

DECEMBER 2014

BERRIMA DISTRICT HISTORIC VEHICLE CLUB Inc.



Editor: mhickman29@bigpond.com Club: bdhvc73@gmail.com
PO Box 145, Mittagong NSW 2575
www.BerrimaDistrictHistoricVehicleClub.org.au

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Bill Betts	Geoff Knapman	Alice Strode (deceased)	
Robyn Betts	Jenny Harkness		

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BERRIMA RALLY COMMITTEE	Chris & Geoff Knapman, Bill & Robyn Betts, Peter & Fay Mills		

President's Letter

At our November meeting, I told of my adventures trying to get a thermostat for my Sunbeam. One spare parts shop wasn't willing to help as the car didn't come up on his computer. I then went to another auto parts shop and the guy behind the counter was more than happy to give me a thermostat, similar to the part I had removed from the car. It is amazing how much computers are relied upon when sometimes looking at what is in front of us and a bit of thinking outside of the box can come up with a solution. Have you had trouble getting the basics for your car? What was the solution for you to get the car going? These ideas and stories we need to share with each other so we can all enjoy more of our hobby "motoring".



Katoomba was a great weekend, even though cut short by a bush fire close to our accommodation. This was a shame as it was our last club weekend at the CMS Convention Centre after more than two decades of memories. Some good food and some good companions certainly made for a pleasant social weekend.

We have a few gatherings up to Christmas so try and join us for at least one. The joint Christmas party at ANSTO is a well organised event. If you aren't going away in January, the Fish and Chip run on sat Jan 10 is worth a try. The 40th Berrima Rally in February is fast approaching. Please get your applications in now for this great weekend.

My family and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Let's see what we can do in 2015.

Michael Plummer

CHRISTMAS HAMPER



Club Members are asked to donate non-perishable goodies for our Christmas Hamper – to be drawn at the December Meeting.



Don't smile, this is serious!



The Last Katoomba

by Jenny Harkness

It was with a something of a touch of sadness we drove to Katoomba for the final weekend with the Club. For more than a quarter-century Club members had been wending their way each year to the CMS Conference Centre near Scenic World. (In its peak years, we had over 50 attending the Katoomba run and were fighting for the best rooms!) Each of these many visits to the mountains were a different experience, not only weather-wise, but also from different characters attending and joining in the Saturday night entertainment – often being treated to bush verse recitations by Alan Worner. This time we were only 24 in number but this didn't stop us from having a good time of friendship. The group spanned three generations, including six children aged 4-10 years. But the Last Katoomba closed the curtain with its own special drama.

With high temperatures, strong winds and a total fire ban, a thought went through my mind that the Mountains was not the right place to be. Saturday morning, just before we set out for Blackheath we were warned that a small bushfire had started nearby and to listen to Radio 702 for updates. The police stopped us going along a portion of Cliff Drive because of that fire in the nearby valley. Our grandchildren were duly impressed with the helicopters flying overhead and dropping water into the valley.

We returned for lunch, and by mid-afternoon decided to go for a walk to Echo Point as there didn't seem to be a problem. We were five children and four adults. Whilst walking, the wind got up again and we became aware of heavy smoke pouring over the escarpment and into the valley where we were surrounded by dry bushland. We hastened our pace and eventually arrived at the Echo Point clearing where the smoke was still getting more and more intense. We quickly took in the Three Sisters but could see that just behind where we were staying was a thick cloud of smoke from the bushfire. We had earlier arranged to be picked up and so were soon taken back to our accommodation. Steve, the manager, told us to pack our things to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice if the police advised.

After everyone had packed there was a short fall of rain and the wind eased. (It was a bit strange to be preparing to evacuate from a bushfire in pouring rain!) Across the road, at the car park for Scenic World, the tourist busses had gone and the area was filling with Rural Fire Brigade trucks waiting to relieve the day crews. The oval opposite was marked out for helicopters to land and the sky was filled with their noise as they zoomed backwards and forwards to the fire-front. We saw on the news that one house had been completely lost to fire and another damaged. Fortunately no injuries.

As we hadn't been given the word to go (we found out later this was because the highway was full of people leaving) we stayed for dinner and then headed down the mountain. None of us who had brought young children wanted to risk staying overnight. The evening trip home, however, proved completely uneventful – no traffic, no smoke.

Although shortened, the Last Katoomba still provided a great and memorable finalé.

.....and it all happened because of a vacuum cleaner!

by Kevin Brooks

Call it Chance? Fate? Sometimes a series of random events can lead to a very happy conclusion!

This story begins on return from Robe Rally. Tired of camping in the wilds and living on road kill – well, a slight exaggeration – we were going to throw ourselves at the mercy of friends Greg and Gill Roberts in Burradoo. When they weren't home, Joyce said, "Why don't we stay with Bill and Robyn Betts in Mittagong? They've invited us before." I was a little reluctant to impose ourselves on them out of the blue but, following a phone call, we were made most welcome and a very enjoyable visit resulted.

During the course of the evening, Bill said, "Have you ever heard of a Lexington car?" I hadn't and was led downstairs to view a beautiful ANSTED motor Bill had rescued from a vegetable patch – along with a gearbox, steering box and front and rear axles. What a fascinating motor it was – and in very good condition! The combustion chambers and spark plugs were in the block above the bore and a flat-surfaced OHV head sat on top. Bill had cleaned it up and it looked in near perfect condition. I was amazed that the chassis could have disappeared, possibly as scrap, yet all the rest survive.

When we returned home, I researched Lexington vehicles and found that the Lexingtons – especially the later models – were quite some car! The Lexington Motor Car Company (1910–1927) assembled cars from various suppliers. As is common amongst American motoring history, the company passed through various hands including those of E.W. Ansted and William C. Durant. Eventually, as was the case of many companies, the ensuing Depression *killed* the Lexington and a fine motor car was lost.

The crowning glory in Lexington's history was probably their assault on the famous Pike's Peak hill-climb, Colorado. In 1924, two specially prepared Lexington racers claimed first and second in the "King of the Mountain" event. Pikes Peak (now spelt without the apostrophe) is outside Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is so high that snow storms can be experienced at any time of the year. During a trip to USA some years ago we were being taken to Pikes Peak by friends from Morrison, near Denver, but could not reach the area owing to roads closed by snow storms.)

History lesson over, it's back to my story: In an attempt to find part of the floor in my shed, I decided to part with an industrial vacuum cleaner I had purchased at a swap quite some years ago. Off it went to our VCCA(Q) Swap this year with a "free" label attached. Noel Adams agreed to give it a home but couldn't carry it and agreed to collect it from me later. Finally, this second week in October, Noel came to collect it. With it safely in the back of his station wagon, we nattered away. Now the back of Noel's wagon is sort of like a lucky dip. You never quite know what you'll find. He's always in the process of collecting parts, delivering parts, or just plain storing parts. Amongst his collection he indicated a wrapped Lexington radiator shell, intended for a fellow in New Zealand who is building one.

When I told Noel I knew where there were Lexington parts, he asked if could he refer the NZ fellow to me and so came an enquiry by email from Arnold Koppens of Hamilton, NZ. Preferring not to pass on information without checking with the supplier I whetted Arnold's appetite with photos and a promise to talk to my friend, Bill. A phone call to Bill later that day confirmed he was interested in parting with the Lexington collection so off went the details to Arnold Koppens, along with my phone number should he wish to contact me.

Last night I received a phone call from a delighted and appreciative Arnold who now has a spare motor, a better gear box, etc, and is one happy man. I was pleased to have been of service and my amusement at the chain of events leading to Arnold's luck led me to write this article! Think of the links – the Roberts not being home, Joyce's persuading me to contact the Betts, Bill's showing me the Lexington bits, taking the vacuum cleaner to the swap, Noel's accepting and collecting it, mentioning Lexingtons – pull out any link and Arnold wouldn't be the owner of some fine parts.

Chance? Fate? Random events that led to a happy conclusion.

Additional info. from Bill Betts: The Lexington motor originally belonged to Bob Millard's uncles in Mittagong – recovered over 40 years ago from the market garden where the new *Marketplace* shopping complex now is. Bob Millard advertised the motor for sale in the NSW Veteran car magazine but did not get a single call. Bob passed it to Bill hoping he could find a good home. The motor was picked up in early November and will go to Beechworth Vic. to be packed up for the trip to New Zealand .



At last! Pictures of an old donk in *Drive Chatter*.



EVENTS

DECEMBER, 2014

3 rd Wed.	C:	Mid-Week Run. Meet top of Razorback 10am. Contact Bob Dunk on 4681 8316.
3 rd Wed.	I:	Gear Day, Wakefield Park Goulburn. Contact Eric Worner on 4871 1620.
6 th Sat.	I:	Colo Vale Markets. Arrive 10am. A genuine locals market. Enjoy the atmosphere & real country people.
10 th Wed.	C:	B.D.H.V.C. General Meeting 8pm Bargo Sportsground
12 th Fri.	C:	David Wolfe Morning Tea Run/Christmas Event Nepean Dam Picnic Ground 10am Contact Diane Jobson on 4684 2084 or 0424 395 776.
13 th Sat.	I:	Southern Highlands Winery Markets, cnr Illawarra Hwy & Oldbury Rd, between Moss Vale & Sutton Forrest. A Big, Big Market Day.
13 th Sat.	I:	Christmas Party at A.N.S.T.O. (Lucas Heights) – Our club has been invited to attend with cars. Gifts for young children if you arrange beforehand. Contact: Karen Lloyd 6524 8749 or 0419 126 558

JANUARY, 2015

7 th Wed.	C:	Mid- Week Run. Meet Bargo Sportsground 10am. Contact Bob Dunk on 4681 8316.
10 th Sat.	C:	Fish & Chip Run - Kiama. Meet Robertson Pie Shop 2pm. Leave Pie Shop at 2.15pm for a nice run to Kiama. We will re-group on road to Blow Hole.
14 th Wed.	C:	B.D.H.V.C. General Meeting 8pm Bargo Sportsground
16 th Fri.	C:	David Wolfe Morning Tea Run Nepean Dam Picnic Ground 10am Contact Diane Jobson on 4684 2084 or 0424 395 776.
17 th Sat.	I:	Golden Bowl RACE Meeting Wakefield Park, Goulburn. Contact Eric Worner on 4871 1620
18 th Sun.	I:	All American Day Castle Hill
26 th Mon.	I:	Australia Day - Berrima. Parking in Park Southern end of town. Arrive 9.30am for a cuppa. If you wish to enter Street Parade you MUST park in the street beside the school at 11am.

FEBRUARY, 2015

3 rd Tue.	I:	Campbelltown Vintage Car Club have a Run 1st Tuesday of the Month. Bill Robertson is one of their Events Directors so if anyone is interested they should contact Bill on 4681 8767 or 0408 064 153.
4 th Wed.	C:	Mid-Week Run. Meet top of Razorback 10am. Contact Bob Dunk on 4681 8316.
7-8 th Sat/Sun	I:	Gnoo Blas – Orange
11 th Wed.	C:	B.D.H.V.C. General Meeting 8pm Bargo Sportsground
13 th Fri.	C:	David Wolfe Morning Tea Run Nepean Dam Picnic Ground 10am Contact Diane Jobson on 4684 2084 or 0424 395 776.
21 st & 22 nd Weekend	C:	40th Berrima Rally <u>NOTE CHANGE OF DATES</u> Contact: Rally Secretary, Chris Knapman 4868 1252 for registration.

MARCH, 2015

3 rd Tue.	I:	Campbelltown Club Run Contact Bill Robertson on 4681 8767 or 0408 064 153
4 th Wed.	C:	Mid- Week Run. Meet Bargo Sportsground 10am. Contact Bob Dunk on 4681 8316.
11 th Wed.	C:	B.D.H.V.C. General Meeting 8pm Bargo Sportsground
14 th Sat.	I:	Moss Vale Show
29 th Sun.	C:	Club Run to Kangaloon.

EVENTS RULES

It is a legal condition that vehicle on historic plate (conditional registration) record their movements with the Club. Therefore, please ensure that your details are recorded in the Events Book circulated at each meeting. Also, sign the Run Sheet at all Club Runs. When attending a secondary club run or “invitational” run (I), and your vehicle is registered with HCRS plates you **MUST contact** the Plates Registrars, Eric and Sandra Worner (4871 1620) or the President, Michael Plummer (4628 8221) **and advise them of your vehicle’s movements.**

Club members and friends are welcome to attend any Club outings in modern vehicles.

For additional information about Events, please phone

John Glennon 4861 2701

Eric Worner 0428 282 070 E: eswoner@bigpond.com or

Alan Worner 4871 1483 .

Note the symbols **C** for Club run, **I** for invitational run.



Mel and Elaine Salmond's 1927 Tourer 126 – “Best Tourer”



Paul and Christine Shaw 1924 Ute – “Best Commercial”

**“DODGE BROTHERS CLUB AUSTRALASIA NATIONAL RALLY – FORBES 2014
CELEBRATING “100 YEARS OF DODGE”**

by Chris and Geoff Knapman

This biennial rally rotates around the States and we have entries from New Zealand, Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, ACT, and New South Wales. The Club is for those vehicles that are DB badged and hence the years ranging from 1914 to 1938. One of our aims was to have one entry for each year – thus 100 entries. At the start of registration we had 99. Where were we going to get No. 100 from? Then the owners of McFeeter’s Motor Museum (Forbes) heard of our plight and entered their 1936 Deluxe sedan. As they were a major part of our Display Day it became our 100th entry.

The Forbes Shire Council (as one of our major sponsor) were most welcoming and offered us the use of their Town Hall, honouring us with a civic reception and a beautiful banner. They also closed off the street each morning for the start of our day runs and supplied a *cherry picker* for a momentous photo of all the vehicles. All at no charge!

We were able to showcase the outback country roads and the enjoyed the warm hospitality of the communities of Grenfell, Condobolin, Eugowra, Canowindra and Parkes of Central N.S.W. Our 101 Historic Dodges ranging from 1914 - 1938 were Veterans, Tourers, Sedans, Coupes, Roadsters, Utes, a Semi-trailer, Ambulance and Fire appliance. (By far the majority were Tourers and Buckboards from the 1920-28 period – the so called *wooden-wheelers*.) The vehicles transformed the streets and back-roads from Forbes to the various outlying villages and towns into a scene from an era long gone by. It was a spectacular sight – a rolling procession of old cars, etc., meandering through such beautiful countryside.

Our Static Display surrounding McFeeter’s Motor Museum was a picture to behold with all the vehicles beautifully presented. There were passing travellers and locals stopping and taking the time to admire this fantastic collection of historic vehicles.

We had four entries from BDHVC, with two of them taking home well-deserved trophies (judged by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor). “Best Tourer” went to Mel and Elaine Salmond for their 1927 Tourer 126, and “Best Commercial” to Paul and Christine Shaw’s 1924 Ute Bud Body.

It is always nice to meet up with some old friends from past rallies but equally to make new ones – all with a common interest in historic vehicles. Our final function for the rally was a farewell breakfast where we catered for 192 happy *Dodgy* people at the Big 4 Caravan Park camp kitchen before they all set off home in their respective States. “One big, happy, *Dodgy* family”.

Geoff and I were so fortunate to have another couple from Young, Colin and Jeanette Harmer, as part of the team. Without their local knowledge our job would have been impossible. We also had so many other members helping in many other ways.

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NOVEMBER 2014 - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held on 12th November at Bargo Sportsground Hall – Meeting opened at 8.05pm

Present – 40 members **Apologies** – 6 [as per Attendance Book] **Visitors** - nil

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted as per Magazine.

Moved Bill Flegg; Seconded Bill Betts

Matters arising from minutes – nil

Correspondence In -

- 35 Magazines from other Clubs
- Flyers from Penrite, CAMS, Victor Harbour Swap Meet Feb 2015, Flyer from Shannon's,

REPORTS

Treasurer– Report given by President Michael Plummer in absence of Treasurer

Investment account matures on 17th December 2014 and request to reinvest. Report available for inspection. Moved – Alan Barker Seconded – Viv Cody

Events– John Glennon reported on the previous events and mentioned further discussion on Katoomba would be raised in General Business. John also reported on his journey to Perth by road and return by train.

Invitation from the Campbelltown Car Club to join them the 1st Tuesday of each month for a social run commencing from January 2015

See the events for coming events

Membership Application – No report

Plates Registrar – Nothing to report

Bargo Hall – M. Hickman reported no change

Librarian – No report

Editor – articles are sought for magazine. Send to Editor by email or post

Berrima Rally – Chris Knapman advised the planning was completed and club members are encouraged to register or at least indicate if they are attending.

Acceptance of the Reports – Moved - Phil Hughes, Seconded – Bill Betts

GENERAL BUSINESS

Berrima Rally – The future of this was discussed and will be considered again at the next meeting.

Other General Business

- John Glennon spoke about his confusion and putting diesel into the Mainline whilst away and the friendly gentleman who went home and got drums to drain the diesel and which allowed John to fill up with “PETROL”. He was very thankful that country people are so obliging and helpful.
- Reminder that the invitation to the ANSTO Christmas Party has to be confirmed by 14th November 2014. Contact Karen Lloyd
- Katoomba weekend away was enjoyed by those who attended. Due to lack of numbers this long-running annual event will be discontinued.
- Mal Salmond reported on the Dodge “4” Rally in Parkes.
- **Vale** – Robert Penn Bradly a member of the Cootamundra Antique Car, who was an Armstrong Siddeley owner and author of several books on the marque and wrote many articles for the Restored Cars Magazine on many topics.
- **Trailer News** – Shackles for attaching trailers to the towing vehicle have been highlighted recently. There are several ratings to match trailer weight and load.

The shackles must have a yellow pin and have the rating stamped on them.

NASTY FINES apply for having incorrect shackles - **\$250 for each incorrect one fitted.**

Raffle drawn and meeting closed at 9.35pm

Vale

David Manhart – past Club member who was happy to share his knowledge of cars with others – and also get his hands dirty helping with a restoration. There have been quite a few vintage vehicles that have had David's touch in helping them back on the road.

MORE KATOOMBA PHOTOS



FOR SALE – MEMBERS

ENCLOSED CAR TRAILER \$ 6,000 ono Single axle, electric brakes, electric winch, tailgate ramp. 2002 "DEAN". Low mileage. Tows well. Suitable for small car. Made for 1908 Renault roadster. Registered to August 2015. Plate no. P23144. Photos available
Bill Betts Mittagong 0429333769 or 02 48 711332.

**CARAVAN – 2010 AVAN CRUISELINER 2B Model “A Liner” pop-top
\$ 27,000 ono**

Low mileage – hardly used.(Tow car trailer) Full annex included. Electric brakes. Fits in standard garage. Assemble 1 minute. Lightweight (900 kg). Easy to tow and park. Fuel saver. Tow with most cars. Great standard features plus extras: stone guard, wind-out windows, microwave, external shower, solar panel, LED reading lights, caravan cover. Registered until December 2014. Plate no. W79925. Photos and details available.

Bill Betts. Mittagong. Ph 0429 333 769 or 4871 1332.

1929 BUICK Tourer (CCTVC Concourse Grand Champion)

It is with real regret that we offer for sale our 1929 Buick tourer due to ill health. "Annie" (short for Silver Anniversary) has travelled 27078 miles without missing a beat. Since winning the CCTVC Concourse (Grand Champion) she still looks great for her age. Inspect if interested. We are asking \$26,500.

Richard and Lillian Bates Ph 02 4680 9260

Photo below. More can be seen at www.buickclub.org.au/Photo_Gallery.php



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40th BERRIMA RALLY - 2015
Theme: “*Ruby*”

**Please note that the 2015 Berrima Rally will be
held on a different weekend to the usual.
It will be 21-22 February, 2015**

Register now!
Entry form in October, 2014 *Drive Chatter*
(available from Club website)