

# BCHAC

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**Newsletter Volume 16 Number 5  
June - July 2026**

# Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club

Was established in 2005 and offers members friendship, restoration advice. Our mid-week, weekend and annual events offer something of interest for all the family.

Meetings 1st Tuesday of every month except January.

BCHAC Inc, PO Box 687, Wonthaggi, 3995 Email - [bchaclub@yahoo.com](mailto:bchaclub@yahoo.com) | Website - [www.bchac.com.au](http://www.bchac.com.au)

**Visitors are always welcome.**

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
Keith Tonkin	Pat Kennedy	Brian Asbury
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	CLUB PERMIT SCHEME	
AREA	NAME	NUMBER
Leongatha	Colin Graham	0402 957 170 (CPS REGISTRAR)
Wonthaggi	Graham McBain	03 5672 4232   0457 158 760)
Wonthaggi	Brian Davidson	03 5672 2002   0429 722 002
Grantville	Tony Easton	0418 173 255
	SAFETY OFFICERS	
San Remo	Graeme Wagland	0408 996 627
Kilcunda	Jason Sach	0425 462 789

Safety Officers are able to sign normal renewal forms

## Front Cover

Colin Carter's 1938 Willys on his front lawn raedy to put on club plates.

### DISCLAIMER

The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc., its Officers and Committee cannot be held liable for any errors and/or omissions in articles, reports, notices, advertisements, comment and advice of events that are published in this Newsletter in good faith.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello members, I'm filling in this report while Keith and Sue are holidaying in Japan. Hope they are having an enjoyable time.

BBQ at Colin and Juanita's place, good fun had by all playing games and activities. But as Judy said at the meeting, the weather wasn't real good. Thorpdale was a great day with 32 cars and 5 motor bikes and lovely meals. Only downfall was Brian's car breaking down on the way.

I think the members are enjoying the variety of raffle prizes that Judy has been contributing. And thanks again to the girls selling the tickets. Every little bit helps towards running the Club.

Our guest speaker Laura at our last meeting was very interesting. The discussion was brought up regards to the scrutineering of our vehicles. We are required as a registered car club to assess the condition of each vehicle. A suggestion is that we hold a full day of scrutineering once we organise a team we will let members know in due course.

In finishing don't forget AGM in July and the Show N Shine on the 15th November.

Pat Kennedy Vice President

## FROM THE EDITOR

After a very successful 3 day motorcycle tour in April I may try and squeeze another multi day ride in before the end of the year, let me know your thoughts at a club meeting or the next time we meet.

The weather has turned over the last week or so and winter is upon us, a good time to check over our vehicles - tyres, brakes, lights and wipers. In preparation for our Marysville Tour I discovered that my left hand main beam wasn't working so it was off to AutoPro for a bulb, fixed before my coffee went cold. If we all do this now it will be good practise for when VicRoads brings in their new club rules.

On a sad note, for those who remember Trevor Thomas, past member, we sadly report that he died on 9th April after battling cancer for a number of years.

## WhatsApp

As you are aware messages are sent from time to time to all Members by me on the Club phone and in the past by Daryl Minter. As explained in the previous Newsletter and at the last General Meeting using Messages (the green one) is very restrictive, cumbersome and time consuming for me.

I have set up a BCHAC WhatsApp page to send out messages to all Members in a group format. WhatsApp is stand alone and easy to install on any smart phone, there is no need to be on any other social media, it is safe with content encrypted. I can assist you with installation if required. Once you have installed WhatsApp or you already have it please contact me on 0411 237 840 (my personal number).

I am heartened by the number of Members (85) who have accepted an invite to join WhatsApp.

While some Members will be using WhatsApp between family and friends or other groups as a 'chat' group. Our use is, as mentioned earlier, to send messages out to all Members as a group Please DO NOT REPLY to messages as every Member in the group will receive it. If you need to comment please contact me on 0411 237 840.

I thank you for your cooperation and patience and yes there will be hiccups along the way, we'll sort it as we go.

Brian Asbury Secretary

## General Meeting at Wonthaggi Golf Club 5th May 2026

**Meeting opened at** 8:15pm

**Attendance and apologies** As recorded

**Visitors** Nil

**New Members** Nil

**Guest Speaker** - Laura Corbett from Latrobe Community Health Services provided a very informative presentation on the services provided including Support At Home, Registering with My Aged Care, Assessment and Choosing a service partner (case manager). Health & Independence, Help around the home. Community connections, Information packages were provided to all members. Members asked a range of questions and showed their appreciation with applause. Keith offered the Latrobe Community Health Services a donation of \$200.00. Laura thanked Keith and gratefully declined.

**Minutes from the previous meeting** - Brian read the minutes from the April meeting

Moved Brian Asbury 2nd Peter Mattea Carried

**Business arising from the previous meeting** - Nil

### Correspondence

26/4/26 - Production Corp - Request quote for November 26 S n S PA system

30/4/26 - Quote \$1,100.00 received from Production Corp

Moved Brian Asbury 2nd Mark Richardson Carried

### Treasures Report.

Keith advised Dianne had been admitted to hospital today reason unknown. Brian provided the financial report.

Moved Brian Asbury 2nd Peter Mitchell Carried

Details of the financial report can be viewed by arrangement with Brian

### Reports—

#### Events

Judy commented on past events including the BBQ at Collin and Juanita Carter home with a disappointing attendance. Lunch at the Travellers Rest Hotel Thorpdale was a resounding success with 32 in attendance including five motorbike riders.

Judy spoke of upcoming events;

17th May - Marysville Weekend with Judy and

17th Caldermeade Farm on National Motoring Heritage Day with Peter Mitchell

Judy went on to discuss the annual October rally planned for Hamilton on the 10th October now Geelong due to distance and rising cost of fuel, members nodded in agreement. Judy to make further enquiries.

**Newsletter** Pete advised last date for submitting items for the newsletter was the 15th May. Pete requested members to submit items on anything of interest as he had little to include this month. Mark Richardson provided an update on progress with arrangements for the Show and Shine event.

**Membership** Yvonne - no new members.

### General Business

Keith commented, we don't get a lot of volunteers but Peter Mitchell put his hand up to research

club clothing. Pete enthusiastically put a lot of work into finding a supplier and pricing of a range of clothing for the club. Pete reported back suppliers indicated our club clothing was only available in black not blue. Committee accepted black for club clothing after which a small number of members arranged for club clothing. Keith thanked Pete for the work done on club clothing.

Keith went on to say black was not a club approved colour that blue was the minuted colour for the club. Keith took responsibility for the issue and apologised to Pete and the club. Keith advised, after further enquiries a supplier had been found who could provide clothing in blue. Keith went on to say as the club made the mistake he suggested the club buy back the black coloured clothing. Gail Asbury said it was ridiculous and a waste of club money as black and blue are very similar. Mark Richardson wearing black and Peter Mattea wearing blue stood beside each other, members commented there was little difference. Marj Wagland, after further discussion moved that club colours can be blue or black. Seconded Mark Richardson carried Keith advised, committee believed in addition to the \$200 donation to guest speakers organisations the club could make a larger donation to various needy organisations. Brian read a list of four organisations in Wonthaggi he will make enquiries with. David Dewar made the point any donation must go to assisting local people and not finish up in Melbourne. Brian said he agreed and will be included in his enquiries.

Keith suggested \$5000.00 pool drawn from the Show & Shine account, Interest from the Term Deposit account and the Club Number 1 account. To be discussed at committee.

Judy commented that interest earnings from the Investment account was always meant to be withdrawn and used for donations. Yvonne mention the Show and Shine event has not always made a good profit.

Keith commented the club should give back more to members such as a BBQ to be discussed at committee.

Keith advised he had discussed with VicRoads on their proposed changes to the CPS related to annual club scrutineering of CPS plated cars in the coming 4-5 months. Keith explained the onus will be on the club if CPS cars are involved in an incident and not had the annual club scrutineers check. Lots of discussion from the floor as to how all cars could be scrutinised one suggestion was to hold an annual BBQ where members could bring their car along for a team of club scrutineers to check. More information required from VicRoads before any action.

**Next Meeting** 2/6/26

**Meeting Closed** 9:15pm

### From The Secretary

A reminder the AGM is scheduled for the 4th August 2026 I urge all members to consider nominating for the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer positions or an ordinary committee member.

Appointment Of Proxy and Committee Nomination Forms will be mailed out to all members early July. Importantly, your completed forms must be mailed to The Secretary BCHAC Inc, PO Box 687, Wonthaggi, 3995 and received no later than 31 July 2026.

Brian Asbury

# THREE DAY YEA MOTORCYCLE TOUR

Day one, Tuesday 21st of April Peter Todeschini, John Hague, Colin Carter, Carl Seyfort, Neville Ham and myself left Gippsland in beautiful weather for morning tea in Healesville and to meet up with two mates from Melbourne. We made our way through Kinglake West, Flowerdale then onto Yea for Lunch. After lunch we headed for the Cathedral of Moto Guzzi 16kms south of Yea, where we were welcomed by Teo Lamers who over the last 25 years has built an amazing shed and filled it with over 200 Moto Guzzis from 1921 to the 90s. We spent over two hours wandering through three floors of Guzzis with Teo and his mechanic Wayne, a pleasant way to spend the afternoon.

We settled in to our cabins at the Yea Riverside Caravan Park (owner Rachel lives in Corinalla) and had an excellent pub dinner.



Day two, Colin and Peter T left for home early while the rest of us walked into town for a leisurely breakfast, on the road about 10:00 headed for Eildon, took the Jamieson road, after almost 60kms of switchback bends we stopped for a rest and take in the views. Mansfield for lunch on our way back to Yea we stopped at the Cheviot rail tunnel, a 200 metre long tunnel built in 1889 and was in use up to the 1970s. Back at the cabins we had a couple of pre dinner drinks then another great pub meal.



Day three, as we parked in the main street to get Breaky we noticed Neville's GS was spraying fuel over the engine, on closer inspection the high pressure fuel line had split in two places, the decision was made to fix after breakfast. After fixing Neville's bike we were behind schedule, instead of going to Marysville we headed strait to Healseville for coffee, we parted company with the Melbourne boys and took the scenic route (dirt road part of the way) to Neerim south for lunch. We got home mid arvo the weather was perfect all trip and a good time was had by all.

Peter Mattea



### Caught in the Act

Our president was captured on film relaxing a little too much at the Easter Display Day at Apex Park by Dianne Adams. Proof that our committee members do work hard, they can nod off anytime anywhere.

### GUESSING GAME



Can you guess who this Bass Coaster is? Bring your guesses to the June meeting, huge prizes for the correct answer. (or maybe no prize at all).

# LHD or RHD How did this come about

Ever wondered why some drive on the right while everywhere else drives on the left?

Australia is in a minority. Around 75 countries and territories drive on the left. The others drive on the right.

Was it ever thus though? Well maybe not. How did it come about?

**In the US;** early cars had the steering wheel on the right; same as us. Although they always drove in the right hand side of the road. This convention was a left over from the horse and cart era of the 18th and 19th centuries. Multi horse freight wagons drivers were known as "teamsters". They drove on the right side of the road to avoid oncoming traffic. Most were right handed so this was their "whip hand" and they used the whip to control the team of horses and sat behind the left hand rear horse. It held true in continental Europe where there were also heavy freight carts. Various US states enacted driving on the right side of the road. Pennsylvania in 1792, New York in 1804 and New Jersey in 1813 and there were others.

It's often said the US desire for a clear break from Britain encouraged the difference; anything but British! The US had gone to war with Britain twice although that's hard to imagine now.

Nearly all early US cars had the steering wheel to the right of the vehicle and drove on the right hand side of the road.

Henry Ford changed all that with the Model T. First sold in 1908. The Model T was the first volume produced car in the US to have the steering on the left. Ford's earlier models, the Models A,B,C,F,K,N,R and S all had the steering wheel on the right. Many people believe the Model T came quickly. But it actually took many iterations to get the formula right.

Other manufactures did not all follow Ford's lead immediately. The 3 famous early "P" luxury cars, Pierce Arrow, Peerless and Packard all had wheels on the right. Early cars were for the rich and often chauffeur driven. With the chauffeur sitting on the right he could more easily alight to the kerb and open the rear door to assist his passengers out of the car and directly on to the

side walk. Some owners specified RHD when ordering the car from the manufacture for this reason. Other cars followed suit eventually, Auburn changed in 1908 and Stutz built some RHD cars to order right up to 1922.

A lasting effect now felt in Australia is when US car makers contemplate making cars for Australia. The change steering requires substantial engineering hours and the economy of scale needs to be sufficient to warrant the cost. That's why some US cars don't make it to Australia.

Today the Virgin Islands remain the only part of the US to drive on the left.

## **Now turning to Britain.**

Historic reasons for driving on the left side of the road were knights on horse back needing a free right hand to use the sword. The British Highway Act of 1835 decreed keeping to the left on public roads. British carts were smaller with often only one or two horses in contrast to the American huge freight carts with 4 or more horses. They also had a dedicated driver's seat rather than

the simple bench seat the width of the cart.

The British adoption of left of road was adopted by former British Empire colonies with the exception being Canada. As listed below Canada changed to conform to the US gradually in the 1920's. Japan was a hold out. Although never colonised; they drive on the left.

Today, grey import cars from Japan have a ready market in Australia with the same geometry as Australia.

Some countries changed over.

These countries switch from Left Hand Traffic to Right And Traffic:-

Sweden, Iceland, Nigeria, Canada, Portugal and Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, China, Austria & Hungary, and Myanmar.

Canada changed over a period of time to match the US.

Sweden changed in one day in 1967.

Two countries changed from Right Hand Traffic to Left Hand Traffic:-

Samoa and East Timor to match Australia.

Robert Lavin



# Marysville Long Weekend 15th - 18th May

## DAY 1

The first group met up at Grantville- weather was a glorious 18c with little wind, perfect for our drive to the Healsville Beechworth Bakery for lunch. We met up with the rest of the group before continuing into Marysville Holiday Park. After settling in to our cabins some wandered into Marysville, admiring the various Autumn colours on display on the trees along the main street. In the late afternoon we all met in the camp kitchen for drinks and nibbles before going out to dinner, at the Duck Inn Pub. Everyone was relaxed and chatting about the events of the day and plans for the next day being a free to do what you want day.

## DAY 2

Another glorious day with members exploring the shops and surrounding area while a group of us including Bev, Jewel, Richard, Gail and myself drove to Stevensons Falls car park where we had a comfortable stroll to viewing platforms to see the impressive 84 meter cascading falls being one of the tallest falls in Victoria. Bev and Jewel drove back to town while Richard, Gail and myself chose to hike back to town along the track following the river a distance of four kms. The hike was not without its events, first we came across an inventor who was installing a water powered electricity generator in the river. Further along Richard yelled snake Brian jumped a mile into the air only to see the black snake disappear into the side of the track. Next while brushing our way through overhanging ferns Brian was attacked by a leach sucking blood from a finger tip, fortunately we bumped into a nurse, without delay she delved into her carry pack gave Brian a satchel of saline solution and band aids, ah the finger had been saved. Arriving in town we met other members in the bakery for lunch. We returned to camp later in the day meeting in the camp kitchen for BBQ dinner and sweets brought along by Bev, Judy and Gail. An absolutely fantastic day was had by all.



## DAY 3

The Sunday weather forecast was for rain, rain and more rain. We set off individually for our 40k. drive to the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum. It rained all the way. On arrival, the rain stopped and we were greeted by our host, Peter, who gave us an interesting insight into logging in the Rubicon Forest during the early part of last century. Originally there were many sawmills within the forest, but these were wiped out by a severe bushfire in 1938. Sawmilling was then



carried out on the land now housing the museum. He explained the reasons for various different rail line gauges, and the many different engines on display. Next was a train ride on a loop around the grounds with commentary at places. We were then invited to roam amongst the hundreds of items related to the historical logging activities.



Next was a bite of lunch in town and a very wet return trip back to base. The rain persisted but could not deter our enjoyment of

the evening meal at the local golf club. We were collected by the courtesy bus and treated to fabulous meals and returned by the bus, driven by the man we now recognised as the chef. We congratulated him on his cooking and his driving!



## DAY 4

Monday morning was home time and the rain held off while the cars were packed. We headed off for a damp and foggy drive over the black spur to meet at Healsville for a last coffee catch up departing in various groups to head home.

Many thanks to Judy and David for organising a great few days.

Thanks to our scribes, Gail & Brian for day 1&2, Jewel & Richard for day 3&4.



# CALENDAR

## June

2 <sup>nd</sup> June	General Meeting Wonthaggi Country (Golf) Club 7.30pm Dinner prior to meeting	
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Pub Run to Port Welshpool Lunch at The Rusty Gurnard, 85 Lewis Street, Port Welshpool at 12 noon (note that the Hotel does not open until 12 noon ) Morning Tea at Meeniyan if required	Judy 0419371441 Yvonne 0414590632
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

## July

5 <sup>th</sup> July	Autopro Monthly Get Together in car park in front of the Shop 4 Murray Street Wonthaggi 8.30am to 10am All welcome	FYI
7 <sup>th</sup> July	General Meeting Wonthaggi Country (Golf) Club 7.30pm Dinner prior to the Meeting	
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Yarragon Hotel 105 Princes Highway Yarragon Meet at Venue 12.00pm for lunch	Judy 0419371441 Yvonne 0414590632
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Motorcycle Run—details of route when you meet Meet at Fincher Street 9.30am for a 10a.m start	Peter Mattea 0421 832 858

## SUNDAY LUNCH RUN to TRAVELLER'S REST THORPDALE

April 26th was calm sunny day perfect to take the Chrysler out for a run. No designated coffee stop so we could take our time cruising along. We were greeted on arrival by smiling faces a very nice welcome & ushered into a separate room just for us. 32 club members, a really good attendance.

Sadly our Secretary didn't quite make it, the little Standard threw a wobbly, made a loud & ominous "bang" & Brian was forced to pull up on the highway. Several members pulled up to assist but this was obviously not a fixable problem. The RACV called, Brian & Gail & the wee car transported back to Phillip Is. Our commiserations Brian.

However the food was delicious, the service excellent. The hotel has a small distillery set up in the basement making Gin & Vodka. After lunch a few of us checked out the old general store across the road, a conglomeration of Op Shop & collectibles, plus a huge selection of craft essentials for those handy people. It was a great day, my thanks to everyone that attended. Judy Dewar

# Colin Carters 1938 Willys

My 1938 Willys started its life in Melbourne as a chassis with a Jeep 2.2 litre four cylinder motor, the body was made by Flood bodies.

First owner was Madge Laing's father, when he passed away she brought the car down to the Rhyll Store where it sat on the vacant lot next door. Every time I went past I saw the car dying, so asked Madge if she would sell it to me and I would put it in my dad's hay shed (an open front, dirt floor shed). This was in 1967 I was 18 at the time and paid \$20 or \$30.

Slow progress on the car while it was at the farm, later shifting to Franklyn Street Rhyll where it was fixed up, painted and full registration AX533 original plates from 1983. In 1987 I bought dad's farm and the Willys went back there, stored for another 16 years. Then in 2003 the Willys came with me to Lower Tarwin to be stored for another 23 years

Finally I've now done a part restoration to put on club plates and get her back on the road.

Colin Carter

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## FOR SALE

1995 Ford Eonovan Long Wheel Base. White Automatic No Power Steering. Registered to 15th September 2025. Engine No. FEZ 96704, Chassis No. JCOAAASGMESL1347 Registration SPK579 Mileage 281493 Price \$2000 please call Yvonne on 0414590632.

1946 Oldsmobile Ace series 66 sedan, Built by Holden between 1946 - 1948 Good condition, Colour is parkstonian green with Leather interior camel colour, Pearl steering wheel. 4611.9 miles on the clock. Price \$20,000 contact Bev Kurrle on 0447 123 318

1961 Vauxhall Cresta Two Tone Blue and White, all original condition except for a replacement exhaust. Top running condition on Club Plates. Engine Number PAX141553. Original purchase documents are available as is a 4-digit South Australian number plate (3887) \$14,000, call Brian 0356722002 at Wonthaggi

1970 MGB unregistered, chassis number J15211837, no rust, done little since engine rebuild \$18,000 firm. Call Allan Prentice on 0407 331 733



1975 Mercedes Benz 450 SLC V8 178,000 km, fitted with AMG wheels and original wheels come with the car, comes with RWC. \$23,000 negotiable, for further information contact Graeme Wagland on 0408 996 627



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