



SWALLOW TALES

The Official Newsletter for the Members of the
SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc.

VOLUME 27

NUMBER 1

MARCH 2020



The Smith families award winning display



SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc

Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of SIMCA cars for the purpose of maintaining the Simca marque as part of the motoring history of Australia.

The Club was formed to provide technical information and spare parts assistance to Simca club members.

The Club has an affiliation with Simca owners and clubs throughout the world, permitting a global update of Simca activities to our members.

The Club maintains a register of Simca owners through our specialist Registrar for both Simca and Simca Vedette.

The views or opinions offered by members in this newsletter – Swallow Tales may not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Committee of Management.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK – *by Iain Dyer*

Greetings all,

This is the third time I have written the introduction to the newsletter. With these fast moving times the content became redundant whilst we waited for reports to come in. I'm so glad we got our rally over, just in time. Who would have thought, in such a small space of time we would be in such turmoil. We had booked for Historic Winton and of course that is off. In the light of the seriousness of the situation, that is small potatoes. I'm not going on about the virus, we see media frenzy every day. Our publication is non-political but I would like to say, the Morrison govt is doing a fantastic job. Sorry if anyone is offended. If you are, watch "Paul Murray Live".

There is plenty of good Simca news from down here. Before launching into the news, there are some important matters I would like to mention. Principally, Geoff and Ruth Rose have been going through the worst of times. Ruth was put into care, but is now at home. In speaking to Ruth today, she was in good cheer, looking out at her superb gardens. As she approaches her 78th birthday, she is very aware that her time is drawing in.

*A SPECIAL DAY, 17TH APRIL.
RUTH ROSE'S BIRTHDAY*



Ruth, from all of us, our love is with you.



Some of Ruth's beautiful gardens

Long-time member John Brown, is also facing the conclusion, to a long battle. As most would know, John has been battling a knee replacement gone wrong, for several years. He is currently going through preparations to have the leg amputated. In speaking to John, he is very positive about it and immersing himself in the details of the prosthetic replacement. From all of us in the club John, all the best for the procedure.

Don Scanes hasn't been well for some time and I am reliably told, that after having two stents put in, you can't hold him down. I'm told that he wanted to go on a car run last weekend but Barbara wouldn't let him go, because the run had a lot of twists and turns. Really Barbara, that's the sort of road us old ex-racers dream of! Peter Gaggioni has been having a struggle with his health for some time. The Simca Club is family and what affects one, is felt by all.

Simca news. There has been plenty going on down here. We have been taking the 90A to shows and have really enjoyed the experience. It's

amazing how many people remember the cars and have stories to tell. So many people wander past and say, "Some Car that Simca". I think Mopar had the two top Australian slogans. The other of course is, "Hey Charger". BMC had a good one with, "Austin Lancer is the Answer", which indeed was a sweet little car.



Hiding at Bridport Car Show.

Most people, unless they were older, have no idea what the car is. This is what makes it a bit special, amongst the acres of Torana's and Yank offerings. Mind you, these are what most of the crowds come to see and aren't there some crackers amongst them. A very pleasant day for me, is sitting in my chair behind the Simca, supporting the coffee and muffin van. Mind you, last show, I couldn't talk the next day, due to talking to people all day at the shows.

The car is a joy to drive and since the rally has done enough klm's to be run in. I can't believe how much go it's got now, without any hot up additions. I finally got my Weber back from the Weber guru and it's jetted and recoed ready to go.



I have put off doing the conversion due to the number of car shows this time of the year. I put together a brief description and photos of some of the shows we have been to since the rally.

In talking to our esteemed President, he talked me into registering for the Bay to Birdswood. I have always said, "One day", well he is right, "One day" is now. We will leave a week earlier and do the Bay to Birdswood with Rob and Ina and then travel together to the AGM. I don't know about the time to complete the Bay to Birdswood, but I gather swilling a lot of coffee wouldn't be a good idea. All this of course is subject to getting through current virus crisis.

Well that's it from me. We are actually in the process of a home refurb, room by room. We have so far done two rooms and about to get into the main living rooms. We are a bit over it and having a short break.

Kindest regards to all
Iain and Leila



PRESIDENTS REPORT - *by Rob Stapley*

Hi all from S.A. What strange times in which we live. I am busy sorting and packing my horde of Simcaspare parts in anticipation of our move to Ardrossan, but I don't think the housing market will hold up for much longer before it all falls in a heap, and we thought the bushfire was going to upset our plans. So, we might lose a year, not fair when there is not that much time left, still I went out today and filled up the 90A with fuel and the dollar total was less than the litre total, have not seen that for a long time. Ina's sister went to the butcher the other day for meat but thought steak at \$99.perkilo was a bit high. We were quoted \$500 a container to get car parts to Ardrossan but within half an hour of the quote it had doubled to \$1000.00, seems like a bit of profiteering to me. But we continue on, for people happy in their own company this is fine, but for the ones who can't walk past a coffee shop or have to congregate with the girls, life will be a misery. For the hearing impaired if you are trying to conduct a conversation with someone 1.5 meters away, forget it, start a vegie garden buy some chooks and become self-sufficient.

Cheers, Rob.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - *by Doug Murphy*No Report SubmittedBridport Car Show

Bridport was on our list of towns visited during the rally. It's a great drive down there with good roads and some challenging corners. The venue is a somewhat sparse park area and I thought it a bit of a fizz. No proper coffee van and no eateries. To me it lacked atmosphere and whilst we were there with friends, I possibly wouldn't bother again.



QUEENSLAND REPORT - *by Luke Huntly*

Hi Everyone, firstly we would like to welcome our newest member from Queensland, Alex Connors who has purchased Doug Murphy's P60. We hope to meet Alex sometime soon.

Some of you may have heard that Peter Mayne has purchased an Aronde from Morrie in Inverall. It has a seized engine but he is planning to have it repaired and registered to drive to the AGM. We look forward to seeing it on the road again.

There are a couple of important events coming up that we would like to highlight.



The *All French Car*

Day is scheduled for Sunday, 5 July at Murarrie and this year will be hosted by the Renault Club. It's normally a relaxing day with plenty of time to catch up with fellow members.

Doug recently emailed some information about the Chrysler 2020 Expo to be held on Sunday 6 September (Father's Day) at the Rocklea Showgrounds, Brisbane. The Chrysler Car Club of Qld has invited our Club members to join them and present our vehicles together with other Mopar and associated Chrysler marques.

By way of background, Chrysler Expo is a show and shine and swap meet event, extended to include a wide combination of vintage and heritage themes, including historic motor cycles, stationary engines, vintage speed cars, penny farthing cycles, historic buses and trucks, model train exhibits, RACQ Museum and Yellow Cabs Museum vehicles and MUCH more. The combination of all these things is a huge magnet.

This is a family oriented day with interactive attractions for children, attractions include free rides on old buses, operating model railways and being photographed in a go kart.

Gates open at 6 am for the swap meet and we would like vehicles on display to be in situ by 7.30-8 am. The event is expected to finish around 12 noon.

Unfortunately, the Easter in the Country Rally to be held in Roma has been cancelled due to the 'you know what' which is a real shame as some of the Simca members were attending.

Kind Regards,

Luke & Michelle

WESTERN WHISPERS – WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT –

By John Pickles

WESTERN WHISPERS

WA State Representatives Report – By John Pickles

How life can change so quickly, it was only three months ago that we were wishing our fellow Simca Club members a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2020 which has now been all but dashed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I do hope that most of us recycled teenagers have not panicked and are taking the opportunity to spend less time chasing toilet rolls and more time on their Simca projects and are looking after the welfare of their friends and neighbours .

It is not only in Western Australia that the country is in lock down with all car shows and events either being cancelled or deferred, I received an email from a club in France with an attached letter issued by the "Federation International Vehicles Anciens" France, indicating all the planned motoring activities in their country be suspended until at least 28 June 2020.

On the project front there is little to report apart from the ongoing restoration on Justin Walkers Aronde P60, for which the work is progressing slowly but nicely with most of the mechanical and body work completed.



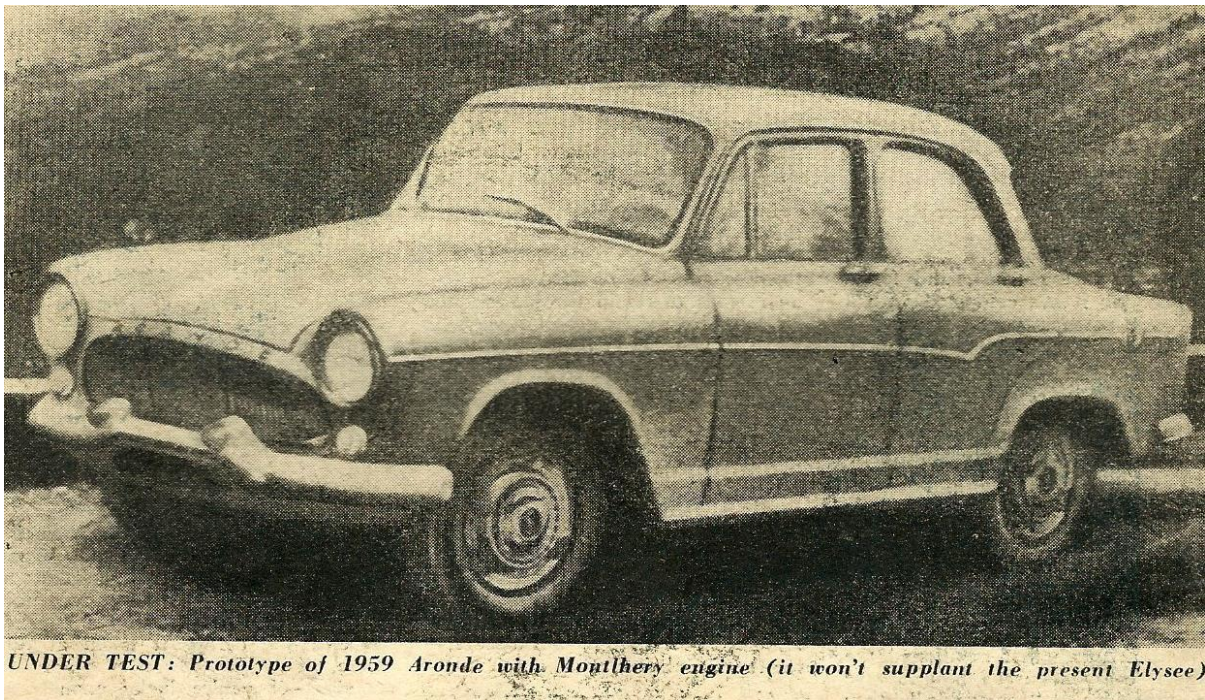
LOOKING GOOD

The real exciting news comes out of Victoria where our very talented member Peter Walker presented his newly restored Simca 1000 coupe at a motor show and took out the “Presidents Choice” award. I will not take the thunder out of our Victorian’s report only to say congratulations to Peter for the remarkable transformation that has turned a basket case into a show piece, I believe this Simca 1000 Coupe is one of only two to exist in Australia. The rarity of this car in Australia added to the challenge of obtaining replacement parts of which many were missing and had to be sourced overseas, it was only through the afflation with the various Simca clubs throughout the world that Peter was able to achieve his goal.

Ian Williams has embarked on his latest project to convert the rear trunk section of a Vedette into a retro lounge and we should expect to see the results in the next issue of “Swallow Tales”.

Reading an old “Wheels” magazine I came across article on the 1960 Toyopet (early name for Toyota) and was a little amazed at how similar it looked in many respects to the Aronde P60 and perhaps to the Vedette. In particular the bonnet shape, hooded headlights, how the body line flowed from the front guards into the doors, and looking at the rear the tail lamps and fins very similar to the Vedette. We all know how good the Japanese were at copying designs and I’m now convinced they took a cue from the Simca.





UNDER TEST: Prototype of 1959 Aronde with Moutlhery engine (it won't supplant the present Elysee)

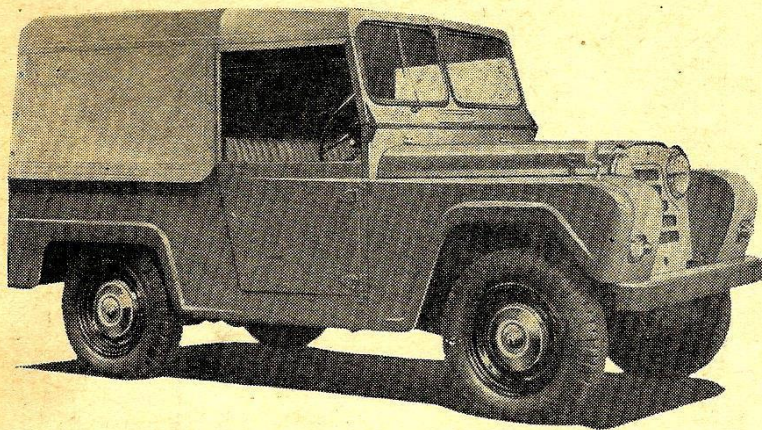
And there is a certain member of our club which whose name I shall not reveal, just cannot help himself when it comes a vehicle with a flying “A” badge. I for one sympathize that he has caught that bug which in some areas is nearly as contagious as the one that gives you the “SIMCABUGUITIS” infection, which most of our members have been subject to. Just to soothe the pain and also to let fellow members share his trauma I have printed this article so that we may have a better understanding of how serious this disease can be and to help him out of his misery if you know where there are any spare parts to be found for this rare beast.

news magazine

ROAD IMPRESSIONS

... from GORDON WILKINS

AUSTIN'S GYPSY



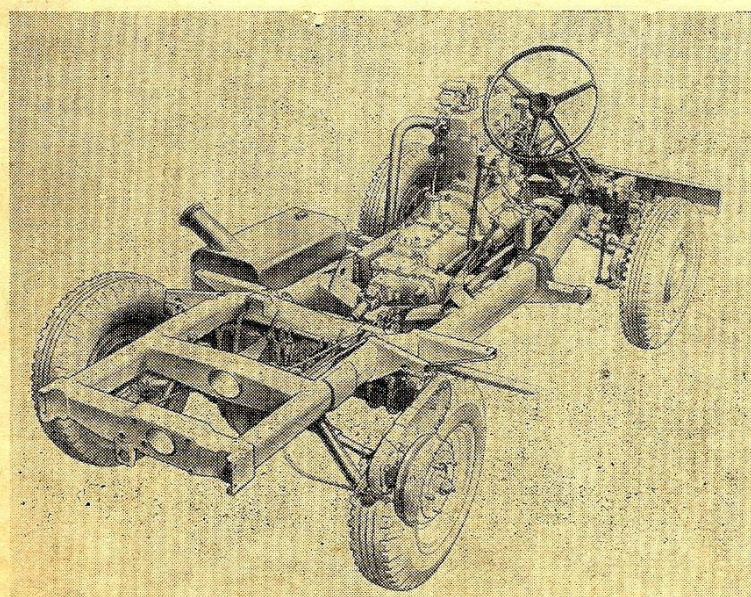
THE Gypsy impresses immediately as a rugged practical vehicle on which a serious effort has been made to reduce routine maintenance work. The suspension system requires no lubrication and the use of nylon-encased steering ball pivots eliminates the need for grease at these points. The Austin taxi engines, gasoline and diesel, are obviously well-proved units designed for long, hard service.

Some boldness has been shown in simplifying the independent suspension to the point where it uses only four simple trailing arms. These are deep fabricated members made from steel pressings, those at the front being pierced to allow the track rod to pass through. Obviously wheelbase and caster angle vary with suspension deflection and with the parallel wheel action; and unrestrained by any anti roll device one might expect excessive roll on corners coupled with an exaggerated tendency to nose dive when braking.

In fact none of these defects is apparent, either across country or on hard roads. Suspension rates have been chosen so as to give adequate control with a remarkably comfortable ride over rough country. Practically no roll is apparent even when cornering quickly on hard roads, and nose diving under hard braking is no more than on conventional vehicles.

Controllability over rough ground was excellent; the occupants experienced very little shock, and practically no reactions were felt through the steering wheel. On the road, however, the steering seemed indefinite on the straight and showed an excessive degree of understeer on sharp corners.

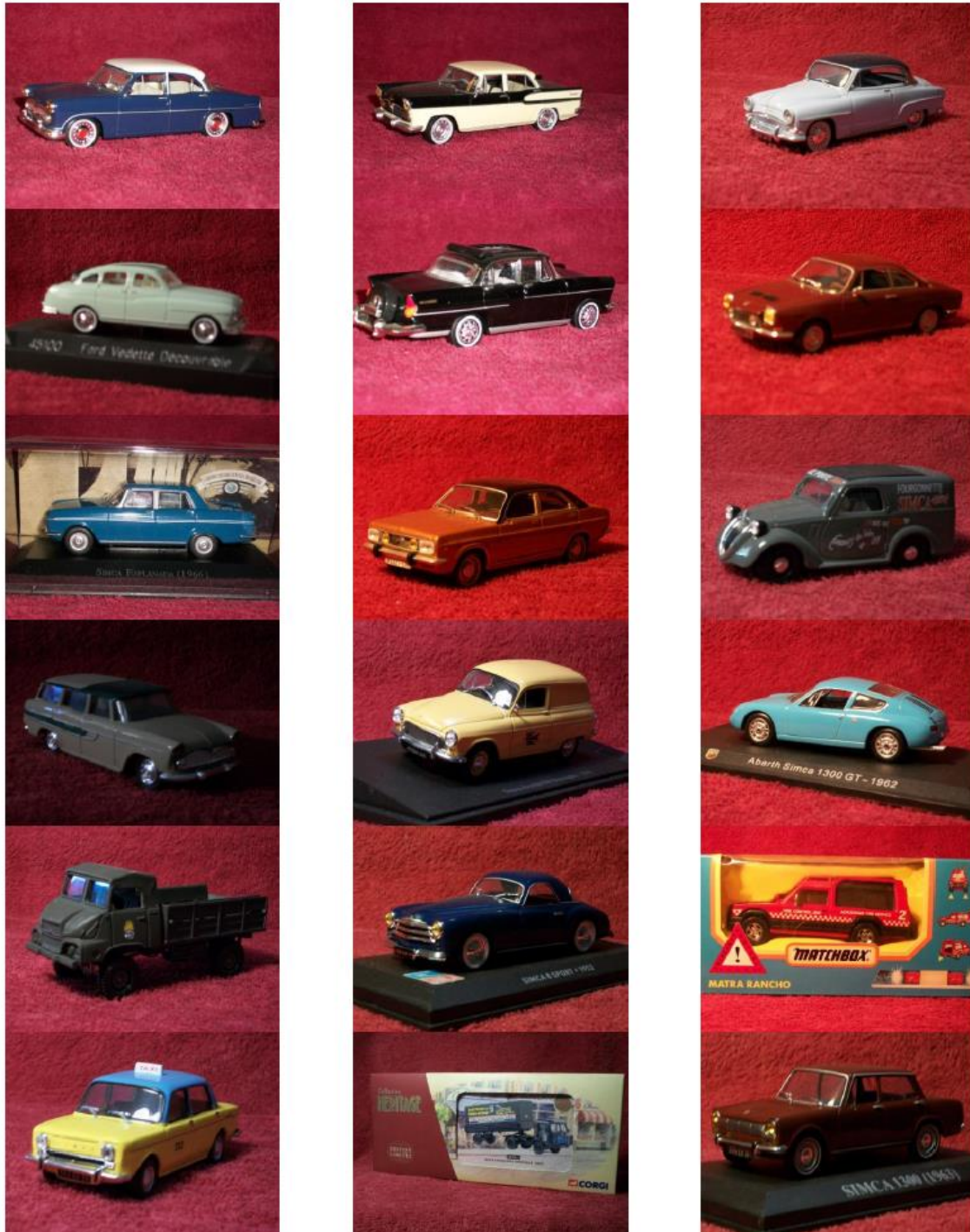
Austins say one of the Gypsy prototypes has covered 2,200 miles on the punishing pave section of the MIRA proving ground without failure of any suspension element, an achievement without parallel so far as is known. Suspension with metal springs frequently fail at 500-1,000 miles in similar usage.



44 WHEELS, May, 1958

FOR SALE
1:43 SCALE DIECAST SIMCA MODELS

Time to downsize my collection which includes more than 70 simca's of all models.



This is a sample of what I have available and most are boxed. For more information ring me on (08)95355023 or email jpickles3@bigpond.com

VICTORIAN/ TASMANIA REPRESENTATIVES REPORT –

by Andy Woodson

Hi from Victoria. The early part of the year was a great opportunity to attend a couple of swap meets and events before it all began to go downhill due to cancellations and postponements. Anyway, it was good to see a local event in a nice little town in North-East Vic called Moyhu. The local primary school run an annual car show and swap meet as a fundraiser, and it's growing in size each year. A couple of fine vehicles from there are in the pics. Also probably one of the last swap meets in Vic was at the Yarra Glen race track. The annual car show and swap is always well attended, and this year the weather was excellent and a huge crowd turned up. A funny thing happened at the gate on the day. The entrance time for the public is listed as 7.30 am, but by that time there are already a couple of hundred anxious people lining up to get in. A couple of fit young guys decided to leap over the fence, and somehow managed to get the gates open and the masses then streamed in without paying, and I plead guilty to being amongst them. Anyway, the moral to the story is for the organisers to get their act together next year and open an hour earlier for the public. Also, sadly, the Winton Historics have been cancelled this year. It's usually the local highlight event of the year for classic vehicle enthusiasts, but to ease the pain slightly, myself, and other old car enthusiasts went along there in the middle of March for a meal and also a drive around the circuit. I've sent a pic of my Simca along with some of the other vehicles parked trackside. All we can do is remain positive and hope things get back to normal very soon otherwise it's going to be a sad and boring winter and spring when it comes to car shows and swap meets, so all the best to fellow members and hopefully we can meet in Albury in October. Thanks. Andy Woodson.







SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - *by Robert Stapley*South Australia Report combined with Presidents report

Euro Coffee and Cake. Editor.

This was much anticipated by me because members had been ragging me for years about this mystery Simca. The meet is only for Euro cars and is on every quarter. The venue is the parking area of the Car Museum. We visited there during the rally. I gave her the beans coming down the entry road and got a good old bark going. We were of course the subject of good natured banter when we pulled up. Everyone loved the car, none more so than the manager of the museum. He came out several times to talk about the car and take photos. We parked next to a mates Volvo wagon and settled in. They always have a barista van with quality coffee and cake. Definitely on our calendar every quarter. My mate Martin was there with his lovely Jaguar XK120 F.H.C. I moved a motion that he be banned from future gatherings, now that Brexit is done, he is just a Pom in a pommie car and no longer Euro. Over strong double shot Cappuccinos, we determined to let him keep attending! It only goes from 9.00 until 1.00pm, a good fun day.







NEW SOUTH WALES REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – *by Ian Powell*No Report Submitted

Deloraine Car Show

The Deloraine car show is probably the premier event of the north. Over 550 cars turned up. Deloraine is the perfect venue, as the town is on one road, in and out. Organisers can block each end once full and collect entry fees from spectators. The advertised time for show cars to be in place was 7.30 to 10.00am. We thought, get there by 8.30 and pick a good spot. Wrong! We were the last car in before the barriers went up. After that cars were parked in side streets and the football oval became full. Great show, four bands going, it's a long street, plenty of great coffee and quality food choice. Of course we knew a lot of people and it was great to catch up. I did a lap, no mean feat for me, it's a long winding steep street and the cars were fantastic. There were lots of different cars and light trucks, as well as the usual chrome bumpers.



The organisers had all the lucky door prizes loaded on a truck near our spot. Leila pointed to a huge orange esky and said "I'm going to win that!" Would you believe it, she did. Wish she could do the same trick with tattslotto. Sadly our beer swilling, "kicking and gauging in the mud and the blood and the beer" (Johnny Cash) days are over. Dang, I enjoyed them. It might have to become a vibrant herb garden.

How can you not enjoy it. Gorgeous day, sounds of Credence, Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond, great coffee and food and a comfortable chair. I spoke to a heap of people all of whom loved the car. One exception, a dude who looked as though he crawled out from under a rock latched onto me. The eventual outcome

was, he once owned a Simca like ours. When I politely asked what became of it, he replied, "I pushed it over a bank, but I kept the radio!" I was tempted to tell him to jam the radio where the sun don't shine and play himself a tune. I was dressed in club regalia, so maintained decorum. All in all a great show and a must for next year. Yes Doug, the Pennyfarthing event is the following weekend.







NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – Gerard Crombie**New Zealand Representative Report – Gerard Crombie**

I have only a small amount of Simca news to write about for this issue. Usually in the first quarter of the year we have attended several car shows but this year it's been just one. On Christmas Day our daughter & son in law's second child (our fifth grandchild) was born ten days early so this year, for our family, the birth of baby Jesse took prominence over baby Jesus. In January we spent time at the bach but most of the time there was a cold wind and it was unsuitable for boating. In February the lawns turned from green to brown and the best place was home, in the air conditioning and away from the heat.

On the first March, the fifth British and Euro car show was held, which is now considered one of the best classic car shows in Auckland with around 1200 cars on display. I've selected one interesting car to included – a 1968 Matra Sport Jet 6. I understand parts came from several French manufacturers – including Simca.





The Jet6 was an early mid-engine car, based on an F1 car and tail lights are Simca 1200.

You may have seen on Facebook that on the 8th March Simca was Runner Up Best in Show at the Windsor Park car show in Hastings. Colin & Lucy are rightfully proud of their achievement. A Fine Effort!



One of my contacts in Auckland tells me he has bought a Chrysler/Simca 16. He has bought it in Christchurch and has yet to bring it to Auckland where his other cars are. I will be interested to see it as I'm not sure what the vehicle looks like and can't find a match on the internet.

Later this month we are meeting up in Cambridge with Humber & Rootes Group. They have moved their annual get together away from Easter which seems to have been a popular change. Our Simca is getting some work done, brakes, shock absorbers and steering, so we are hoping its ready for the trip south.

Sometimes you don't need to go far to find some very nice vehicles. This well-presented Model T is now in residence just a few doors down the street from us. A nice cream colour vintage but not as rare as a Simca Etoile!



A larger shot of the Smith's award winning line up

Information re: 2020 AGM. This of course will be subject to Covid19 regulations at that time.

The Simca Car Club of Australia national meet is set down for Wednesday 30 September to Sunday 4 October next. The AGM is planned for Saturday 3 October. The venue is Albury. We have pre booked 15 rooms at the Hume Country Motor Inn, where the AGM will be held. Previous AGMs have been held here.

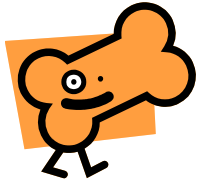
There is a problem. As for today, there have been only two accommodation reservations made. The Motel has a policy of cancelling pre bookings when other travellers want to book and the rooms are needed.

So, there is some urgency to reserve your accommodation, preferably at the Hume Country, if you plan to come to the national meet. Are you planning to come? Please reserve your accommodation and let me know,

Cheers

Doug Murphy
Secretary/Treasurer
Simca Car Club of Australia Inc.

PS. We can't seem to get information on the date of the All French Car Day in Melbourne. If it turned out to be 4 October, you would have time to get there, given an early start.


*Funny Bones*

COVID19









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Unit B, 12 Frederick Street, St Leonards 2065

NORTHERN TERRITORY
Hidden Valley Motor Sports Park,
Hidden Valley Road, Berrimah 0828

QUEENSLAND
Unit 5, 305 Montague Road, West End 4101

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
863-865 South Road, Clarence Gardens 5039

TASMANIA
337-341 Argyle Street, North Hobart 7000

VICTORIA
321 Warrigal Road, Cheltenham 3192

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PS - From the Editor...

Please remember any contributions welcome or suggestions.

Reminders:

The 2020 renewal of membership is due on January 1st 2020. If you are overdue, please pay now. Don't forget members can pay their subscriptions by bank transfer or to the club secretary.

Electronic Funds transfer (EFT)
BSB: 633-000 Bendigo Bank (branch at Braidwood NSW)
Account number: 135350668

Please identify who is paying and for what if possible in the reference section with name and subs amount.

Don't forget to fill out Renewal Form attached so that all your details are correct/current. Please don't copy them from the previous year.



Breaking News

Two articles by John Smith and Megan Heritage next month.
When we changed to Windows 10
Your data was lost.
Will be in touch soon.

**SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc.
CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL****Jan – Dec. 2020****Surname:** ----- **Given names:** -----**Membership No:** ----- Please print both names for family membership**Address:** Please print full postal address

-----**Contact Details:****Home:** -----**Mobile:** -----**Email:** -----

Please indicate (x) in the email box to receive your club newsletter via email.

Please indicate (x) in the boxes for any personal information you do not wish to be published by the Simca Car Club Australia Inc.

Any more/fewer cars than last year? If yes, then please let us know below.

-----**Annual Membership Subscriptions**

Simca Car Club Australia Inc. membership operates from:

1st January to 31st December each year.All Membership Fees are due and payable each Year on: 1st January**Annual Subscriptions are currently: Single \$40 Family/Joint: \$45****Signature/s:** ----- **Date:** -----

(Both signatures required for Family/joint membership)

Please pay Cheque/money order to Simca Car Club Australia Inc and post to:**Secretary/Treasurer S.C.C.A. Inc.****Doug Murphy****PO Box 2151****Wellington Point****QLD 4160**

Fees may also be paid by EFT to SCCA Inc.A/C:

Bendigo Bank: 633 000 A/C No: 135 350 668

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Payment via PayPal – pre-arrange with Secretary.