



Torque Talk

The Journal of the Milton Ulladulla Vintage & Classic Car Club

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Our Cover
Gary Whitwell and his
1977 TE Ford Cortina 3.3L GL Wagon

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Important Member Information Historic & Conditional Registration

The MUVCCC is part of the Historic & Classic Club Plates Registration Scheme. Registration of such vehicles is available to Club Members with vehicles which qualify for the scheme. Club Members with such vehicles must carry the "Club Event Program" while participating in club events. (Note: You can also download this to your mobile phone or access to the Club website event page.)

Key Points:

- 1. You must be a financial member of an approved Car Club**
- 2. You must also carry the Certificate of Approved Operation whilst using the vehicle.**
- 3. If you drive a modified vehicle, it is highly recommended you carry the appropriate Engineering Certificate.**
- 4. If you are using your vehicle for any other purpose, you must fill in your log book.** This must be completed before leaving your residence and vehicle use under the logging date is valid for that nominated date only.

Please note: It is your responsibility as Member to ensure that you are a Current Financial Club Member, otherwise you are deemed to be driving an **unregistered vehicle**.
All memberships fall due on 30th June each year.

Club Merchandise

Club merchandise can be ordered through: -
 Hip Pocket Workwear & Safety
 7 Hughes Street, Batemans Bay NSW 2536
 Ph 02 44726990.
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 Website:
<https://batemansbay.hippocketworkwear.com.au/>

Should you have any questions, please contact Tom Taylor (VP & Merchandise Officer) who will be happy to assist you.

Puzzle Solution: Dreams

For Sale: 1963 MGB Roadster MK1 Manual Black \$30,000 Negotiable



This vehicle is in outstanding condition. The bodywork is perfect with no rust! Mechanically, this car is very reliable and runs well with a strong motor.

Overall, the MG is in very good condition for a 60-year-old classic. She doesn't miss a beat and comes with hood cover and tonneau cover. Located Burrill Lake NSW.

Note: The vehicle is on historic plates which are not transferrable

Contact Dave

Ph: 0402 862 724

email: davecath1@optusnet.com.au



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Message From the President

Hi All,

On the 12 March we held our General Meeting at the Ex-Servos Club at Ulladulla at the new time of 10.30am. It was a great success with the new venue proving to be very popular. Most importantly,

we had a great turn out with over 30 members attending, so we will probably keep this format as it seems popular.

Geoff and Bev are continuing to run some great events, and Wheel Nuts is attracting some new members. Our Coffee Runs are also doing well, but it would be nice to see a few of the new members at these events.

The Sussex Inlet Show & Shine was a really great day with over 205 entries! Several members were in attendance and they did really well at the show. In fact, 3 members took home trophies!

I would also like to remind members that at the upcoming AGM in July, 3 positions will become vacant as each of the current Office Bearers will be standing down.

The positions are: -

President, Secretary and Events Organiser.

I would like all members to have a think about who they would like to nominate for these positions or perhaps consider standing themselves. Please let any of the Committee Members know if you have any suggested nominees, would like to nominate yourself or would just like more information. Each member of the Committee would be very happy to assist with any questions.

Thats all for now!

Cheers

Colin

President - MUVCCC



Club Event: Sussex Inlet Show & Shine – 6 April



Photos by Jane McLennan

The Sussex Inlet Show & Shine had a perfect day with 15 club members making the trip. In fact, 3 of our club members were appointed as judges, being Club President Colin Spicer, Public Officer Roger Guest and long time member Graham Sawyer – but any “conflicts of interest” were carefully managed.

Our President, Colin Spicer reports from the Sussex Inlet Show & Shine:

“What a great show with 205 cars & bikes on display! Our Club had a great day with new member, Steve Thomas taking out 1st place sedan with his EK Holden. Long standing member, Graham Sawyer saw his Overlander taking out “Best Vintage” and “Shannon's Choice Car of the Show”. But that’s not all!! Alistair Bennie completed the trifecta by winning “Judges Choice” with his gleaming Mustang!” Congratulations to all!!



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Membership Renewal Time!!

Dear Members, It is time to renew your membership in the MUVCCC for 2025/2026. You will be pleased to know that Membership Fees remain unchanged from last year and are as follows:-

Annual Membership Fees 2025-2026:

Member + Partner + Children 16 & under

Just a single fee will apply for all =>\$45

Magazine—Print Version with postage =>\$10

Magazine – Download =>Free

See the renewal form enclosed in this issue of Torque Talk & attached to our email distribution.

The renewal form can also be downloaded from the club website at the following link:

[www.muvccc.org.au/files/Renewal%20form\(2025-2026%20Web\).pdf](http://www.muvccc.org.au/files/Renewal%20form(2025-2026%20Web).pdf)

Payment: The required payment method is by

Direct Transfer to Horizon Bank:

BSB: 802-124 ACCOUNT: 112835

FOR REFERENCE: PLEASE QUOTE YOUR NAME AND MEMBERSHIP NUMBER so as the Treasurer can identify your payment.

Also, remember to send an email with your renewal to:

Treasurer@muvccc.org.au to let Vicki Weir(Treasurer) know you have paid.

Alternatively, members can attend Horizon Bank in person and make payment into the club bank account.

ENSURE YOU ADVISE THE BANKING OFFICER OF YOUR NAME & MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AS REFERENCE FOR PAYMENT and advise our treasurer.



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Note: Rearettfully, direct cash payments will no longer be accepted for payment of fees due to administration requirements. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

We would like all renewals to be paid by 30/6/2025. Remember, if your vehicle is on historic/classic plates, it is a requirement that you are a financial member of an approved car club, so you need to complete your renewal & payment by 30/6/2025 to ensure your vehicle meets registration requirements.

Thank you for your support in 2024/25 and we look forward to a another great year of "Having Fun."

Club Member Ross Bell has Renewal licked!




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Member Story: "Let's Ride the Banana Boat"

Gary & Diana Whitwell share their story and a special 1977 TE Ford Cortina Wagon



Di & Gary with their Banana Boat!

Gary & Diana Whitwell are long term members of the MUVCCC, regularly participating in club events. In 2024 Gary sold his 1977 Ford Falcon Panel Van, a pristine example and the only one in the colour "Satin Spruce". So the hunt was on for a new vehicle and it had to be a wagon - that was Gary's key requirement.



The 1 of 1 - 1977 Satin Spruce Ford XC Panel Van

In September 2024, he found the perfect example, a 1977 TE Ford Cortina 3.3 Litre with just over 80,000 *genuine* kilometres during its 47 years of travels!! (That's about 1700km a year!) So, the question is, what was Gary doing for the last 47 years before he found his *perfect wagon*?

Gary grew up in 1950s/1960s in the suburb of Sylvania in southern Sydney. He developed an interest in cars quite early and the family home often had "dead cars" that were "works in progress" on the front lawn. The first car was a '65 Ford Falcon Wagon (brown with white roof), followed by project 2, which was a '69 VF Chrysler Valiant Ute. Before this purchase home, his Dad said "You're not buying it and bringing it back here to sit on the front yard!" But of course, Gary did and promptly parked it down the side of the house...a sort of a compromise.

Gary resprayed the Valiant Ute a metallic blue and had it for a number of years. However, as a qualified electrician, company cars became his primary source of transport, so

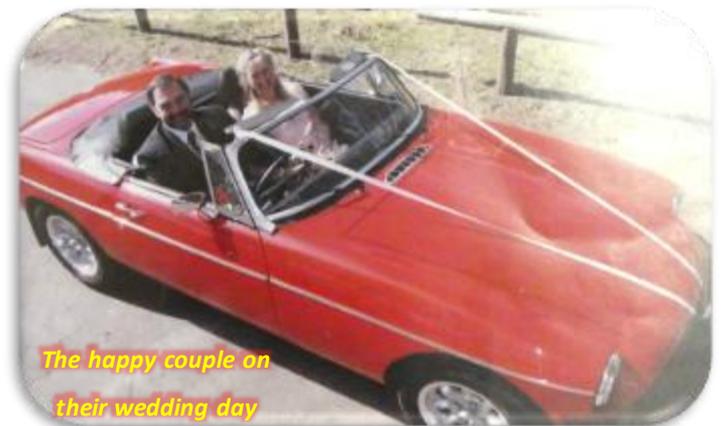
the vehicle was sold and his "restoration skills" were placed into long-term deferment.

During the 1970s, Gary moved to Lismore for a year where he observed the "Plimsoll Line" on the side of the home he was living in. It was something that stuck in his mind and during the 2022 Lismore floods, he saw the house on TV, observing that the plimsoll line was mostly hidden by flood waters. Clearly, flooding of the Wilson Rover is a regular occurrence in Lismore. However, after a year's stay (and remaining dry!) Gary returned to Sydney working for a company called Building Services.

In the 1990s, Gary and his 1st wife moved to the Shoalhaven where he continued his work in the electrical trade, being poached by competing firms and finishing his career with Gordon McDonald Electrical Wholesalers.

Following the dissolution of their marriage, Gary was fortunate to meet Diana. She shared Gary's love of older motor cars and the couple were married in 2000. They chose that year because it is easy to calculate years of marriage at each anniversary and this year the couple celebrate 25 years together!

Prior to their wedding, Gary & Di had restored a red MG-B over the preceding 12 months, including the rather arduous & delicate task of windscreen replacement. They decided that MG-Bs will be the wedding cars despite their rather compact size. The couple were intrigued when the photographer brought along a step ladder on the wedding day. However, the artistic results are displayed in the photo below of the couple in the MG-B bridal car.



The happy couple on their wedding day

Diana is quite a special lady, spending her career in aged care. This is a physically and emotionally challenging vocation, however, by 2017 the time was right for Diana to retire, whilst Gary became a "retired sparky" in 2020. The couple shared a home in Wandandian, but after the 2019 bushfires, they chose to move away from heavy bushland to a beautiful home in Sanctuary Point.

Whilst Gary is an electrician by trade, he is able to turn his hand to most things' vehicle related. Diana is also handy with the spanners and enjoys getting under the hood to assist Gary. Neither are professionally trained but happily

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undertake panel beating, spray painting or mechanical repairs. It sounds like a match made in heaven!

After 13 years of ownership, the MG-B was sold. The couple then purchased a 1971 Ford Fairmont sedan. This vehicle was stripped back to the shell and a full restoration was undertaken. Gary was very proud of this vehicle, but the inevitable occurred - a buyer appeared and demanded that Gary sell the vehicle to him. Gary initially ignored the demands, but for 18 months the prospective buyer was relentless and eventually, offered (in Gary's words) "A stupid amount of money" and so, the deal was done and the Ford Fairmont went to a new home.



The '71 Ford Fairmont underwent a full restoration

Reviewing Gary's car history it quite enlightening. His restoration projects have included a Toyota Corolla, Ford Escort MkII, another Falcon Wagon (described as a Basket case!), the Red MG-B, a 1982 Ford Falcon Ute, which Gary bought after it lost an argument with a garbage truck and a very brave decision to take on a Range Rover...which went like a rocket but had "wall to wall" electrical issues – a special feature of UK cars. Unfortunately, the Range Rover experience left Gary traumatised! (It must have been bad...remember, Gary is an electrician!)

Gary and his brother, Brenton took on the restoration of a late '70s Nissan Patrol MQ4WD. After working on it one day, the pair felt the vehicle was progressing well so Gary left his brother's place to take the Nissan home. His father was also assisting in the restoration and was following just behind. All seemed fine, then suddenly, from under the bonnet there was a "rattle rattle" noise followed by an almighty "Ka...Bang!!!!" Gary coasted to a halt to the side of the road to assess the situation. His Dad pulled up shortly afterwards... after dodging the oil slick and (rather large) remnants of the engine strewn across the road. In fact the engine detonation left a rather large hole in the floor of the Nissan. After reviewing the situation, Gary's father (who rarely swore) quietly approached his somewhat perplexed & distressed son and quietly offered his summary of the damage – "I think it's XXXXXXXX!!!"

After the Nissan, Gary purchased a couple of Ford Panel Vans, one of which was for parts to help fix the other. Gary also restored a Ford XC sedan, but it was a slow process.

Gary lost enthusiasm for it, but it was eventually completed and it became quite a bit of fun. He arranged for a Gymkhana and allowed people to drive the XC with smiles all round!



The Ford XC - a work in "slow progress"



The Ford XC 5.8 Litre "Gymkhana Special!"

Gary's interests also extended to motor cycles, which included a 2007 Triumph and a prize winning 1976 Kawasaki 900. The photo below does not do the Kawasaki justice - It is absolutely stunning!



Gary's motor bikes, with the Kawasaki 900 in the foreground

Gary's passion for motor vehicles is apparent as he works on restoring older cars to outstanding condition. In fact, a restoration of the Ford Panel Van he completed appeared in the TV mini-series "The Last Days of the Space Age" and both the white XC sedan and panel van appear in the series.

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The vehicle is totally standard, although Diana does hope they can install air-conditioning one day, otherwise, the car is for winter use only. The radio is the original AM radio. Diana claims she has become very knowledgeable as the only thing they seem to pick up is the ABC! Gary plans to find an upgrade that looks "period correct" to provide a few more options! Gary also inspected the spare tyre and found that it was from 1981! (Yes...it has now been replaced.)



1977 TE Ford Cortina GL Wagon AKA "The Banana Boat"

The previous owner clearly did not have children as the rear upholstery is perfect. In fact, the only wear Gary found was a minor "wallet imprint" in the driver's seat from the original owner! All the carpets and headlining are original and the engine bay immaculate.



The immaculate interior

Since taking ownership, Gary has only experienced one problem. When applying the brakes one time, they became "locked on". When he explained this issue to the mechanic, the problem was quickly diagnosed. The mechanic had extensive experience in Fords. The mechanic removed the master cylinder and completed a small pin adjustment. The mechanic explained the pin was set "too high" and with heat, the expansion resulted in "locked brakes". A simple fix, but nothing can replace experience!

When a neighbour saw the Ford Cortina in the driveway, they quickly christened the car the "Banana Boat" and presented Gary & Di with a sticker for the car that now proudly adorns the rear screen. Di admitted she prefers a colour that is less conspicuous, but Gary loves the bright colour.



So when I asked Gary, what makes the Ford Cortina so special? He immediately responded – "It's a wagon!!" and then added that the Cortina is original, in great condition, the provenance and *it's a bit different!*



The Cortina at 47 Years Young!!



Gary & Diana celebrate 25 years of marriage this year and are ready to set sail in the "Banana Boat" for many more years together!



My thanks to Diana & Gary for sharing their time, hospitality & their story - DJ

Club Event: Wheel Nuts – March 2025

As members looked at the grey sky, many debated as to whether to bring out their precious vehicles. Fortunately, the rain held off and 37 members made the trip to catch up with one another, whilst the public enjoyed the variety of vehicles on display. Kelly Webb brought her freshly painted Gemini Panel Van, whilst Neville Story had his magnificent 1949 Diamond T Truck.



Ol' Bob, Nick and Morrie were ready in case the sun appeared



Nev's magnificent 1949 Diamond T Truck



Kelly Webb's resprayed Gemini was a showstopper!



Brian & Joe conduct an audit on Nev's fleet. Nev replied "It was like that when I got it!"



If we smile nicely, maybe the photographer will go away?



Greg brought out his 1935 Ford pickup



Geoff modeling with Ian's 1974 Cadillac Fleet... in his unique way!



Stephen Edwards' 1966 Mustang looked brilliant



Quick - Hide the evidence! There is a dog under there somewhere...but all was OK!!

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Club Event: Wheel Nuts – April 2025

A perfect Autumn day greeted the 30 or so members who were able to attend this month’s Wheel Nuts. The Sussex Inlet Show & Shine was also on, so members were spread across both events. We had some magnificent vehicles on display including the 1934 Packard 1100 owned by Neville Storey together with Bob Wilson’s 1937 Railton Claremont DHC making its “Wheel Nuts Debut” to the delight of all. Members had a great day catching up and admiring the vehicles, while Yvonne showed off her new set of wheels! Members had a great day catching up and admiring the vehicles, while Yvonne showed off her new set of wheels!



Bob's 1937 Railton makes its Club debut



Stephen's '49 Ford Prefect alongside Darren's '67 Mustang



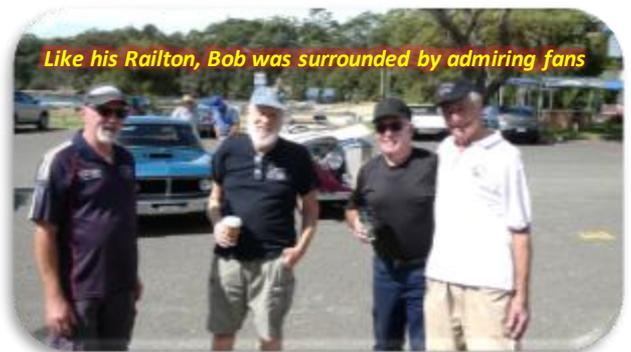
Railton admirers!!



Yellow really suits the Corvette



Neville's Packard 1100 looked brilliant!



Like his Railton, Bob was surrounded by admiring fans



Julie's XB GT Falcon was looking fantastic



Yvonne shows off her new set of wheels! Fortunately, it's only temporary

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Club Event: Coffee Run - Saltwood Café Kiola

On the 19th Feb, 17 members made the trip to Kiola to meet at the Saltwood Café. Whilst the day was overcast, the rain held off and all enjoyed a variety of meals from the breakfast menu, with Bacon & Egg rolls being a popular choice. The café also has a variety of housewares and clothing items which proved popular with some of the ladies. A great morning had by all who were able to make the trip!



Julie has her cake...and is about to eat it too!



Cathy & Debbie enjoy a great chat!



Some of the club vehicles that made the trip!



Cholesterol??? Dunno what your talkin' about!



Dave chairs the Secret Men's Meeting!

Club Event: Coffee Run - The Big Red Bus

Photos courtesy Joe Bowdler

The 19th of March provided a perfect autumn day. 12 members from the Club made the tour to "The Big Red Bus" for morning tea and a browse around the property...including the plant nursery.

By all accounts, members had a very pleasant morning and enjoyed catching up on all the usual subjects!



What an orderly group of club members and nice colour coordination too!

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Community: Arcare Retirement Village

Photos courtesy of Stuart Lockard & Geoff Cooper

In 2024, the MUVCCC was invited to provide an “historic driving experience” to the residents at the Arcare Retirement Village. Arcare approached us again and about 15 of our club members responded to the call, bringing along their Classic & Historic vehicles to give residents a trip into yesteryear. I’m sure the experience brought back fond memories for some of the elderly members of our community. Club Member Ken Tyquin said “It was great to see the residents having a great day with big smiles. It was really worthwhile participating.” Thanks to all members who were able to support this Community Event and bring some fun to the folks at Arcare!!

***The pictures speak for themselves - What a great day!!
Thanks to all who were able to support Arcare!!***



Club Event: Lunch at Nelligan

Photo & Story courtesy Joe Bowdler

The 9th of April was a perfect day with 16 members making the trip to beautiful Nelligan for lunch. However, there was a rumour that past President Tom Turner and his wife Helen were also in town. After some frenzied activity on the mobiles, Tom & Helen were tracked down. They made a grand entrance (in Joe’s words) arriving fashionably late! Best of all, Tom was looking great!



***Tom & Helen Turner
make their
Grand Entrance!***



Members enjoying great conversation!



A Perfect Day – even better if you had a convertible!

Member News

On 12 March 2025, the Club held its General Meeting at the Ulladulla Ex Servos Club, with 36 members in attendance. A great turnout for our new venue & time. Thanks for taking the time to attend the meeting. As a result of this success, our next General Meeting will continue to be held at:

Ulladulla ExServos Club

At 10.30am – 14 May 2025

New Members

The MUVCCC is pleased to welcome new members to the club:

Jason & Lisa Glover

David Martyn & Renate Jaeger

Christopher & Yvonne Perrin

Ron & Heather Thomson

We hope you enjoy the camaraderie and become a regular participant at club events. *It's all about "Having Fun!!"*

Vale - Geoff Starkey

It is with much sadness that we advise of the passing of Geoffrey Starkey. Geoff (Member 199) was well known for his fondness of everything MG and he will be sadly missed.



The club extends our deepest condolences to Nicole.

Thoughts for members who are unwell

If you know members who may be unwell, please reach out to our Welfare Officer, Viv Burns so the club can provide some support. Her contact details are on Page 3.

Registrar Update

Our Registrar, Joe Bowdler has reported that the MUVCCC has **235 vehicles & 200 members as at the Mar 2025.**

*Don't forget, members should also ensure the appropriate **Certificate of Approved Operations** is with the vehicle (or a copy) at all times. We have been advised that many vehicles are being checked by police and they will immediately look for this document.*

Opportunity Knocks!!

Be a part of the Club Committee!

Our **Club President, Colin Spicer, Club Secretary, Jane McLennan and Events Director, Geoff Phillips** have all been providing amazing support to our Club and the activities we undertake. However, they have said it is time for some new ideas to be introduced to the Committee and they will not be standing for their respective positions at the Annual General Meeting in July 2025. **So... Opportunity Knocks!!**

These are all volunteer roles and do not take up too much time. They also provide a great way to really get to know our club members, whilst supporting & influencing club activities.

If you are interested in joining the MUVCCC Committee, contact any member of the Committee who will assist you in detailing the role. The only requirements are that you are interested in supporting **our Club**, to deliver on the club motto of "Let's Have Fun" ... and the technical requirement of using email!

Importantly, successful nominees will also spend time with the current Office Bearers, who will provide a "handover" and support, as will all existing Committee Members.

So be a part of the team, nominate for a role and support the success of the MUVCCC!!!

Lastly a very big thank you to Colin, Jane and Geoff together with their partners, Dawn, Alan and Bev who have provided tremendous support to the Club over the last few years!!

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Coffee Break Time!

Ferrari has a long and storied history. Many of us grew up hearing this legendary name and watching the famous cars race in Formula 1, Lemans and so many other events. Very few brands have such a loyal following, yet few of us can ever afford to own one.

Find the words listed below to reveal the solution from the remaining letters after all other letters are crossed off. (See page 2 for the solution)

Ferrari – A brand that gets many a-heart racing!

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E	C	R	R	E	N	Z	O	I	R	A	R	R	E	F
M	H	O	E	R	E	T	K	C	E	H	C	S	S	E
A	U	L	G	F	O	E	M	O	R	A	T	C	R	A
N	M	O	G	O	D	I	N	O	L	A	U	A	O	A
S	A	M	E	R	T	R	M	F	R	D	A	T	H	N
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R	R	T	P	A	A	A	M	O	Y	E	H	I	C	F
R	Y	N	U	O	N	P	Y	N	T	C	C	L	N	N
E	L	O	S	N	E	S	T	A	O	A	R	R	A	I
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A	T	I	G	T	O	A	D	U	A	L	B	B	P	I
L	I	D	S	T	M	A	R	A	N	E	L	L	O	P

Solution Hint: An option for many?

Alfa	GTO	Racebred
Ascari	Italy	Red
Barchetta	Jano	Romeo
Berlinetta	LaFerrari.	Scheckter
Daytona	Lauda	Schumacher
di Montezemolo,	Le Mans	Scuderia
Dino	Maranello	SPA
Enzo	Mille Miglia	Superleggera
Ferrari	Modena	Testarossa
Ford	Myth	Todt
Fiat	Pininfarina	
Formula One	Prancing Horse	

A Bit of Fun

My New Year’s resolution was to read more...so I enabled “Closed Captions” on my TV

A Teacher said to his class “George Washington not only chopped down his father’s cherry tree, but admitted it! Why didn’t his father punish him? One young student replied “Because George was the one holding the axe!”

A duck is standing next to a busy road. Cars are zooming past while he waits for a break in the traffic. A chicken walked up to him and said “Don’t do it man! You’ll never hear the end of it!”

If robbers ever broke into my house to search for money, I’d just laugh and search with them!



“Attack of the Great White Editor”
 This photo is courtesy of Club Member, Les Whale who insisted(!!) it should be included on behalf of all members who have had less than ideal photos taken by your editor!!

If you have a story or photos you would like to share (or any other feedback) please write to me at: editor@muvccc.org.au - Thanks *DF*

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Upcoming Events

Please consider our event organisers. If you wish to attend an event, please advise the Events Director of your participation as soon as possible, so as we can cater for all attendees - Thank You

Month	Event
May	
Sunday 4 th 10am – Wheel Nuts	Wheel Nuts - Ulladulla Harbour - Meet 10am. Note: BBQ Cancelled VEHICLE REGISTRATION - The Registrar will be available
Wednesday 14 th 10.30am	General Meeting – Ulladulla ExServos Club.
Sunday 18 th	National Motoring Heritage Day Berry. Email the Events Director events@muvccc.org.au (Geoff Phillips) to reserve your spot
Wednesday 21 st 9.30am – Depart Milton	Coffee Run Cudmirrah – Cuddys Café - Leaving Milton
June	Note: Membership Fees due by 30 June 2025
Sunday 1 st	Wheel Nuts, Ulladulla Harbour - Meet 10am -12noon VEHICLE REGISTRATION – The Registrar will be available
Wednesday 11 th June 9.30am – Depart Ulladulla	River Cruise and Lunch – Batemans Bay – Leaving Ulladulla 9.30am
Saturday 21 st	Static display at Holiday Haven Caravan Park Lake Conjola Holiday Haven will provide sausage sizzle.
July	
Sunday 6 th 10am – Wheel Nuts	Wheel Nuts, Ulladulla Harbour - Meet 10am VEHICLE REGISTRATION - The Registrar will be available
Sunday 13 th	Christmas in July and 2025 AGM - Holiday Haven Lake Tabourie Lunch provided by MUVCCC – BYO Drinks – Donation Cancer Council VEHICLE REGISTRATION – The Registrar will be available on this day
Wednesday 23 rd 9am -Depart Milton	Coffee Run Berry – Venue TBA Leaving Milton 9am opposite BP Garage

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