



SWALLOW TALES



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



We remember John Smith.

VOLUME 32

NUMBER 1

March 2025



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.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT (as elected at the 2024 AGM)

President: Luke Huntly Ph: (07) 46223361 Mobile: 0439830117
Email: beitz@hwy54.com.au

Secretary/Treasurer: Iain Dyer Ph: (03) 63442601 Mobile 0419353075
121 Penquite Road
Newstead Tas 7250 Email sales@autocourt.com.au

Editor: David Reeves Mobile 0417 641 329
Email: dk_reeves@bigpond.com

Public Officer: Ian Powell Mobile: 0438913541
Email: 76matra@gmail.com

State Representatives:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Morrie Barrett Mobile: 0429495003
Email: morriebarrett@optusnet.com.au

QUEENSLAND

Luke Huntly Ph: (07) 46223361 Mobile: 0439830117
Email: beitz@hwy54.com.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Rob & Ina Stapley Ph: (08) 8389 6176
Email: inastapley123@hotmail.com

VICTORIA / TASMANIA

Iain Dyer Ph: (03) 63442601 Mobile 0419353075
121 Penquite Road
Newstead Tas 7250 Email sales@autocourt.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Mitch Burnett Ph:(08) 93940417 Mobile:0433844564
Email: vulnere@yahoo.com

NEW ZEALAND

Gerard Crombie
Email: westquay@xtra.co.nz

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK – *by David Reeves*

Greetings to all!

At last, the first edition of Swallow Tales with me as the official editor! First of all, I would like to acknowledge Iain and Leila's efforts over the past 'many' years. I have been a member of the club since 2015, and have always enjoyed receiving the Swallow Tales. It is a fairly big job reliant on more than just the editor, and I hope that I am able to do the job to everyone's satisfaction.

To begin, I was expecting to take over the reins earlier than this, and I would like to thank the reps who responded to my call for reports at the beginning of the year. Some make mention of the lovely sunny weather in Queensland, although since then, there has been much rain – throughout the various regions of the state, apart from Biloela. The rain goes around us, although we got around 20mm last night, other centres have been receiving hundreds of mm, resulting in 1/3 of the state being under water as this edition 'goes to press'. For many of us Queenslanders, from the North to the South East (including Northern NSW) and the West and North West, there has been a drenching, putting the 1974 floods to shame. We hope that all affected will push through. The positive is that we need the rain, and it has come, replenishing rivers, dams and subterranean reserves.



The state and NZ representatives have provided an interested and varied range of articles for your reading pleasure ranging from a re-cap of the SIMCA rally to WA in 2011, to various visits and outings. The WA trip being quite eventful it seems, and a lot of fun! I was particularly interested in the comment regarding 'windscreen wipers blowing off'. As you know, one of Alice's blew off and is somewhere between Biloela and Calliope! I will add that driver's side windscreen wipers are NOT an easy thing to locate, and after reading about the WA trip, I am thinking that there is a clear reason why they are hard to find!

On that note, I would also like to comment on the passing of long-time club member John Smith. I met John at the 2017 SIMCA Rally held in Tweed Heads. It was such a delight to meet both him and his wife Pat at that time, and to catch up with them again at the Tasmania rally in 2019. I had hoped to visit them on a trip to Melbourne in September, 2023, but unfortunately neither were well enough for a visit at that time, and we hoped 'for next time'.

SWALLOW TALES

The next Swallow Tales is due in June, so I shall be contacting reps for articles probably mid-May. I look forward to hearing about the various adventures that people have been on with their SIMCAs then!

Just to let you all know, I have done some editing (I guess that is why I am 'the editor') so that articles fit pages and flow well, and I may have (tried to) changed picture sizes to assist with the 'fitting'.... I am an English teacher by trade! But, I have not changed the content of the articles supplied!

On a final note, our new member Mick Palmer from WA (welcome Mick!) is in need of 2x brake shoe retainer clips for his P60 that he is getting back on the road. If anyone can assist, let me know and I will put you in touch!

All the best!

David

dk_reeves@bigpond.com

From the Facebook Page

Brody Lang messaged me on the FB page and has some Grand Larges for sale. He is located in Gisborne, Victoria. He is looking for offers from anyone who is interested. One is 100% complete, another about 90% complete. Many spare parts also available. You may also have seen them on "Aussie Frogs" and similar FB pages.

Ph: 0409 703 340



Peter Russell is looking for an Aronde wagon. His mother-in-law won one in the '60s. A case of nostalgia – not unusual. In fact, when I saw the pic, I tried to remember the house, as it looks so much like Mum and

SWALLOW TALES

Dad's wagon – grey with a white roof! Please contact through me. We may get a new member out of this! (I do not recognise the house!!)



Matthew Burns and his father, from Plainland, Qld, recently picked up a P60 sedan and have begun restoration. It looks to me to be the one that has been advertised in Just Cars (and was still there when I looked a month or so ago) which I first saw when we were in Dubbo in 2023.



Hopefully, Peter and Matthew will become members. I will send contact details for our secretary – Iain, hopefully they will be in touch!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by *Luke Huntly*

G'Day Everyone,

I hope you can be patient with me as I write my first president's report.

It was a sad start to the year to hear of the passing of John Smith. John and Pat were both active members of the club and I have fond memories of meeting up with them at the rallies over the years. They will be sorely missed.

We were lucky enough to be on holidays in Caloundra early January and had a chance to catch up with David for morning tea as he was passing through on his way home to Biloela from the Gold Coast.

This past week South East Queensland and North East NSW has been the victim of severe weather due to Cyclone Alfred. Hopefully members in these areas have not been too badly affected. It's in complete contrast to Roma . . . it is very, very dry and could do with a good drink.

On our trip home from Sydney after the Echuca Rally last year as luck would have it we were on the side of the road discussing directions to get from Pitttown to Muswellbrook, when a car did a u-turn and pulled up behind us. The fellow, nicknamed 'Brains' recognised the Simcas and proceeded to tell us the story of working on them in his younger day. He gave us information on a Vedette radiator at Penrith Radiator Works. I'm yet to follow up.

I have been contacted by a gentlemen from Bribie Island who purchased Barry Fletcher's Simca Aronde and is chasing parts. Coincidentally a right hand wind screen wiper. He is currently working on restoring the car with his son at Plainlands. Hopefully I can encourage him to join as a member very soon.

Bye for now.

Luke



The President, First Lady and Leo standing by the presidential limousine, Trixie.

SWALLOW TALES

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT - *by Iain Dyer*

SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA INC

1st July 2024 to 28th February 2025

Balance \$6326.22

Annual Subscriptions

975.00

Expenses

Printing and Postage Swallow Tales

403.35

Simca Trophies

689.50

Echuca Rally

1000.00

Domain Website

466.36

Total Expenses

2559.21

ASSETS Cash at Bank

\$6326.22

Memberships

975.00

Deduct Expenses

2559.21

Balance at 28.02.2025

\$4742.01

QUEENSLAND REPORT - *by Kerry Ryan*

Hi everyone from now sunny Queensland.

As you may be aware Queensland has been experiencing some very heavy rain events especially in the Northern part of the State. This has led to some severe flooding to some large areas of the state. The floods have now receded and hopefully things will return to some kind of normality again. I am not aware of any of our members being directly affected however it does demonstrate to me just how lucky you can be in having a safe part of Australia to live in.

In early November 2024 Skip Verhagen and I accepted an invitation to visit and participate with some combined Fiat Clubs in Australia, a very well organised and enjoyable three-day rally held at Foster- Tuncurry in New South Wales. This area of Australia is beautiful. It is on the East Coast between Newcastle and Port Macquarie in New South Wales.

I had never visited this part of Australia in all my travels, so it was very enlightening and enjoyable. Unfortunately, word has got around, and the developers and filthy rich retirees have discovered it too. In saying that it still retains a lot of old-world charm, and the beach and river experience is wonderful.

The Fiat rally was open to all models of which there are very many. My interest has always been in the Fiat 1100 and 1500 models having a couple of these in my collection. I have a friend from Maryborough in Queensland who has a number of Fiat 2300's including some sedans in nice original condition but more importantly three Fiat 2300 S coupes which are highly collectable.

The gentleman, Barry Birt, took a nice 1962 green 2300 sedan which Skip and I had use of as well as his nice silver 2300 S coupe on his tandem trailer from Maryborough to the Rally.

The event was held over three days with lots of activities to engage the participants in. As an event, the organisation by one enthusiastic member was outstanding. It consisted of the usual morning teas, dinners, show and shine and regional drives which allowed all to participate at their own pace. It reminded me of the Simca rallies of past however the scale of membership and car models in the Fiat clubs is much greater. It attracted a wide variety of Fiats from early veteran to modern Abarth 500's.

Driving the 2300 sedan was a great deal of fun. I must report however some of the minor faults inherent in the car such as noticeably weak indicator lights and sometimes not working stop lights made the various drives interesting especially in sharing the road with modern cars and drivers who fail to grasp the challenges of driving something old at a steady pace.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience and especially with the suitable selection of Foster -Tuncurry as a base making it great. I am informed that late this year the

same organiser is planning a trip from Victoria to Perth to celebrate some Fiat achievement from the past so that could be a challenge.

I have included in this edition a short article on my early model Simca Fiat Cinq (5) for your interest.

1937 Simca Cinq

I have owned this car for around seven years however due to Covid restrictions and issues with shipping cars from Europe, I have only late last year had a chance to import it to Australia.

I first saw the Simca in the Netherlands in 2016, and I was immediately impressed with its very original condition and the fact that it had not had the usual unsympathetic restoration that a lot of people do to this type of car. I have seen many cars where the paint colour is changed to something that was never available in the thirties, for example.

My car has the original black paint that shows the nearly 90 years of history of the car. It also has the original French number plates. The seats have been re-upholstered and new tyres fitted to powder coated wheel rims. It is a Coupe Deluxe fitted with many additional extras such as luggage rack, wind deflectors and engine bay vents.

These cars were the early model Simca's built by Henri Pigozzi in his newly acquired factory at Nanterre, France. I am advised that it was built on or around 25 October 1936 however due to the odd French tradition of using the annual French Motor Show (Salon de l'automobile de Paris) date held then from 9 to 19 October 1936 as a model change date for cars, it was designated as a 1937 model car as it was built shortly after the end date of the car show.

The original owner lived in Paris, and I am informed that it was carefully hidden away during the German Occupation years. After World War 2, the car was purchased by a business owner and then spent some years in the town of Sarlat-la-Caneda, which is in the Dordogne Department near Bordeaux, south of Paris.

The Simca came to the Netherlands in the early nineties, and it was used sparingly in various club runs with the Simca and Topolino clubs.

The car runs well but drives like a 1930 car. It is only suitable for display at various car shows as in today's traffic it would take a very brave person to drive it on our main roads. An interesting fact is that the Simca Cinq was sold before the Fiat Topolino hit the market.

Specifications:

- 1937 Simca Cinq (5) It is essentially a Fiat Topolino built in France.
- Engine 569 cc Side valve water cooled engine. Thirteen bhp and 85 KM/H top speed

SWALLOW TALES

- Chassis No. 8665. Original number plates 7309DX 75
- Hydraulic brakes, four speed gearbox, 3rd and 4th gears have synchromesh.
- Condition - Highly original un-restored.



NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT - by Morrie Barrett

SIMCA TREK TO WA
by Don Scanes

Wednesday 21st September, 2011

Started 8.30am – Departed North Richmond, waited at Lithgow Macca's for Morrie. Morrie's fan belt stretched and he had to tighten it, we went ahead to Orange and had a coffee. We met Morrie at Cook Park and left for our night stop at Nyngan, to stay at the Outback Motel. We waited for Morrie as he was low on fuel at Weverton there was no service station he had to go 20K off the Highway to get his fuel.

We had a late breakfast as the motel was full of miners, Don & Barbara had a trouble-free day.

Thursday 22.9.2011

A sunny morning left Nyngan at 8.30.am our bonnet started bouncing open. Hear rumor Wilcannia petrol suspect? Filled Gerry cans at Nyngan. Found BP Depot at Wilcannia I used 22.35 liters. On leaving Wilcannia a road train blew our sun visor and piece of sicle trim off while stopped positive to fuel gauge ruptured blanke off line and topped up sump 4 liters. Bonnet kept popping open at 115 Kms per hour. Speedo acting queer. Dash light not working. Had to wait for Morrie found out a piece of aluminum off the road damaged his front donut kept his speed to 80 kms per hour both got to Broken Hill Caravan Park and had an early night.

Friday 23.9.2011

Morrie has found a donut at Gawler, hired a car he and Margaret left to get it at 10.15am in a hire car.

I adjusted Bonnett with copper pipe to fix my oil pressure gauge and fixed dash light. Also found a garage where I checked under the car diff & gear box oil levels ok. Also greased it then went to see Gallery Pictures.

Morrie rang at 5.30pm he is leaving Adelaide. Had an early lunch at Manner Hill. Morrie arrived at Broken Hill at 1am.

Saturday 24.9.2011

We let Morrie & Margaret sleep in after their trip to Adelaide. Morrie fitted his donut I adjusted Bonnet oil, speedo, Went to Silverton..... the day Dreave Mine. Had a drink at the Silverton Pub came home and had tea at the Southern Cross Pub a nice day. Filled cars with petrol.

Sunday 25.9.2011

SWALLOW TALES

Left Broken Hill 9.00am after buying octopus straps and Morrie returned hire car. We went to Cockburn on the border to wait for Morrie and Marg, Geoff Rose left Tuross Heads and is travelling through Renmark to meet us at Port Augusta. There was nothing open at Monne Hill. Stopped and saw beautiful toy museum at Wilmington a nice little town found Horrocks Pass Lookout a spectacular view, then on a gentle drive to Port Augusta Big 4 Caravan Park. Barb & Marg caught up on their washing. Morrie & I walked to town to find somewhere to eat came home with chicken & chips.

Monday 26.9.2011

Ladies finished their washing, Morrie & I went shopping for condenser and washed the cars, I degreased the engine. We then went sightseeing visited Wadiatta Outback Centre and climbed the water tower after lunch we went

Geoff & Luke arrived at 5.30pm, they are camping in an unpowered site. We had a beer and had tea at the pub on Bank of Spencer's Gulf a beautiful spot.

Tuesday 27.9.2011

We start at 9.30am drove to Whyalla saw the..... and drove to Port Lincoln had ameal hope to leave at 8.00pm Had a nice.....

Wednesday 28.9.2011

On the road at 8.00am Geoff & Luke had oil gauge problems copper line leaking. We had a problem Bonnet popping open at 110km bouncing on octopus straps. Bad storm came up on us as we left Port Lincoln almost blew us off the road, windscreen wipers kept blowing off.

The weather was too bad we didn't stop to see Hay stacks at Streaky Bay, weather still bad at Ceduna felt sorry for Geoff & Luke camping, Luke fixed the bonnet latch.

Thursday 29.9.2011

WE had an early start a long drive stopped at head of the Blight saw 4 whales took some pictures and broke a headlight.

Friday 30.9.2011

Eucla to Cockle Bidy

Change of mind decided to an extra night in Esperance and moved onto Frazer's Range station a lovely place but very cold, had to use 10 litres of emergency fuel at Frazer's Range to make Norseman. My starter motor failed and Geoff Rose replaced his bottom radiator hose.

Saturday 1.10.2011

Made Norseman ok had to push start at all rest breaks. Booked in at the Pink Lake Caravan Park, we have an apartment. We went to Veteran Motor Club Members Pit and workshop, I greased and checked oil levels, fitted new spark plugs, reset points

SWALLOW TALES

car running well. Morrie changed oil and greased, Geoff greased and checked ready car show, Luke fixed starter motor. Drive,

Monday 2.10.11

Washed cars put our Simca's on show outside Museum. In the morning, we went for drive on ocean very nice beautiful scenery. Then had tea and barbeque with members of the local Vintage Motor Club a good night.

Tuesday 3.10.2011,

Woke up to rain the ladies went shopping. we played with our cars. Morrie is having alternator problems, Luke fixed my head lamp lineup and switching. Morrie and I went to auto electricians to fix his alternator they couldn't so we went to wreckers he bought another one fitted and it didn't work came back, Luke checked it (US) it Club Member bought some others no good will run tomorrow on original Suzuki alternator we had a boys arvo.

Wednesday 4.10.2011

Travelled to Albany local car club took us to caravan park settled in and went out for dinner.

Thursday 5.10.2011

Albany - The local car Club met us and took us Whale World then back to club rooms for lunch where we had photo's taken for the local paper. We then went back to Whale World, then "The Gap" and Natural Bridge

Saturday 6.10.2011

Travelled to Pemberton saw Valley of the Giants, did tree top walk went to Manvinup and saw Diamond tree and also the Gloucester tree.

Friday 7.10.2011

Had a sleep in after yesterday late start we have a short trip to Busselton. We went to Augusta and looked at waterfall. Ten went down 530 steps to Jewel Cave well worth seeing. We had lunch at Flinders Beach saw Lake Cave display and entrance went to Cape Leuven Light House arrived in Busselton 4.30pm

Saturday 8.10.2011

Slept in and went to Busselton jetty rode the train to the underwater observatory, then went to Cape Naturaliste Light House saw sun starting to set over Indian Ocean.

Sunday 9.10.2011

SWALLOW TALES

Left Busselton 9.00am Geoff had dirty petrol bought filter at Super Cheap met Ian who is restoring a Vedette took us to Dardanup Heritage Museum it is the best Machinery and Folk Museum we have ever seen, had lunch there then met John Pickles at a Park at Mandurah. He led us to our Ocean Marina Chalets. He then took us to his home for tea and to meet other Club Members, we had a nice meal and a good time.

Monday 10.10.2011

Left the Chalets at 9.30am stopped at Beat Museum ladies saw art & craft. Then spent the day at the trots at Pinjarra. We had an early morning cruise and saw dolphins, then had a barbeque and tea at John we won the observation run.

Tuesday 11.10.2011

Morrie & Geoff went to John Pickles to repair his blinkers so he could get the car registered for the French Car Day. We went to Perth by train and had a tour of the mint and then rang the Bells at the Bell Tower, came home and took our cars to Suzuki Dealer to use his hoist. I topped up gear box and diff adjusted brake replaced fuel filter. Geoff topped up his gear box, Morrie fitted a pair of rear springs to his wagon and we went to tea at a local fish shop.

Wednesday 12.10.2011

Went to Pinjarra Visitors Centre and went on a Bus Tour of the Alkaw Bauxite mine. We then had lunch at Dwellingup Pub, we then toured the area and had the AGM at Ravenswood Winery. Morrie is still trying to fix John's blinkers.

Thursday 13.10.2011

Heavy rain in the morning, we went to White Mans Park stopped at the French Patties at Kalamunda, then went down the Zig Zag it wasn't very steep but beautiful views off Perth. We Parked the Simca's in front of Motor Museum Later we had Asian tea at restaurant did temp repair on headlight.

Friday 14.10.2011

We were pick up by Bus and taken to Freemantle and toured sights on the way and saw Maritime Museum, and Batavia wreck at Shipwreck Museum, also went to the markets. The Head light was repaired with spare lens from John. Morrie worked on his car still having spring & steering trouble. Joh & Ian Williams picked us up and took us to Raven Wines for Final Dinner, we were given a watch each and we had a great social time bought 6 bottles of wine to take home.

Saturday 15.10.2011

Nothing planned for today. Wesley Drew came to visit us for lunch he lives about an hour the other side of Perth. Wesley is going to all African Gold Mine to work. We spent our tour voucher we won Morrie is still working on John's Vedette.

SWALLOW TALES

Sunday 16.10.2011 - FRENCH CAR DAY

We had 9 cars 6 Arondes - 4 sedans and 2 Station wagons. John's blinkers still not working. There was a big Air Plane Show on as the site is still an airstrip, WE went home to pack as we leave for to leave for Kalgoolie tomorrow.

Monday 17.10.2011

Our wedding anniversary 47 years of pleasure. Left Mandurah 6.15am arrived at Kalgoolie 4.45pm very tired. Poor Simca overheated for the 1st time a hot tailwind is blamed.

Tuesday 18.10.2011

Recovering? We went to Miner's Hall of Fame, Morrie & I did the Black Pit Tour, ladies did the surface tour saw the super pit. Then toured Kalgoolie and had teas at the Pub

Wednesday 19.10.2011

Drove from Kalgoorlie to Madura via Norseman Balladonia cars running well. Stayed at Madura Motel economy \$80.00 had tea at a beautiful Pub

Thursday 20.10.2011

Left Madura 7am their time saw man being pushed in a wheel chair 5 kms west of Nullabor took last photo of the Bite and had a good drive to Ceduna found more Simca people in Ceduna.

Friday and Saturday- Travelled from Ceduna to Broken Hill

Sunday 23.10.2011

Left Broken Hill to start run home, stopped Little Topar for photo, 160km from Broken Hill 60km from Wilcannia car stopped 100 yards past rest area. Called Morrie he came back was 12km ahead. Found distributor and oil pump Lost some teeth oil pump seized? Had to wait for mechanic from Broken Hill to authorize NRMA plus a truck Broken Hill it was cheaper and quicker to fly home and have our car transported.



Don and Barbara, Morrie and Margaret,
Geoff and Luke – WA, 2011



Geoff and Luke – am thinking at The
French Car Day, WA, 2011, but I was not
there!

SWALLOW TALES



John and Pat Smith



Don and Barbara Scanes



Morrie and Margaret Barrett



VICTORIA/TASMANIA REPORT- *by Iain Dyer*

After twelve years as editor and sticking pins in Voodoo dolls for reports being late, I'm also guilty. I hope David is merciful, as in the last few years, I had enough needles stuck in me☺.

Nothing much changes down here, except politicians challenging each other as to who is the biggest moron. The latest excitement is that our two brand new ships are ready. No one bothered to run a Depth Sounder over Devonport Harbour at low tide. It is a shallow harbour and the new ships draw five foot more than the old ones. This means at low tide the new ships will be sitting on the bottom. A two year delay and millions spent on dredging. Never fear, the old ones are running fine.

We had an unexpected pleasant surprise, we got a call from Mandy to say she was coming down for the Penny Farthing Championships. She offered to buy us lunch, which we reluctantly agreed to☺. It happened to be Leila's birthday and we cruised down to our favourite haunt on the river.

It was so good to see her, we hadn't seen her or Ian since the Tassie rally. The Penny Farthing Championships attract visitors from all over the world. In fact Tassie has gone gangbusters tourism wise, which is why we have been putting together the rally.



The September 2025 Rally

I must admit Leila and I have been scratching our heads as to the rally. Tassie is chock full of specky places. The problem is they are wide spread and often mountainous. The criteria was to keep it simple and easy on our cars and drivers. Bearing in mind, most of us are past the first flush of youth, as are our cars.

Another part of the criteria was to keep it affordable with somewhere to stash trailers. Looking at various options, we were horrified at the various pricing with nowhere to stash trailers.

Last week we called in at a venue just down from the Spirit birth, The Argosy Hotel. They came up with \$144 per night, room for the trailers and an excellent pub style restaurant. No camp kitchen. It was on a truck exit road right beside the highway overpass and very noisy.

We moved on once again and stayed the night at a Motel the Jag club are staying at whilst having the annual rally. This was in Ulverstone, and nowhere to stash trailers and no camp kitchen. We decided to see what our last stay, the Big Four Ulverstone would do for us. Ulverstone is ideal, it's seaside, not horribly busy and only 15 minutes easy drive to the boat.

Here is a deal Leila put together for the nights of 23rd-29th September. On the first evening the 23rd, the Big Four will put on a Meet and Greet, supplying nibbles. This will be in their excellent camp kitchen, which we are free to use for AGM. The fact that it is weather proof and heated is a plus, as Tassie can still be quite brisk in Sept. The deal is, cabins range from one bedroom \$139.50, 2 bedrooms @ \$157.50 also a two bedroom apartment @ \$157.50, these prices per night. The larger cabins come in various configurations, so tell them what your requirements are, with each extra person costing \$25.00 p/n.

The venue is Big Four Caravan Park Ulverstone, 57 Water Street, Ulverstone. The contact point, Karen, Manager, (03) 64 252 624. It's important to say you are from the Simca Car Club. It is also vital to book ASAP as they are already taking bookings for Sept. Also upon booking tell them you will need room for a trailer. They are setting aside room for the trailers. Last time we only scratched the surface of things to do without travelling too far. One of the things I imagine, will be a re-visit to the Tulip farm. They will be in full bloom as the Tulip festival is in Oct. It is not my thought that

SWALLOW TALES

the ladies have a frantic cook and clean up every night. Maybe a couple of nights, a pizza night, fish and chip night and maybe a pub meal. Open to suggestions.

There will be no set agenda for each day, everyone will be given a list of activities. Coffee will be important ☺ and just having fun. Each member will be met at the boat with a rally bag.

Speaking of the boat, it usually gets in at 6.30 am. We have arranged for us to call in for breakfast at the Argosy Hotel, they have a large dining area and a great breakfast menu. There is ample room for cars and trailers, in their large separate carpark. They open at 6.30 am.

The Big Four will do their best to have our rooms ready early, but we will have some time to kill. The thought is after breakfast, we will take the scenic river road around to Latrobe. A relaxing 20 minute drive. One of the features of Latrobe is its massive riverside park which has a café and the Axemen's Hall of Fame. It is huge, with plenty of parking. You can sometimes spot a platypus. When ready, we can dawdle back and get settled in. The finger food provided will probably be enough for Leila and I and an early night welcome.

We thought hard and long on this and apart from reasonable tariffs, a large, warm camp kitchen is vital. Such venues are hard to find within reasonable proximity of the boat. We rarely see each other and the chance to catch up at the end of the day is the icing on the cake.

I trust this suits everyone, I assure you will not be bored. As a final thought, book the boat as soon as possible, as it books out early due to demand.

Best wishes to all

Iain and Leila Dyer



Aerial view of the park.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT - by Rob Stapley

Hi all from sunny S.A.

Well Christmas is done and dusted for another year and hot cross buns are on the supermarket shelves as we build up to Easter. Christmas is always busy for us trying to support local towns with their parades and markets and then Australia day and another round of club activities, although this year's forecast of mid 30's is getting a bit warm for our cars.

Ina and I hope the new year sees most members enjoying good health. Today I was reading a post on Facebook of an American restoring an early Ford. He stated that he was just over 80 and starting his first restoration. Many replies encouraged him and many stated they were restoring well into their 80's so perhaps restoring in old age is not an impossibility. No pressure to finish, just plod along doing what we can every day.

James Duggin in Clare is doing a final clearance of his shed and scrapping most cars. I will be collecting the wagon shell he has, mainly for the front floor as my current wagon project's floor is very rusty. Most of the donor car went to Germany when we sent a wagon to Stefan Veil (sic). James still has the 1954/55 sedan with the single spinner grill if anyone is interested. He also still has heaps of spare parts I will be going through before they go in the skip bin for scrap.

The wagon I am working on at the moment needs new hood lining, might be a challenge especially since Morrie suggested to me when his wagon was restored the car was upside down to do the hood lining. I haven't done a Simca hood lining before but know the windscreen needs to be removed also and haven't done that before either (replaced I mean).

Having the car inverted helps through gravity to set up the hood lining into position. Gravity is wonderful although it also pushes the oil out of the diff when transferring from horizontal through to upside down. Probably needs an oil change anyway.

It would be remiss of me to not mention Iain and Leila Dyer's contribution to the club as editor and secretary treasurer over the past 15 or so years. The Swallow Tales were always a good read and David will have a big job emulating the Dyer's efforts.

Thank you Iain and Leila. The whole club owes you a debt of gratitude.

Cheers and a happy new year to you all.

Robert and Ina



WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT - by Mitch Burnett

The feeling of nostalgia - what causes it and why do people feel positively charged when reflecting on items, people, smells or places; which by today's standards, or to another, are lacklustre at best?

We all have embedded experiences and memories, most likely amplified by external stimuli, which add positively to our recollection of an occasion.

- Why then, when we get older, do those memories become even more special and relied upon?
- Is it because they are more needed so as to boost happiness during boredom, or there are less opportunities to experience such glee?
- Would the happenings of today be so fondly recalled in 20 years?

Hard to think they would.... Like when you look at the cars of today and wonder what possible collectable value they would present in a few decades time... Can the explanation by someone else of such a nostalgic occasion evoke nostalgic feelings in a third person? Specifically, can my dad's recollection of buying a brand new Simca Aronde P60 sedan from Wentworth Motors in Perth, rub off onto me as a 50 something old?

Personally, I reflect nostalgically on my first car - a 1978 Ford Escort 2 door with a bombed 1.6 litre Kent crossflow motor with a Weber carburetor, race cam and flat top oversized hepilite pistons. Extractors, a 2-inch sports system and a red back spider gear knob. Cool at the time, but somewhat gaudy by today's standards.



Chuck an 84 year old dad and an 82 year old mum into a 1962 Aronde within which they shared many an experience (get your minds out of the gutter) - and go for a blat around the block and what have you got? A recipe for a nostalgic reflection is what you have!

SWALLOW TALES



Had the local's heads turning on a stick when the straight through exhaust reverberated off steel fences, and the virtue signallers who own EV's squirmed at the sound of exploding fossil fuel. Love it! Not certain I was feeling nostalgic as the pilot, but I know the passengers were and as such, the experience was worth every second. This will likely become a nostalgic recollection for me in 20 years' time. Deep I know, but worth the time to consider.

NEW ZEALAND REPORT - *by Gerard Crombie*

It's about 4 months ago now since we had a long run in the Simca, having organised a run for our classic cars to a private museum collection north of Auckland.

This included half a dozen classic 1960's Fords (Cortina, Mk3&4 Zephyrs, Mustang, F150), but mainly loads of memorabilia from past years. The main upstairs display area of the garage was a collection of vintage household and commercial items. It includes a collection of scales, radios, cameras, telephones, musical instruments, carpentry tools, some model cars, guns and other interesting items.

A further bonus was that the lady of the house is a local artist who paints, mainly landscapes that she sells, so put some of her work on display for our visit.



SWALLOW TALES



SWALLOW TALES



The next car run, was a the back road trip to the Puhio Pub, we skipped the run and went directly to the pub and met the group there. This was soon after my cancer operation and Yvette was the driver. Since Yvette doesn't drive the Simca due to bad hips and knees we took the modern.

Earlier this year I was diagnosed with Prostate cancer and as Iain mentioned in a recent Swallow Tales around the time of the Echuca AGM I had my prostate removed. I'm more or less back to normal

now and currently hoping I am cancer free. My thanks to Iain and others for their supportive messages to me at the time.

The Simca Warrant of Fitness expired in October but since it wasn't going anywhere it didn't then get renewed. With life getting back to normal just before Christmas I got a new warrant of Fitness for it and we are now back on the road.

Speaking of Christmas I heard from Colin Smith recently and in the lead up to Christmas he had three Christmas parades for his little fire engine. Before carrying Santa it needed an engine overhaul and needless to say Colin achieved this in time for the big performance and Santa duties. Here's a pic of the little fire engine in one of the parades.



Another car group function we have had recently was a Group Christmas lunch. Our next function is a summer picnic beach run later this month.

Today was a beautiful summer day so I took our Simca for a run by myself, as due to recent surgery Yvette was unable to come. Simca purred along and ran beautifully, (I was wearing my new hearing aids!!). I stopped at the supermarket on the way home

and as often happens, on returning to Simca found people looking and received positive comments from an absolute stranger about the lovely old classic car.
“Some car this Simca.”

And from Colin and Lucy:

Hi to all fellow SIMCA folk. It has been very quiet on the real car front – nothing outstanding. Have attended 3 or 4 displays throughout the year (2024), have not been up to much due to health problems.

In the middle of November we had the Little Red Truck on display but on the way home it didn't want to get up to any speed. I took the motor out to do a valve-grind – easy on the bench, which turned out ok.

I noted there was a small amount of oil in the water at the time. I fitted a new head and gasket, refitted the motor and next morning the sump was filled with water. So, out with it again.

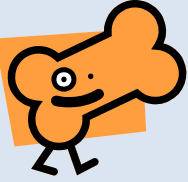
By this time, it was getting close to December when I was booked to do Santa 3 times, so took the motor out of the trailer pump, did the first Santa while waiting to take him to the big parade... petrol started to leak from the carb, so off home, removed the carb, replaced needle valve and just made the start of the big parade after which, we picked up Santa and took him to the next venue. The motor was just good enough. I have just fitted a later one while I recon a better motor.

The first Sunday in February is a gathering of classic cars – the SIMCA will be there!

Lucy and I are both well, as our age lets us be! Wishing you all a Happy New Year from NZ.

Colin / Lucy





Funny Bones

A blonde pushes a BMW into a service station, telling the mechanic it died. The mechanic works on it for a few minutes, and it is idling smoothly once again.

The blonde asked, "What is the problem?" and the mechanic responds with, "Just crap in the carburettor."

The blonde then asked, "How often do I have to do that?"

First Time Sex

A girl asks her boyfriend to come over Friday night to meet, and have a dinner with her parents. Since this is such a big event, the girl announces to her boyfriend that after dinner, she would like to go out and make love for the first time.

The boy is ecstatic, but he has never had sex before, so he takes a trip to the pharmacist to get some condoms. He tells the pharmacist it's his first

time and the pharmacist helps the boy for about an hour. He tells the boy everything there is to know about condoms and sex.

At the register, the pharmacist asks the boy how many condoms he'd like to buy, a 3-pack, 10-pack, or family pack. The boy insists on the family pack because he thinks he will be rather busy, it being his first time and all.

That night, the boy shows up at the girl's parents' house and meets his girlfriend at the door.

"Oh, I'm so excited for you to meet my parents, come on in!" The boy goes inside and is taken to the dinner table where the girl's parents are seated. The boy quickly offers to say grace and bows his head.

A minute passes, and the boy is still deep in prayer, with his head down.

10 minutes pass, and still no movement from the boy.

Finally, after 20 minutes with his head down, the girlfriend leans over and whispers to the boyfriend, 'I had no idea you were this religious..'. The boy turns, and whispers back, 'I had no idea your father was a pharmacist.'

Catholic Hairdryer

Catholic school students are taught that lying is a sin. However, instructions also advise that using a bit of imagination is OK to express the truth differently without lying.

The following is a perfect example of those teachings: Getting a Hairdryer Through Customs.

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her, 'Father, may I ask a favour?'

'Of course child. What may I do for you?'

SWALLOW TALES

'Well, I bought my mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It is unopened but well over the customs limits and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Hide it under your Robes perhaps?'

'I would love to help you, Dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie.'

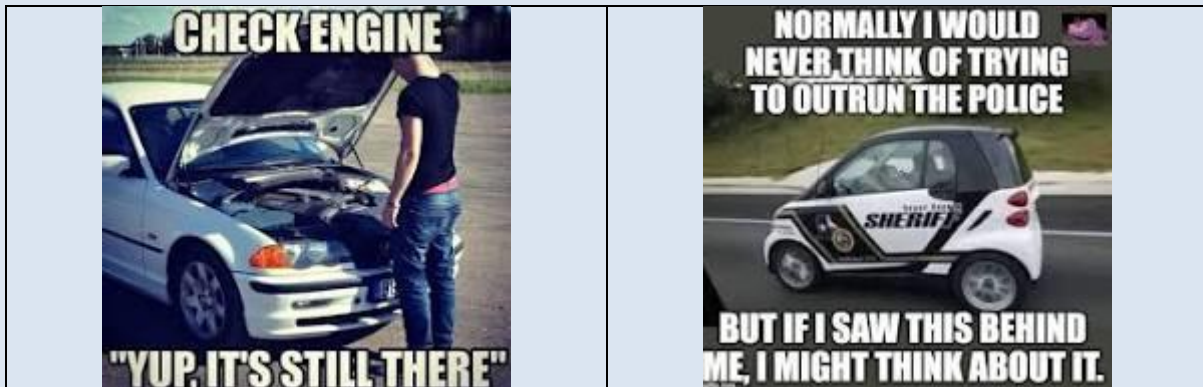
'With your honest face, Father, no one will question you.'


When they got to Customs, she let the priest go first. The official asked, 'Father, do you have anything to declare?'

'From the top of my head down to my waist I have nothing to declare.' The official thought this answer strange, so asked, 'And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?'

'I have a marvellous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused.'

Roaring with laughter, the official said, 'Go ahead, Father. Next please!'





SHARE THE PASSION

SHANNONS INSURANCE FOR CAR ENTHUSIASTS

INSURANCE FOR MOTORING ENTHUSIASTS

SHANNONS BRANCHES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
Unit 1, 74 Newcastle Street, Fyshwick 2609

NEW SOUTH WALES
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

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
152 Burswood Road, Burswood 6100

**Call 13 46 46 for the cost of a
local call from anywhere in Australia.**



SHARE THE PASSION

National Claims Email: claims@shannons.com.au
Agent for Insurer & Authorised Representative
Shannons Limited
ABN 91 099 692 636 Authorised Representative No. 239594
Insurer & Licensee
Australian Alliance Insurance Company Ltd
ABN 11 006 471 709 Australian Financial Services Licence No. 235011
SH02984 29/04/11 A

PS - From the Editor...

Please remember any contributions welcome or suggestions.


Reminders:

The 2024 renewal of membership is due on January 1st 2024. 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

2025 National SIMCA Rally Tasmania, September 23-29

Make bookings NOW!
**NB- Spirit of Tasmania now
departs from Geelong!**

SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc.



**CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/
RENEWAL January – December 2025**

Please print all names for family/joint membership

Surname: _____ GivenName/s _____

Postal Address

_____ State _____ Postcode _____ Please

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

Contact Details: Home/Work Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

New Membership Applications: How did you hear about Simca Car Club of Australia?

Facebook Website Word of Mouth Other

Details.....

Would you prefer to receive your club newsletter via email? YES NO

First Application - Do you own a Simca/s? YES NO Please provide details below. Renewing Application – Any changes to your existing cars from last year? (No., type, condition, etc)

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 by EFT, Cheque or PayPal to Simca Car Club Australia Inc. & return this form to:

Secretary/Treasurer S.C.C.A. Inc.
Iain Dyer
121 Penquite Road
NEWSTEAD TAS 7250

Bendigo Bank – BSB: 633 000 A/C No: 135 350
668 International Transfers: SWIFT CODE –
BEND AU 3 B Please put your name and “Subs” in
Reference Section. **PayPal:**
simcaaustralia@gmail.com