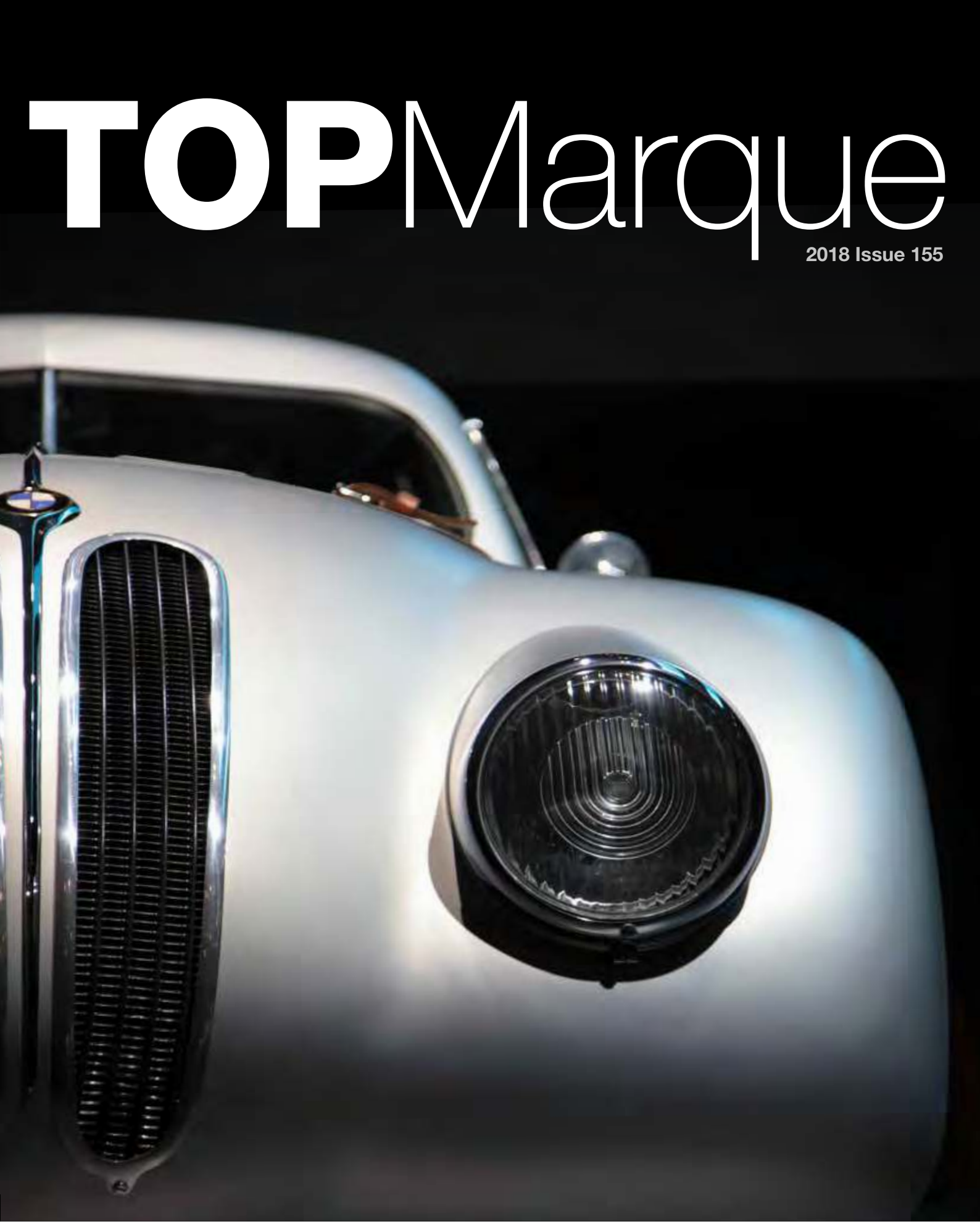
TOPMarque

2018 Issue 155



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Silver BMW 328 Mille Miglia

From the President

I wish to thank all of the committee and club volunteers for their tireless work and hours they devote to the club and personally for the support of myself in getting things done. Since April we have conducted over 30 varying events attended by our members across Victoria.

Also thank you to Steve Richards as patron of our club and for your continued support of our club. Congratulations on your results on track with Team SRM in the M6 and especially your Bathurst win even though not in a BMW!

The committee has been working on lots of the "housekeeping" and this is still underway. We are streamlining the backend of the club workings to reduce administration and workload of committee members. The other main benefits are to build in redundancy and transparency of the club's processes and systems to allow for easier succession and management for committees and the club into the future.

The club is in a great position with a strong membership base with a wide variety of BMWs new and old tucked up in member's garages and sheds across the state. Our activities are supported by a sound financial position. I also thank all my fellow members for supporting and being part of our great club.

I do encourage all members to get involved in our club in whatever way you can whether big or even in a small way just helping at a single event.

I am very excited about 2019 and that BMWCCV will be hosting the BMW Clubs Australia Nationals here in St Kilda in Easter 2019. Tony Whelan, Rod Smith and the Nationals Committee have put together a great program which ensures to be a fantastic 4 days.

Finally I wish to thank everyone who attended the recent AGM. It was with great pleasure I announced our award winners for 2018 at Meeting. Congratulations to:

Member of the Year 2018 – Val Smith
President's Award 2018 - Tony Whelan
Motorsport Champion 2018 – Simon Lynne

Have a safe and fun Christmas whatever you are doing and look forward to seeing you in 2019.

Message from the Editor

Welcome to Edition 155 of the Top Marque rounding off a great year for the BMW Car Club of Victoria in 2018. I am really looking forward to working on the 4 Editions for 2019.

Don't forget to check out pages 16 and 17 for the full program and booking details for the BMW Clubs Australia Nationals hosted by the BMW Car Club of Victoria over the Easter Weekend 19th to 22nd of April 2019 in Melbourne.

There is also a very entertaining story of one member's epic journey of collecting and tinkering with classical BMWs on pages 24 and 25 that should not be missed.

My sincere thanks all those who contributed stories, articles and information for this Edition. If you a good story to tell, an interesting article or just have some good ideas to talk about please do not hesitate to contact me.

Safe driving everyone.

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What's On

Date	Event	Location
2019		
Sunday, 13 January 2019	Cars & Coffee	Fairfield Park Boathouse
Sunday, 10 February 2019	Torquay Motor Show Car Display	Torquay
Monday, 11 February 2019	Members Meeting	Essendon BMW
Sunday, 24 February 2019	RACV Classic Car Display	Yarra Glen Racecourse
Sunday, 10 March 2019	Phillip Island Historics Car Display	Phillip Island
Wed-Sun, 13-17 March 2019	Australian Grand Prix Car Display	F1 Grand Prix
Sunday, 31 March 2019	Cruise and Lunch	Mystery Destination
Monday, 1 April 2019	Members Meeting	Zagame Autobody Westmeadows
Fri-Mon, 19-22 April 2019	BMW Clubs Australia Nationals Hosted by BMW Car Club of Victoria	Novotel St Kilda
Sat-Mon, 8-10 June 2019	Silo Tour	Wimmera

Please refer to www.bmwccv.com.au for further event information and registration. Registration for all of our events is essential (unless otherwise stated), Please ensure that you register for any event you wish to attend.

If you would like to help in running any events, would like to run your own event or have suggestions for any events, please contact us: events@bmwccv.com.au.

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Jeff Murdock, the Vice President,
shares his **exhilarating** experience of
his first ever Hill Climb event at Rob Roy.

Written by Jeff Murdoch.

It took a lot of convincing on my part for Barb to get up very early on a Sunday to get to scrutineering at the Rob Roy Hill Climb event at Christmas Hills.

We arrived at the course at the same time as Sheryl and David Lumb, so Barb helped them set up the new Club Marquee. In the meantime I took everything out of the boot, screwed in the tow hooks, clipped in the harness, put my helmet on passenger seat and then lined up for scrutineering. Everything was OK except that I had to purchase numbers and put them on the car.

As this was not only my first time at Rob Roy, it was also my very first hill-climb, I took the opportunity to follow an official car up the road as a "sighting run"

The time between runs gave us plenty of opportunity to chat with the BMW Car Club of Victoria members who came as "emotional support" for the competitors including myself for the "Come and Try" event.

The weather was perfect, plenty of sunshine and although it wasn't hot, we were all glad the marquee was there to provide welcome shade.

My group was called into the marshalling area, and as I walked to the car Barb gave me a "vote of confidence" by saying "don't crash".

Whilst waiting and trying to visualise my run, all of a sudden – there I am on the line with a green light.

Mmmm that first corner arrives very quickly, the dip then bottoms out the suspension and compresses my spine about half way through the seat. Almost immediately onto the apex of the first left hander, then the next, over crest and onto the brakes to stop before the tyre barrier. Turned off the track and onto the return road realised I had completely missed seeing the screen with my time.

Marshalls stopped me about half way down, to let the next competitor fly across the bridge and up the hill. I was then waved on, drove back across the bridge and turned into the pits.

Parked, checked tyre pressures, extracted my spine from the seat and wandered over to see my time on the screen at the "octunder" By the way, this is where the MG Car Club were cooking up a feast for breakfast and lunch.

Wandered around the pits admiring the diversity of cars, specials and competitors.

Clearly the great majority of these had been "up that hill" many, many times over the preceding years.

My socialising was interrupted by the next call for my class. In the marshalling area adjusted the seat to hopefully reduce impact on spine and made "note to self" try different line to see if there's less dip.

Green light, full noise off the line this time, geez that first bend arrives even quicker, through the dip (that's better less pain) suspension didn't bottom, hell there's the tyre barrier, on comes the ABS.

That felt faster, but was it really? Bugger missed the display again.

Parked, checked tyres, checked time and time to socialise over lunch.

There were 4 runs scheduled for the day and as everything ran like clockwork we were offered a bonus 5th run. I decided this was an opportunity to try launch control, which I have never used on this car. Green light, right foot flat, slide left foot off brake, and wow!

I enjoyed the experience so much I lost concentration and proceeded to stuff up the line, into the first corner. So I decided to just cruise up the hill and savour the experience.

We packed up the marquee, put all the stuff back in my car and headed off for more socialising at a members house that's about 10 minutes from the track in Kangaroo Ground.

On the drive home, Barb told me she enjoyed the day, the weather was great, the company was great, those who drove all had smiles on dials, but it was a very long day.

Although I prefer track days, I enjoyed the day and the challenge. My times improved each run, which is the name of the game. It's not to be faster than anyone else, it's to enjoy the day, learn and improve.

Then again maybe improving was relatively easy from my original slow start !

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A wonderful day at the Geelong Revival on 25 November 2018

Written By Tony Whelan

It was time to bring out the M Coupe again to put on display with the BMW Car Club of Victoria's display at the Geelong Revival. It is certainly a great day for the "Petrol Heads" among us. Even Santa made a visit this year and I had to take the opportunity to ask him to leave the keys to the white M4 under the Christmas tree on Christmas Day, which is only just around the corner.

I know it is a big ask, however, I do consider myself very lucky, as I actually did have the opportunity to drive this particular car all weekend. Many thanks to Phil Curran at Geelong BMW for the loan of the white M4 plus the new red X4 that feature in the photos of our Club display. My neighbours were certainly very impressed with the speed, looks and sounds of the M4.

The Geelong Revival is certainly worth putting on your Motoring Calendar each year as it has a mixture of speed events, car, motorcycle, boat & caravan displays and period fashions thrown in for a good measure of events. The BMW Car Club of Victoria has a great location on the paved area beside the Carousel Building which has plenty of pedestrian traffic passing all day. Many thanks to fellow club member, Andrew Henshall, in obtaining this area for us many years ago. Also, many thanks to all the club members that rose early to get to the staging area on time. We certainly had a wide range of BMW cars on display this year and it was great to see some of the rare Touring models.

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In August 2018 I was lucky to attend the Monterey Classic Car Week with two friends. After picking up car parts in LA for our respective restoration projects it was off to the Monterey Peninsula south of San Francisco to join 85000 plus other car enthusiasts from around the world to indulge in 9 blissful days of old car nirvana.

The week consisted of twenty plus events including two historic race meets on consecutive weekends at the Laguna Seca race circuit, six classic car auctions run by USA and European auction houses usually selling around US$420 million worth of cars. Last year the average car sale price was US$417000.There are car shows all over the peninsula catering to all needs, from the Pebble Beach concourse arguably the most prestigious car show in the world to the Concours d'Lemons as the name suggests a show for the worst cars in America.

Some of the highlights of our adventures included attending the races at Laguna Seca on the first weekend then a visit on Monday to Canepa Motorsport that turned out to be a fantasy facility for fellow car nuts like me. It included a restoration business for classic and racing cars, a race car museum and a showroom where exotic and classic cars are sold. Among the owners collection was a superb BMW M1 road going pro car which was apparently one of four built for BMW management in Germany.

Tuesday we were off to the village of Carmel, south of Monterey, a town that was put on the map when a chap by the name of Clint Eastwood who was elected mayor in 1986. If I can use his famous line of "make my day" well it made our day. Lined up on the main street of Carmel were the cars of the Carmel concours. A Stunning array of classic cars from the pre and post war eras. Included were a number of BMW's among dozens of rare European and American exotica. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better it did when 12 or so race cars from Laguna Seca were driven down to Carmel on public roads with a police escort. Can you imagine that happening in our nanny state, I don't think so, there are some good things about USA for sure.

On Wednesday we attended an Automobilia Expo at a Monterey Hotel ballroom and and viewed some superb

“Heavenly”

visit to **Monterey Classic Car Week**

enjoyed by lucky member Nigel Logan

Written by : Nigel Logan

cars at RM Southerbys auction house. The star car was a stunning 1962 250GTO Ferrari and it would find a new home on Saturday night for a new auction world record of US$48 million. No problem if you couldn't afford that there were plenty of nice classic cars for under US$10 million!

More car lovers fun was had during Thursday with a concours display in Carmel and on Friday we were dragged along by my friend who is a Porche nut to visit the Porche Club of America Concours with 800 cars on display in the car park.

British TVs personality Mike Brewer from the show Wheelers & Dealers was guest speaker who gave an entertaining presentation of his life.

It was then onto to an event called Legends of the Autobahn a concours/show for BMW, Mercedes and Audi. BMW America had the yet to be released M 850i on display it is apparently going on sale at Xmas but parked next to it was a stunning previous generation svelte 850csi making the new example look somewhat frumpy. They also bought along a mint M1. Being a Z1 owner it was nice to see the Michelin sponsors award an Alpina Z1 Car of the Show. There were other great cars including a number of mint E9 coupes,2002s including some factory turbos, several E30 M3s, E24m6s, a very nice 1968 Glas BMW 1600GT and my favourite a mint E30 M3 with a 340bhp M88 motor shoe horned into it.

Saturday it was off to Laguna Seca race circuit for two days of racing which turned out to be my highlight of the week. Just wandering around the pits amongst some of the worlds finest race cars covering all eras with no restrictions on where you could go was magic.

The downside to the Monterey Car Week is the large number of events that clash so getting the most out of your stay requires a lot of planning and racing around.

A very popular **Members Meeting** held at the **stunning new home** of **Brighton BMW** on 1/10/18.

Written by Liza Weatherall

This event proved very popular among members and with numbers being limited to the first 50 it was first in best dressed.

Upon arrival our BMW Car Club of Victoria Members were warmly welcomed by Andrew McGillivray the General Sales manager and enjoyed a lovely spread of delicious hot and cold finger food and drinks served up by the lovely staff at Brighton BMW.

The new showroom had on display a huge range of beautiful BMWs including an exclusive BMW M Section home to the most high performance cars and areas showcasing the most luxurious of the BMW models including BMW 7 Series and the revolutionary BMW i8. Lucky members were free to wander around the showroom among the beautiful cars and I am pretty sure that I saw more than one member mentally adding a stunning new BMW to their wish list.

Guided tours of the purpose-built service workshop that features the latest in diagnostic technology and an impressive 26 service bays were next on the agenda. Members could also observe a 360 tour of a vehicle in one of the interactive service and consultation bays.

Matt Draheim, our President, announced that following negotiations with BMW Corporate all members of the BMW Car Club of Victoria would now be able to enjoy the considerable benefits of the BMW Corporate deal. BMW Corporate is a great way to lower the cost of ownership and enjoy exclusive benefits with the purchase of a new BMW.

Andrew McGillivray from Brighton BMW also announced that BMW Car Club of Victoria Members purchasing a new car with them would receive complimentary BMW scheduled servicing for 5 years/80,000kms on any new BMW purchased and delivered before 31/12/2018.

What great benefits for any Member in the market for a shiny new BMW.

Congratulations to Dave, a brand new member attending his first event for winning the lucky door prize.

Many thanks to all the staff at Brighton BMW for hosting our BMW Car Club of Victoria Member's Meeting and for donating the wonderful door prize.

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2017 BMW Trophy

BMW Quiz

Just for a little something different, test your BMW knowledge on the quiz below.
Answers to follow later in the magazine, but no peeking!!

1. Which BMWCCV member won best BMW in Show at the August 2018 German Auto Show?
2. Who did the BMWCCV's patron, Steve Richards, co-drive with to win the Bathurst 1000 in the October Supercars Championship?
3. In what car did Steve Richards and Michael Almond finish 7th in the Australian GT final at Hampton Downs in New Zealand in October 2018
4. Which Australian BMW Club was the first club to initiate and negotiate access to the BMW Corporate program that offers impressive benefits and discounts for members?
5. Where was the Members meeting held in October that was so popular there was waitlist of registrants?
6. Where was the Parma for a Farmer night held to raise money for Aussie farmers?
7. Who was waving the chequered flag at Winton in July during the BMWCCV and BMWDC NSW interclub events?
8. Members met at Essendon Fields BMW dealership before cruising to what luncheon event?
9. Driver training events and Come and Try days in 2018 have been held at Winton, Sandown, Rob Roy and Phillip Island and where else?
10. Where did Members congregate to watch the VACC Centennial Cavalcade pass by down the main street of Bendigo?
11. Which children were rather chuffed about winning their age category in the BMW Colouring in Competition?
12. Who organised the Queen's birthday long weekend at Port Fairy and the Melbourne Cup Long weekend cruises, accommodation and dinners?

Compiled by Sheryl Lumb

BMW Car Club of Victoria
put on another great display at the annual

Motorclassica Car Display

held over the weekend of 12-14 October 2018

Written by Rodney Smith

Once again we had 15 of our eager members polish up their BMWs for this years “Club Sandwich” display at Motorclassica 2018 - Australia's premier and only international, classic motor show and Concours d'Elegance held at the prestigious Royal Exhibition Building in Melbourne over the of weekend 12th – 14th October.

The display format changed this year, requiring cars to be placed in the display from Thursday through to Sunday afternoon.

After meeting at a nearby location on Thursday afternoon, we proceeded to the nominated display area at our allocated time, well most of us did except for a few that were temporally lost in traffic!

After juggling all our BMW’s into position, tickets were collected, and those fortunate enough to have the time, attended the VIP event that evening.

With the cars on display for 3 days, (in a dusty gravel car park), I congratulate those intrepid few members who visited each day and polished their cars to maintain their display.

For all those members that attended, I’m sure it was an enjoyable event and the opportunity to view all the fabulous machinery inside at the Concours d'Elegance is definitely something not to be missed!

I thank you all for coming along and participating in another successful BMW Car Club of Victoria event.

As always, drive safe and enjoy your ‘Ultimate Driving Machine’.

BMW Clubs Australia
Nationals 2019
Newsletter

Easter, Friday 19th April to Monday 22nd April 2019
All Clubs Australia Members and Families are invited to join us at Novotel Melbourne St Kilda, 16 The Esplanade, St Kilda.

ACCOMMODATION:

Please note accommodation is required to be booked directly through the Novotel on **(03) 9525 5522** during business hours and state that you are part of the BMW Nationals 2019. Alternatively log on to the Novotel website at **https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1506-novotel-melbourne-st-kilda/index.shtml** for specials that may be available. As it is Easter, bookings should be made as soon as possible to secure your room.

REGISTRATION:

Introductory presentation can be viewed at **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZAGWPHqMIE**
Registrations for the Nationals can now be made at **https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/2019NATS**

CHECK-IN ON THE EASTER WEEKEND:

Will open from approx. 2pm on the Friday - Meet the Nationals Organising Committee, grab your welcome pack and have a look at what St Kilda has to offer. Plenty of secure parking on site with trailer parking available.

FRIDAY NIGHT MEET AND GREET COCKTAIL PARTY AT NOVOTEL ST KILDA.

Cocktail Party: We ask that most participants arrive in time for the opening meet and greet scheduled to commence at 7pm. It's a great opportunity for you to get to know the other attendees (many coming from Interstate). Canapes will be provided at $35.00 and drinks will be at bar prices.

SATURDAY SHOW OF EXCELLENCE AND MOTORSPORT AT SANDOWN RACECOURSE.

Show of Excellence: Do you love to show off your vehicle? Well we have been fortunate enough to secure the area around Sandown Racecourse to host our Show of Excellence event. Commencing at 10am the judges will walk through the criteria and start the show! Prizes will be awarded to the category winners at the Sunday night presentation dinner.
Entry is only $10.00 per car so it's well worth entering!

MOTORSPORT MANIA!

That's right, BMWCCV are excited to announce that Sandown Park Circuit, "The Home of Horsepower" will be all ours for the day! More details are to be released about the day, but for $275.00 you can have a ball (Please note Motorsport regulations do apply). We may be able to offer Pace Car Laps during the day.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER AND RIDES AT LUNA PARK.

Saturday night you are in for a treat. The Committee has arranged for a night out at the famous Luna park at St Kilda! Only a short walk from the Novotel, enjoy a buffet style dinner at $55.00 at Luna Park followed by reliving your childhood with an unlimited ride package at $25.00.

SUNDAY TOURING EVENT THROUGH THE TREE LINED HILLS OF THE YARRA VALLEY.

Touring Event: A couple of options for today. An earlier start for those wanting to travel a bit further on a spirited drive or for those that want to go at a slower pace, a later start and a shorter trip to our luncheon destination at the RACV Country Club at Heasleville. Cost for lunch will be $50.

SUNDAY NIGHT PRESENTATION DINNER TO BE HELD AT THE FAMOUS MCG.

Sunday night it's time to party. The formal presentation dinner is set in the Jim Stynes room at the iconic MCG, included is a tour of the National Sports Museum, a 3 course meal and drinks at $120.00. Prizes, presentations of awards and we expect to party on well into the night.

MONDAY STAYER'S BRUNCH AT THE NOVOTEL ST KILDA OR SELF-DRIVE OPTION ALONG THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD.

Stayer's Brunch. For those that are not in a hurry to get on the road we have arranged a relaxing morning at the Novotel St Kilda where we can catch up and say our final goodbyes. Brunch is at own cost.

Great Ocean Road: The Great Ocean Road is an iconic road that hugs the southern coastline of Victoria! You can travel this famous piece of tarmac at your leisure as a self-drive option.

We look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in 2019!
Start your registration process at https://www.ivvy.com.au/event/2019NATS
If you have any questions please send them to nationals@bmwccv.com.au

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Some great candid photos of

BMW Car Club of Victoria

members enjoying a relaxed meal together at
the Members Meeting held on 3 September 2018
at the lovely **Anglers Tavern Hotel in Maribyrnong**.

A quick coffee at Shannons

Written by Paul Weatherall

Members attending the BMWCCV Cars and Coffee morning on 15/9/2018 at Shannons braved the cold conditions and enjoyed a sneak preview of the fabulous cars on offer at the next Shannons auction

The day started out promising weather wise but had certainly taken a turn for the worst by the time we arrived at Shannons. The wind was blowing a gale and then it started to rain so members rather than "shoot the breeze" and discuss their rides outside made a very quick entry inside. The lovely staff at Shannons also organised for the coffee van to be pulled into the building as it was so cold I am pretty sure no one would have ventured outside to get their coffee fix.

It was great to see so many fellow members and BMW enthusiasts had braved the weather to come along to enjoy each others company while having a bite to eat and a lovely hot cup of coffee and to talk about their rides.

Thanks Tony for organising this interesting event for all to enjoy.

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Great weekend enjoyed by many members at the at **Hepburn Happenings & Daylesford Drives**

on the Melbourne Cup Long Weekend 3-6 November 2018.

Written by Kevin and Sonia Flynn

As we arrived at the BP on the Calder Hwy, our designated meeting place, we were full of anticipation & excitement for what would be just our second outing with the club. Terrific roads, Targa stages, wineries, great food and the sensational views and environs of Daylesford & Hepburn Springs awaited. Many thanks to Elyse Grimsey from Essendon BMW for the supply of the bags and lifestyle products for the trip.

After driving through some fine country and enjoying morning tea at Mt Macedon we made our way to the campsite of fellow members Di and Gary Grenda on the banks of the Loddon River for our lunch.

Di had spent the morning cooking up a fantastic feast for us all. How she cooked such fine cuisine in a camp oven for over 20 people remains a mystery, but the food was fantastic.

We said our goodbyes to Gary & Di to make our way to our home for the next 4 days, the lovely Bellinzona Resort in Hepburn Springs. With stunning gardens, gorgeous period décor and great views over to the Wombat State Forest, it was the ideal place for us to stay. Dinner that evening was enjoyed at the Hepburn Hotel.

The next day was packed full of adventure with forest walks, local markets, train rides and visits to the day spa all on offer. We also enjoyed a very interesting tour and a delicious lunch at the Daylesford Convent Gallery.

After lunch we headed to Shepherds Flat on the “roads less travelled” or as they would say at the convent, a “path to enlightenment”. As usual, Tony had chosen terrific roads that were interesting and engaging and tested our driving ability.

We stopped for afternoon tea (yes we are eating again) and a tour at the local cricket ground and museum filled with sporting memorabilia and home to Cricket Willow, the only facility in the world where visitors can witness the fascinating process of cricket bat manufacture from “bud to bat”.

Dinner that evening was at Rubens across the road from the Bellinzona. A beautiful restaurant serving great food and great local wines.

The next day started with a blast through the goldfields of Maryborough and Maldon.

Lunch was at the famous Maryborough Train Station. It is a glorious place with beautiful early 20th Century

architecture. Such a grand structure for a relatively small Victorian country town got us all to thinking "why such a grandiose station". Rumours abound that this station may have been slated for Maryborough in QLD rather than Maryborough VIC. Surely a Government bureaucrat couldn't have got this so wrong!

After lunch we took in some fantastic views from Mt Tarrengower then on to Creswick and a tour and afternoon tea at the Creswick Woollen Mills.

Dinner that night was at the Bellinzona in the magnificent dining room. Drinks by the fire later was a chance to relax and reflect on a great day and to spin a few more yarns.

On Melbourne Cup Day, following our delicious breakfast, we made our way through the thunder and rain to a stopover at the Herbal Lore Liqueurs and Distillery. These folks have found a way to mix herbal plants used in herbal medicine with alcohol.

With a glow in our cheeks from the gin and liqueurs, we headed through the forest and across the Upper Coliban Reservoir, through Kyneton and to the Glen Erin at Lancefield for our Melbourne Cup Lunch.

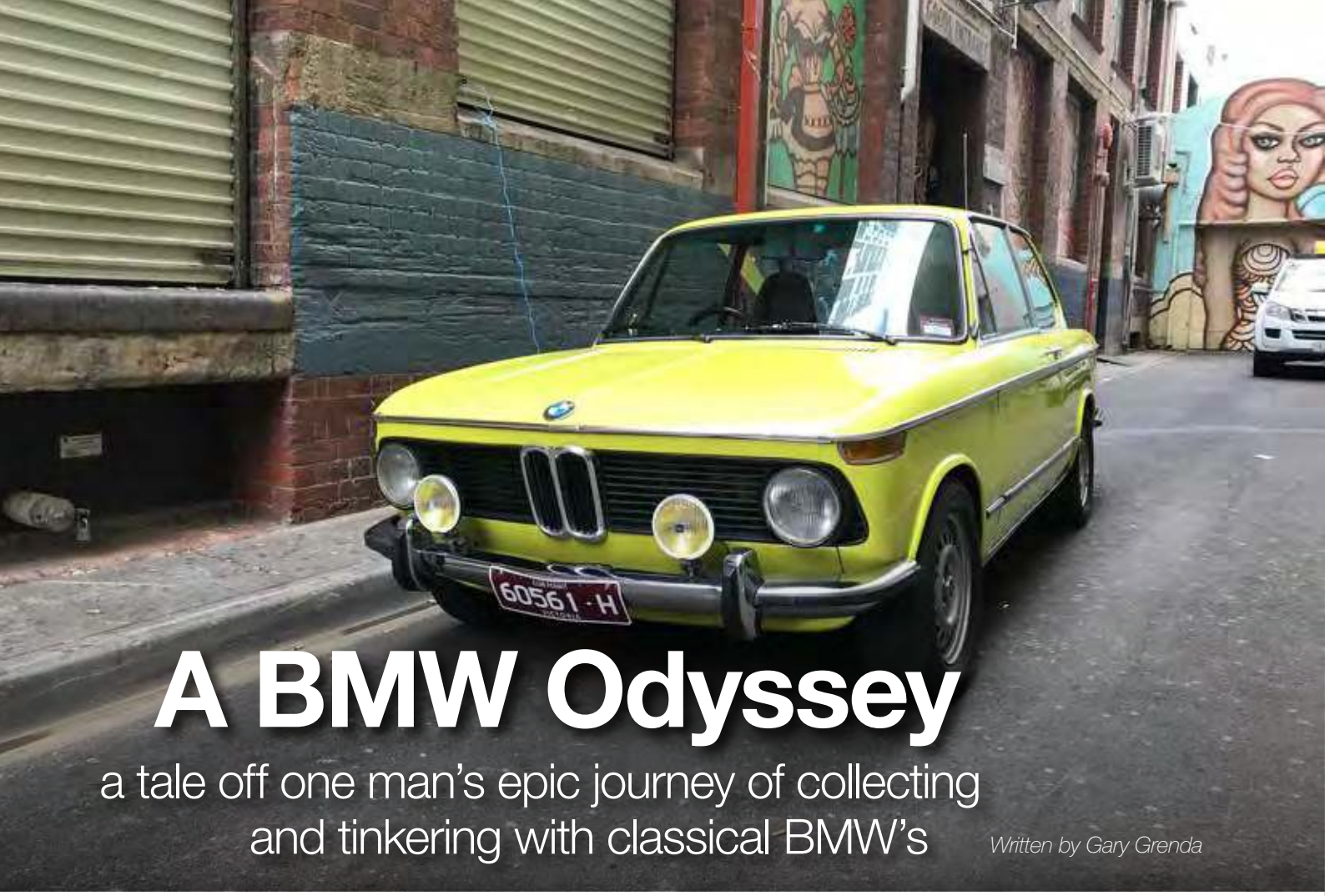
Following our delicious feast, congratulations went to Karline Merlino for Best Dressed Lady, Jeff Murdoch for Best Dressed Gentleman, Jeff & Barb Murdoch for Best Dressed Couple and to Sheryl Lumb for the Best hat/Fascinator.

Prizes were also awarded for the sweep with Peter Chaly taking out the win.

Tony Whelan has hinted at a trip through the Victorian High Country this time next year. If it is half as good as this trip, it will be a trip to remember.

It was an epic journey and a wonderfull trip. Tony has again outdone himself and we have him to thank for all the fun times and wonderful memories.

With Mt Macedon in the rear vision mirror and the skyline of Melbourne CBD in front of us, we were sad to know the trip has come to an end, but look forward with anticipation of the next epic trip and most excellent adventure.



A BMW Odyssey

a tale off one man's epic journey of collecting and tinkering with classical BMW's

Written by Gary Grenda

Back in 2003 I bought my first BMW, after first playing around with a few Holdens and a Mitsubishi Evo of all things. Originally when I first saw the E36 M3 at the Melbourne Motor Show back in 1993, I knew one day I would buy one. It took a whole 10 years but the wait was worth it. The E36 M3 Evo had good power, used moderate amounts of fuel but the chassis balance was what seduced me the most. I was hooked instantly. I have a rather bad habit of tinkering with cars and this was no different. The M3 ended up with a few chassis modifications and an expensive set of Schick cams. I had it for a few years and then decided that it was best to test the car's ability on the racetrack which led me to the BMWCCV.

It certainly was enjoyable to drive the M3 on a track without the fear of Victoria's finest traffic police. I began to wonder if the other models were as nice to drive as the M3. A tidy E28 come up for sale, a humble 535i auto and my oldest son was 17 at the time so some money changed hands without permission from my wife (which set the template for further purchases, sorry Di). It went pretty well, perfect for a learner. Well, I thought so but unfortunately he sold it as soon as he had his licence for a Holden v6 Ute with a loud exhaust much to my disgust.

Track days were going well in the M3, it lasted 3 years, until one fateful day at Phillip Island #5 piston decided to punch a hole in the block at about 220kmh on the main straight. It so happens that this was the first time that my lovely wife Di came down to watch. This is where my BMW ownership took a bit of a twist.

Not long after this tragedy I saw a nice looking M635csi on eBay in Sydney, so I took a bit of a punt, rustled some cash together and then downloaded an auction sniper as the bidding was to end at 2am. I thought I had no chance but low and behold in the morning my bid was the winner. Planning and logistics aren't my thing, so after some head scratching after my initial excitement, I realised I needed to organise to pick it up somehow. It was bought sight unseen, no battery. So it was off to Sydney with a car trailer.

The car was originally LHD, and had been converted but the owner had lost interest. I rigged up a spare battery and it turned over but didn't fire. The car was clean underneath and had only 90000km on it. Got it home and off to the mechanics for a once over, some new fuel, oil, and the crank sensors were disconnected, plugged them in and she fired up nice and made all the right noises. This set the template for future ownership of BMWs. Buy them cheap with good bodies which need some mechanical sorting. It was handy being in BMWCCV as it was about the time the club rego system was revised. It's a great system making the old classics more affordable for running costs. With a generous 90 day window for driving you can use your classic car more often which keeps them running nicer.

Next purchase was a humble E34 525i manual, a sweet car but it needed some power. It was nice and clean and someone offered me some cash for it and for some strange reason I sold it much to Di's delight. Unfortunately there was a spare spot in the driveway so I picked up this extremely cheap E23 735i. The heater wasn't working and after getting it fixed I know why it got sold, the heater was a major job, but living in the Dandenong ranges it was not possible to use a car with no heater. I was seduced by the full buffalo leather and the high comp M30. Is a bit of an old man's car but has a nice turn of speed when needed and got me to the BMW Nationals in Brisbane and back with no mechanical preparation.

The bug for a well sorted E34 was still there when a friend, who was moving overseas to chase girls, had this Daytona Violet E34 540i, which was already converted to manual, supercharged, with upgraded brakes etc. It ran well but was inconsistent and needed further developing, perfect, another project. A deal was done pretty well on the spot.

I drove it around for about 12 months, but it needed sorting, the usual BMW electrical gremlins like no starting when hot and being not intercooled. It would go really hard then heat soak would build up to the point where the boost was almost ineffective. A plan was sought to develop it to its full potential, but this proved to be a long drawn out process which took an agonising 3 years or so. It's about 95% there now, and it's been developed to a point well beyond what I thought it would be. I didn't set out to build an E85 sucking 500+bhp monster initially. There is something intoxicating about the centrifugal supercharger. It's like adding hot chilli to something and rather than turbocharging, it adds to the noises rather than dulling them.

This brings me to my other totally random purchase. A little 2002 come up for sale that again had some mechanical issues which people had thrown money at with no cohesive plan it seems. It had the right running gear, with dual webers, S14 crank and already converted to a 5 speed manual. Being Golf Yellow it rather stands out. After putting some more compression into it (10:1), installing a new dizzy and tuning those glorious sounding Weber 45's, it's now an enjoyable car to drive. You can push it pretty hard without the speeds getting ridiculous.

So yes, my driveway can be a little congested at times when all the cars are home. Having now it seems a fleet of older BMWs, my involvement has changed from the straight out racing more to doing car cruises in the countryside at a more leisurely pace, with the odd trip away. It's good to go with like minded people, where car chat is there but not overdone. Everyone is very friendly in the club and they like the odd beverage which is fine by me. You also get to see parts of Victoria that you normally wouldn't see.

Having moved to the path of older BMWs people often ask my opinion of the newer ones. I do quite like the E92 M3 and the E60 M5 (if it came in a manual even more so). The direction to turbocharging, will take time to get accustomed too but the latest pair of M2 and M5 competition models it now seems that BMW are on the right track. At least you know with a modern BMW that it will handle well even if the soundtrack is not as it used to be.

It would be nice for BMW to go down the path of a bespoke affordable light weight sports car. Reading the reviews on the c/1100kg Alpine A110 shows that you can develop a sports car with a turbocharged engine that is fun to drive without throwing ridiculous power at it. We can only dream I guess.

So there you have it. Cars are a big part of my life but it's all about trying to strike a nice balance. I've probably overcooked it a little on occasions. I can't see any random purchases in the short term future. Perhaps I should look at selling some of them but it's kind of hard to let go of any especially if you have put some sweat and tears into them.

Another fantastic Midweek cruise to Korumburra

Written by Stewart Adam

The hills are alive with BMWs …. well, Julie Andrews didn't quite sing that …. But on Thursday 18 October, the hills near Korumburra certainly were filled with the hum of Beemers, as a group of BMWCCV members headed off from the BP Service Centre at Lyndhurst to lunch at the Austral Hotel in Korumburra. Wisely, we had a start time that gave those coming from around the Bay and elsewhere to miss much of the peak hour traffic. The threatened rain held off during the cruise and only gave the cars a splatter as we left lunch.

After motoring through new estates in suburbs such as Clyde, the group made its way to a leisurely morning tea at Koo Wee Rup Bakery. This stop saw some of the group hit the antique shops in Koo Wee Rup.

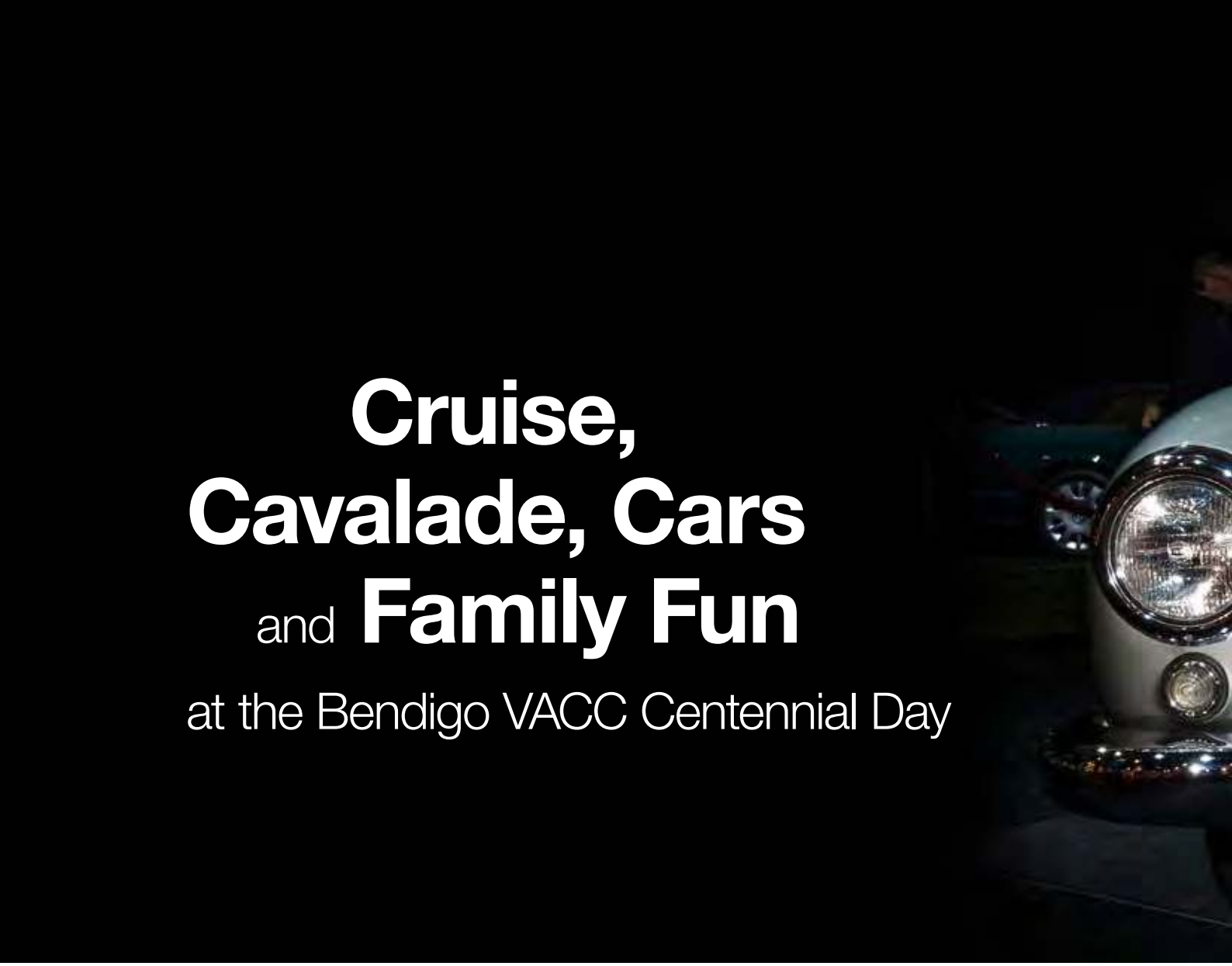
The cruise then meandered through Lang Lang, down McDonalds Track (yes, it is a track in name only, and nicely sealed), on to Nyora and from there to Korumburra and lunch at the Austral Hotel.

The cruise was notable for the fact that the group included members new and old to the Club. This meant that both groups could swap yarns and talk about upcoming events.

All in all, it was a short midweek cruise that was much enjoyed judging by the smiling faces over lunch, and the many positive likes and comments on the BMWCCV Facebook page.

Cruise, Cavalade, Cars and Family Fun

at the Bendigo VACC Centennial Day



The sun was out early, as were the BMW Car Club Members and enthusiasts from all makes imaginable. The weekend was in celebration of the founding of the VACC back in 1918 with an amazing show of 100 vehicles from 100 years.

After setting off up the Calder Hwy, we had a quick stop at Kyneton, and then a scenic cruise along the skinny back roads through little known towns and into Bendigo. A shout out to my husband Gary, whose driving expertise saved his little 1974 (2002) from being wrapped around a kangaroo. I'm sure the flat spots on the tyres are a small price to pay!

A lovely morning tea was held at BMW Symes dealership in Main Street Bendigo, who opened up their beautiful showroom to allow us to see some of the latest cars for sale.

The day was hosted by enthusiast Shane Jacobson, who apart from his humour, was surprisingly knowledgeable and seemed to enjoy every minute.

Some were there to join the cavalcade, some had their cars on show, others just enjoying the time and love that people have put into their cars over many years.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR ME INCLUDED:

- 1923 Single Door Fiat Gentleman's Roadster
- 1927 Rolls-Royce Phantom 1
- 1969 Aston Martin DBS Vantage used in the James Bond movie On Her Majesty's Secret Service
- 1947 Rover P2 Sports Saloon featured in The Dressmaker
- 1932 Chrysler Imperial owned by gangster Legs Diamond
- 1968 Holden Dealer Team HK 327 GTS Monaro with Bathurst history
- 1994 HSV GTS Mobil P Brock 002

There were also plenty of Toranas and Mustangs but my favourite for the day was a 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL 'Gullwing' (see photo above).

After wondering around admiring all the amazing cars, we shared lunch and a cold beer with our friends from the BMW Car Club of Victoria at the Foundry Hotel in Bendigo.

A huge thanks to Rod Smith for organising the day. Being able to see the evolution of 100 vehicles was amazing. Well done Rod.

Written by Di Grenda

BMW Quiz Answers

1 Which BMWCCV member won best BMW in Show at the August 2018 German Auto Show?

Keith Olsen with his stunning CSl

2 Who did the BMWCCV's patron, Steve Richards, co-drive with to win the Bathurst 1000 in the October Supercars Championship?

Craig Lowndes

3 In what car did Steve Richards and Michael Almond finish 7th in the Australian GT final at Hampton Downs in New Zealand in October 2018

BMW M6 GT3.

4 Which Australian BMW Club was the first club to initiate and negotiate access to the BMW Corporate program that offers impressive benefits and discounts for members?

BMWCCV of course in October 2018 thanks to Paul Weatherall

5 Where was the Members meeting held in October that was so popular there was waitlist of registrants?

Brighton BMWs new showrooms and workshops

6 Where was the Parma for a Farmer night held to raise money for Aussie farmers?

Angler's Tavern in Maribyrnong

7 Who was waving the chequered flag at Winton in July during the BMWCCV and BMWDC NSW interclub events?

Our President Matt Draheim

8 Members met at Essendon Fields BMW dealership before cruising to what luncheon event?

Christmas in July at Bacchus Marsh

9 Driver training events and Come and Try days in 2018 have been held at Winton, Sandown, Rob Roy and Phillip Island and where else?

Bentleigh RSL Conference room!

The Performance Academy driver training briefing and audio visual presentation was held in doors!

10 Where did Members congregate to watch the VACC Centennial Cavalcade pass by down the main street of Bendigo?

Symes BMW dealership in Bendigo

11 Which children were rather chuffed about winning their age category in the BMW Colouring in Competition?

They all were! Ben (12), Shaila (10), Mia (6) and Penny (3).

Thanks for the letters of appreciation from parents and grandparents.

12 Who organised the Queen's birthday long weekend at Port Fairy and the Melbourne Cup Long weekend cruises, accommodation and dinners?

Our tireless Events coordinator Tony Wheelan – as well facilitating numerous other fantastic events ably assisted by and or organized by many other helpful BMWCCV committee and members.

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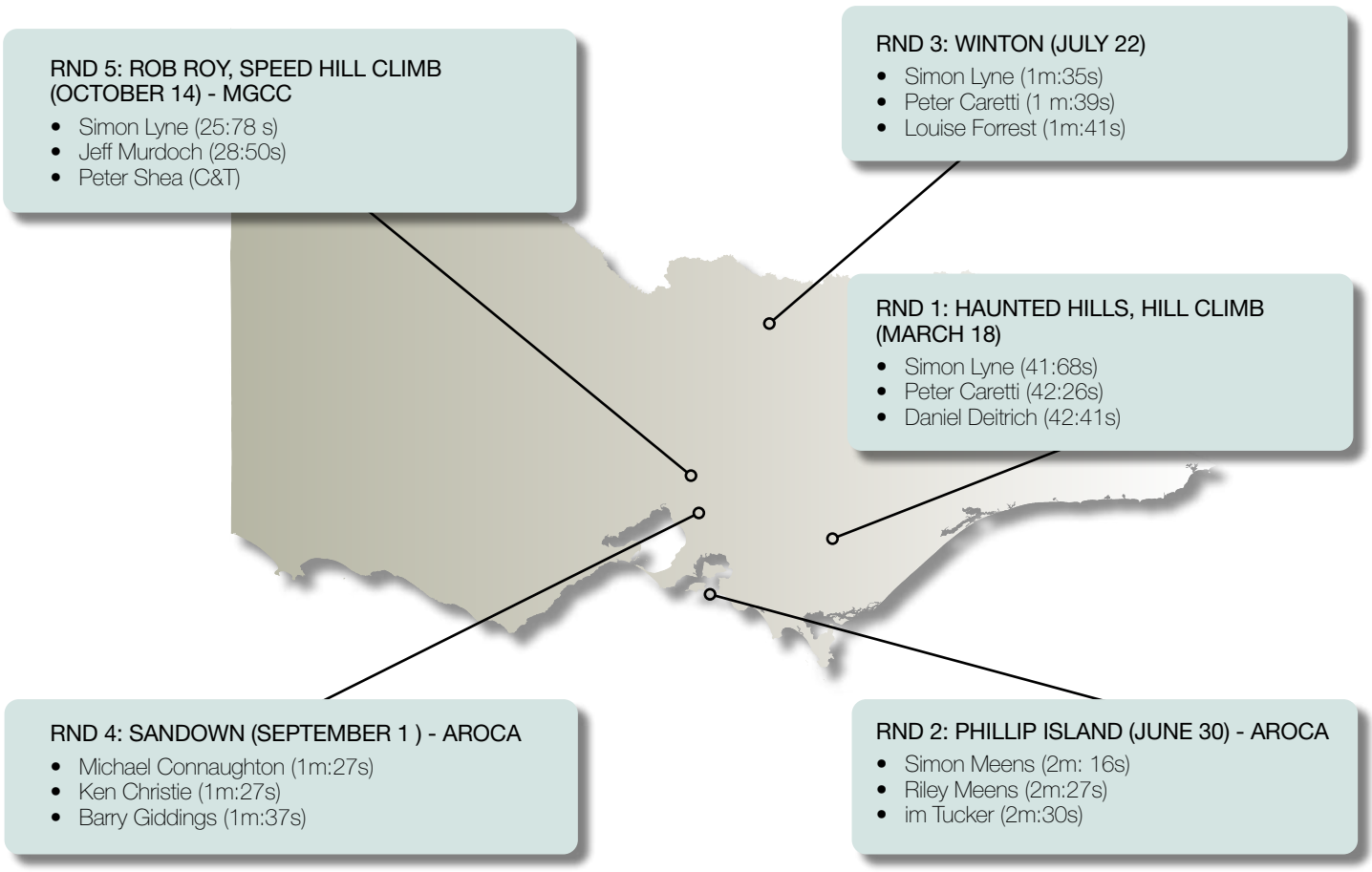
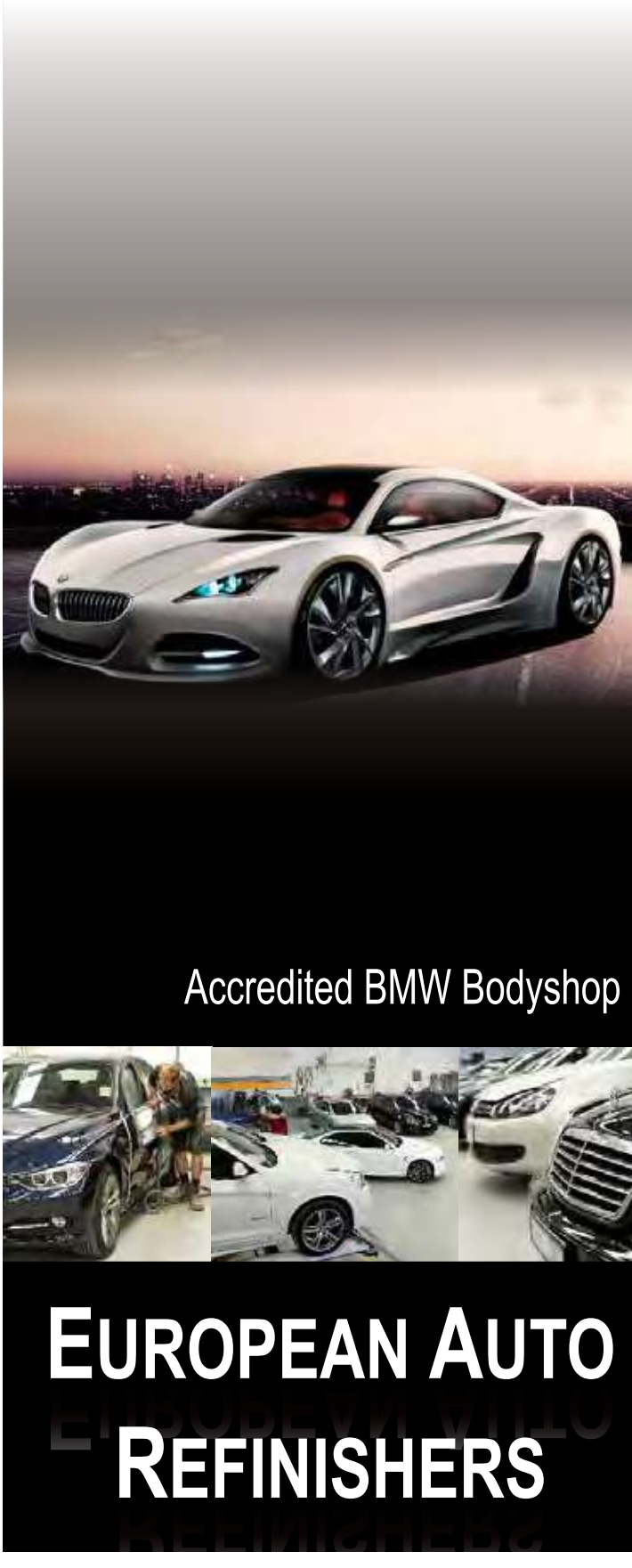


E30 Racing: 2018 BMW Drivers Cup

Car #	Competitor	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3	Rnd 4	Rnd 5	Rnd 6	Drop rnd	Total	Pos.
22	Alex Jory	20	14	18	25	25			102	1
29	Chris Bell	25	22	-	22	22			91	2
27	Brian Bourke	22	20	25	-	16			83	3
9	Jesse Bryan	16	18	15	18	14			81	4
43	Jeremy Payne	18	-	16	18	13			65	5
85	Jenna Patan	13	-	-	12	20			45	6
78	Tim Freeman	-	-	22	0	18			40	7
15	Cameron Hudson	-	-	20	15				35	8
88	Rod Potter	15	16	-	-				31	9
66	Glenn Potter	14	12	-	-				26	10
1	Michael Holdcroft	-	25	-	-				25	11
5	Simon Leach	-	-	-	13	12			25	11
1	Sean Bell	-	-	-	20				20	13
12	Stan Armstrong	-	15	-	-				15	14
15	Jamie Lovett					15			15	14
87	Mark Gorgovski	-	-	-	14				14	16
7	Rory Plant	0	13	-	-				13	17
62	Mike Whitford	12	-	-	-				12	18
24	Geoff Bowles	-		0	-				0	19

Welcome to all new members

Welcome to all new Members	Model	Year
Peter Synnott	M2	2018
Bert Kahanoff	X3	2017
Rick McGowan	e46 325i m sport	2004
Hans Neilson	pre 1965 Jaguar 3.8 litre MK2	
Daniel Scott	e46 M3 e30 318i 318is e36 318is e39 530i	2001 1990 1998 1997 1994
Philip Allen	2002 turbo	1975
Ian Campbell	530I	2003
Simon Peck	M2LCI F87	2018
Tegan Martin	3 series	1985
Stefan Sherkat	M3 comp 30 Jahre	2017
Seth Deal	M4 pure edition	2018
Danny Ziakas	M4 comp	2018
Ryley Westwick	731i/A	1987
Michael Russell	Z4s drive	2014
Alan Amro	F30 328 e36 328 e34 525i	2013 1989 1989
Dave Harry	325i	2008
Dylan Lake	M2 comp	2018
Matthew Bruce	125i	2011
Jack Green	323i Baur e21	1982
Michael Mahlstedt	2002 e10 e30 318is	1975 1991
Stefan Sherkat	M3 comp 30 Jahre	2017
Seth Deal	M4 pure edition	2018
Danny Ziakas	M4 comp	2018
Larry Dell	M325i	1989
Miles Rozman	M3	2004
Luke Webster	325ci M sport	2004
Malcolm Cuthbert	E46 318i	2002
Ryley Westwick	731i/A	1987
Michael Russell	Z4s drive	2014
Burk Alpandinar	318i coupe 335i m sport	1989 2008
Paul Gekas	640d Gran Coupe FO6 LCI	2017
Alok Kulkarni	323ci e46	2000
Vince Ida	320 conv	1988
Andre De Zylva	E30 325i conv E30 320i conv M3 conv E46	1990 1987 2006
Andrew Bonaddio	F80 M3	2018
Drew Hardinge	M2	2018
Chett Beavis	M3	2018
Welcome back to Victor and Mary Lee	M5	2018



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