN ON A NEW YORK ROAD.)

Don't forget to let the Secretary know of any changes to your address, telephone number, mobile telephone number, e-mail address or cars owned. This will allow the Club's records to be kept up to date, and will mean that you won't miss out on the magazine, this newsletter, or other correspondence from the Club.

Expressions of interest are now open for the George Green Rally in September. This promises to be a good one (*Aren't they all?*) with the Vic, SA and Qld Clubs joining us for our 70th Birthday. If you haven't yet contacted Dave, to be sure to do so soon to secure your accommodation and your place in the Rally.

Hard-to-Find Nuts, Bolts & Screws

If you're looking for nuts, bolts or screws in old or odd sizes, these people might be able to help:

- Robby Engineering, 131 Queen St, Beaconsfield. 0408 649 343. (The entrance is through a joiner's workshop, then down-stairs.)
- Classic Bolts & Nuts, Ian Packard, 0494 516 869. classicboltsandnuts.com PO Box 443 Frenchs Forest 1640
- Lees Bros Engineering Supplies (est. 1910), 6 Dunlop St, Parramatta

Another Revival

Morgan have now revived the famous three-wheeler last made in the 1930s. The car is powered by an American V-twin S&S motor-cycle engine of 2 litre capacity, with a Mazda MX-5 gearbox and a toothed rubber belt drive to the rear wheel.

The seating is tight, and the footwells are narrow. There is no heater and no roof, even as an option. The ride, however, is reported as being "joyful, liberating and thrilling".

In the U.K. they can be registered as motor-bikes, but Australian regulations mean that they must be registered as cars. The Morgans also suffer from the luxury car tax which means that in Australia the cost is over \$75 000.

As with the Argentinian Bugatti reproductions, these Morgans, being new cars, are not eligible club cars for the VSCCA.



Ten Years Ago, for the Club's Sixtieth Anniversary, a tour around Australia was planned. Despite their enthusiasm for the idea, many members found that they were unable to participate, and eventually only Noel McIntosh and Rob Everett were able to make the trip in Noel's 1913 Vauxhall. If you search on Google for "Around Australia 1913 Vauxhall" you will be able to see a video of this trip or just go straight to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPX4x9E2pkw>



Passenger: "I think the country around here is extraordinarily pretty."

Speed Fiend: "Is it? I must see it some day."

(Note: Resemblance to any member of the Club is purely coincidental.)

This month sees a tour of Tasmania, Victoria, ACT and NSW by a group of Rolls-Royce Silver Ghosts. There will be 31 cars participating and apart from the Australian cars there are entrants from NZ, the UK and ten cars from the USA. The cars will be in Canberra on the 16th, passing through Goulburn and Berrima to Bowral on the 17th then going on to Sydney via Berry and Wollongong on Tuesday, 18th March. The best time to see them in Sydney would be Wednesday 19th, when they will be leaving the Shangri-La Hotel, Carrington Street, at 10am to drive across the Harbour Bridge to McMahon's Point for a photo session.

GEAR meetings this year:

5th March, 16th April, 11th June, 13th August, 1st October, 14th December.

For information contact Rees Mackay or John Lackey

Driving Under the Influence

(from "The Spectator", 25 Jan. 2014)

- Road safety campaigners were angered recently by the opening of the first pub at a motorway service station.
- Drink-driving campaigns pre-date the motor-car: it was in 1872 that the first law was enacted that made it an offence to drive carriages, horses, cattle and steam engines under the influence of alcohol.
- The law didn't catch up with motor cars until 1925 when a more general law made it an offence to drive any vehicle while drunk.
- The first drink-driving advert on TV appeared in 1964, warning drivers that after eight whiskies they were 25 times as likely to have an accident. A blood alcohol limit did not arrive until two years later.

and a response from Nick Georgiano:

Sir: Barometer (25th Jan.) says driving motor cars while drunk was not illegal until 1925. But individual prosecutions date back much earlier. In 1897, George Smith, the 25 year old driver of an electric cab, was charged with drunk driving in Bond Street. The Autocar commented sternly, 'This is an offence that should be very stringently dealt with, as an autocar in the hands of a drunken man is distinctly worse than a horse-drawn vehicle'. He was fined £1.

Nick Georgiano
Guernsey