



# VICTORIAN HISTORIC RACING REGISTER

ABN 97 521 303 894

Incorporated in Victoria

Association Number A 0007117 C

**Foundation Patron: Sir Jack Brabham AO OBE World Champion 1959, 1960 & 1966**

PO Box 3485 MELBOURNE VIC 3001 Website: [www.vhrr.com](http://www.vhrr.com) Reg. No. 57/001  
VHRR CLUB ROOMS 30-32 LEXTON RD BOX HILL

## NEWSLETTER - January 2015

We meet Bi-Monthly - on the Fourth Tuesday of the Month 8pm  
at the VHRR Club rooms 30-32 Lexton Rd Box Hill.

### COMING EVENTS

January	18th	RACV Great Australian Rally Mornington .....	03 9563 3293
January	24th-25th	VHCC Round 1 Ararat .....	<a href="mailto:araratcarclub@hotmail.com">araratcarclub@hotmail.com</a>
February	7th	VHCC Rd 2 Bryant Park.....	<a href="mailto:johncarolbryant@yahoo.com.au">johncarolbryant@yahoo.com.au</a>
March	1st	VHCC Rd 3 Rob Roy .....	0418 311 040
March	5-8th	Phillip Island Classic.....	03 9877 2317
March	12th-15th	Australian Grand Prix.....	03 9787 3640
March	21st	VHCC Rd 4 Mt Leura BLCC .....	<a href="mailto:barn04@bigpond.net.au">barn04@bigpond.net.au</a>
April	12th (tbc)	Myrniong Sprints .....	03 9827 8124
May	24th	VHCC Rd 5 DECA SDCC .....	<a href="mailto:home@hepworthandco.com.au">home@hepworthandco.com.au</a>
May	30-31st	Historic Winton .....	03 5428 2869
August	8-9th	Winton Festival of Speed.....	0412 351 403
September	12th-13th (tbc)	Wings & Wheels Maryborough Sprints .....	03 9827 8124
October	4th	Vintage Collingrove .....	08 8271 5689
October	17th-18th (tbc)	Adelaide Motorsport Festival.....	08 8373 4899
November	6-7th	Historic Sandown .....	0402 224 133
November	28th-29th	Geelong Revival Motoring Festival.....	<a href="http://geelongrevival.com.au">geelongrevival.com.au</a>
December	11th	VHRR Xmas Presentation & Awards Evening .....	0407 825 545

### Wednesday Members Lunch - every Wednesday except Christmas Holidays.

CLUB LIBRARY HOURS

Wednesdays 11.30 - 2.00 Club Nights 6.30 - 7.30

### Club Permit Scheme

(Red Plate)

Gordon Hellsten .....

03 9878 5272

5 Handel Crt Blackburn Vic. 3130

\*CCE = Club Championship Event

**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the VHRR Inc. or its Committee and/or its Newsletter Editor. Whilst all care has been taken, neither the club or its officers accept responsibility for the accuracy of information printed and the quality of any items or services advertised or mentioned in this publication. Incorporated association Number A 0007117C. The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions submitted for publication.



The VHRR gratefully acknowledges the support of our major sponsors



"Share the Passion"

## **IMPORTANT NOTICES**

**George Spanos' Elfin GTS** is for sale.  
Serious offers invited.

03 9885 7130 or 0418 138 934

**A Tribute to Dr. Nigel John Gray, OA, FRACP** who passed away suddenly on 20 December 2014.

I first met Nigel in 1950 in a group of some 14 skiing enthusiasts – about half were final year medicos at Melbourne University, the other half engineers in their final year at RMIT. That summer the group built the 12th ski lodge at the developing Mt. Buller Alpine Village; the group known as the Brighton Mountain Wanderers Ski Club. Nigel was still an active member of the Club at the time of his passing.

As a practising doctor Nigel served his internship at the Maroona Base Hospital, then moved to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fairfield, then to the Royal Childrens Hospital, and finally to the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria where he headed the war against the tobacco industry. Later the name was changed to the Cancer Council of Victoria. In his retirement years he spent half his time serving the World Health Organisation based in Milan.

Always interested in sporting cars, his initial car was a rather shabby Amilcar, after which he acquired the Singer Le Mans Special and in later years he became a regular competitor in Historic events in this car. As to road cars he was passionate about the Jaguar Mk. 10. My first knowledge of the Singer was that it raced at the March 1955 Albert Park Meeting in the hands of Frank Murphy as a Singer-Holden, the original engine having been replaced by a 'grey' Holden motor. Later it was acquired by Nigel's elder brother Peter, who had served in the RAN in World War II, and then it was passed on to Nigel.

Nigel's aim was to expose his son and 2 daughters to the enjoyment of an open sports car. However the Singer-Holden had a problem – the six cylinder engine intruded so far into the cockpit that one's knees were up under the chin. He consulted me regarding a replacement engine. At the time Harry Firth and I had been quite successful in trials using Hillman Minxes. The 1600cc 4 cylinder engine, with 5 main bearings, was indeed a robust engine. Nigel acquired an engine, I helped him fitting it

including fabricating an inlet manifold to fit a pair of 1.5" S.U. carburettors. Nigel attended to improving a number of cosmetic features of the car and it emerged as a most presentable sports car of the pre-World War II style. The car became a regular competitor in sprints, hill climbs and regularity trials conducted by the VHRR and other historic clubs and Nigel drove it in Historic Sandown on 8 & 9 November, and at Rob Roy on 23 November last.

A sad and untimely passing of a true enthusiast. Graham Hoinville. (Still serving as Hon. Secretary of BMW Ski Club Inc.)

**This picture** whilst somewhat damaged may interest some of our members. It is the Phillip Island unloading area opposite San Remo before the first ever motor cycle race meeting held at Phillip Island Anzac weekend 1922. According to my information this was the first time a competitive event occurred on Phillip Island. In those days to get to Phillip Island, no Bridge existed and all travellers "Barged" across the straight from San Remo.



The idea for the race was the brainchild of my grandfather Arthur Norman Maplestone, then a successful racing competitor on motorbikes he built himself branded "Maple", and his best Mate Dr Harry Jenkins, a Collins Street Dentist who lived in Elwood but owned Churchill Island just off the Coast of Phillip Island.

Incidentally after retiring from racing in 1933 my Grandfather went on to be the first "Team" manager for Stillwell and Parry competing both motor bikes and cars (some of his racing history

is recorded in "Flood on bikes".

I also have a shot taken of the Pits area which is in worse condition and could not be copied into this article I will attempt to have it repaired.

I also confirm that the photo of Paul England driving a T41 Cooper Climax (VHRR NL Dec 2014) is in fact a car I own (F2-2-56). The car is now close to completion having been a rather long process some eight years since it last ran as I have been personally on a rather difficult journey health wise during the same period. I lost my kidneys in 2009 and started Dialysis and was a regular patient at Allamanda Hospital on the Gold Coast dialysis with Sir Jack Brabham. The benefit to me being that it allowed me to get to know him, Margaret and more recently other members of the family.

Sir Jack was a great aid to me as during my years of ill health whilst not permitted to compete I rebuilt 3 cars – a Sebring Healey, nearly finished the Cooper and perhaps my pet project completed just recently and exhibited at Sandown and raced for the first time at Eastern Creek BT 21A – 5 a 1966 Brabham.

Peter J Williams VHRR Member



**Laurie Bennett was awarded** Driver of the Meeting at the Tasman Trophy Meeting last weekend at Sydney Motorsport Park (Eastern Creek). This is the Leo Geoghegan Award, presented by Leo himself. Great drive Mr Bennett. Congratulations to Sean Whelan who won the Tasman Series (Barbagello, Sandown and Sydney Motorsports Park), International Travis Engen 2nd and Laurie Bennett 3rd.

Entrants suffered many obstacles due to the very hot weather and mechanical malfunctions. Just before the final race the heavens descended and with luck Laurie showed his experience in the wet and outpaced the reduced field.

Jan Taylor



**Well done Graeme Raper.** Graeme broke a 17 year old lap record originally set by Graeme

Lowe in the 1936 Alta: Group K Racing Cars - 9th November 1997 - 1.33.10 with a Lap time of 1:32.5073 at Historic Sandown 2014.

**With a very seductive voice** the woman asked her husband, "Have you ever seen Twenty Dollars all crumpled up?" "No," said her husband. She gave him a sexy little smile, unbuttoned the top 3 or 4 buttons of her blouse, and slowly reached down into the cleavage created by a soft, silky push-up bra, and pulled out a crumpled Twenty Dollar bill. He took the crumpled Twenty Dollar bill from her and smiled

approvingly. She then asked him, "Have you ever seen Fifty Dollars all crumpled up?" "Uh... no, I haven't," he said, with an anxious tone in his voice. She gave him another sexy little smile, pulled up her skirt, and seductively reached into her tight, sheer panties... and pulled out a crumpled Fifty Dollar bill. He took the crumpled Fifty Dollar bill, and started breathing a little quicker with anticipation. "Now," she said, "have

you ever seen \$50,000 Dollars all crumpled up?" "No!" he said, while obviously becoming even more aroused and excited, .... "Check the garage" she said.

## Classifieds

**After more than twenty years** I have decided to call it a day. The ever increasing costs of airfreight and Australia Post charges make it no longer viable to import motoring books and magazines. This will be my last delivery.

In the near future I still plan to be open on Saturday afternoons, but suggest a telephone call first please.

A closing sale of the bookshop is planned for March 2015 to coincide with the Grand Prix and Phillip Island motoring events.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your loyal support over the years.

Kind Regards Tony Johns

**If you're looking** for an inexpensive open wheel racing car, call me on (03) 93797898 or Denis on (03) 9331 0560 to arrange an inspection of an Elfin 600E or an Elfin 630E. Both of which are complete and in good condition. The 600E has a Twin cam Ford and a Mk 9 Hewland and is the ex Milton car and looks as good as ever. There are also some body panels, moulds and four spare wheels (for wets)

The 630 is the ex Clive Millis car and is fitted with a BDD Cosworth and an FT 200 Hewland (with spare ratios). It also has spare wheels for wets.

We are open to silly offers, which we may not accept but they are both excellent value at the prices we will accept.

Please call John Sheppard or Denis Lupton or email me:- john.shp@bigpond.com

### 1969 Wayne Ford Special WJ6.

Black flag with orange disc has cut short my racing career. To assist my forced retirement, I offer for sale my pride & joy. Ready to race now. Fitted with 221 Falcon engine, head & exhaust by Jack Mayes, Hewland HD5 with new diff housing & 10/31 crown wheel & pinion, triple 45 webers. This would be a very competitive car in the hands of a competent & brave person. Achieved 11.67 seconds & Heathcote sprints with 132 mph using 2nd & 3rd only. Wins club championship (VHRR) every year for Group O Racing over 1600cc. Serious offers only. Barry Murphy (03) 9751 1179

### Race Car Trailer for sale

John Mann 0418 310 472

### For sale Group Q 1974 Elfin 623 1300cc

Comes with enclosed trailer & many spare parts  
\$45,000.00 Contact Andrew on 0414 390 065

**Wanted - Phillip Island** program's for the VHRR events during the 1981 - 1990 period. Those that the library had have gone missing, possibly they will return, they are needed Help please. Contact Lloyd Shaw on 0415 351 164 or lloyd@cooldrive.com.au

**Challenge Blue would like** to invite your club to participate in Wings and Wheels 2015. Wings and Wheels has been founded to celebrate the history of Australian Aviation and Motoring, and to raise funds for deserving local and national charities.

Those benefiting from the 2015 event are beyondblue, Men's Shed, Alkira and SAV. Lilydale Airport will host the inaugural event on the 10th and 11th October 2015 and is being coined 'A bloke's big day out', and will comprise of: Airshow, aerobatic displays, by champion pilot Paul Bennet, static displays of historic planes, sky diving displays, joy flights in both vintage aircraft and historic War Birds. Contact:

Wings and Wheels 2015: Troy Hudson 0409 046 846 wingsandwheels.2015@gmail.com

