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the GOOD OIL

1953



The official journal of the

NORTH EASTERN CAR CLUB INC.

AUGUST 2020



the Good Oil is published monthly, except January, by the North Eastern Car Club incorporated. The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the club or its committee.

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The deadline for material to be published in the Good Oil is the third weekend of each month except December. Material as text files (.txt), Word documents (.doc) or PDFs (.pdf) is acceptable. Alternatively printed document is also acceptable. All material to be directed to the EDITOR - editor@northeasterncarclub.com.au.

The North Eastern Car Club meet at 7.30PM on the first Wednesday of each month, except January, at The NECC Clubrooms, Nolan Lane, Tarravinee 3678.

NECC COMMITTEE 2020



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→ president@northeasterncarclub.com.au

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→ cps@northeasterncarclub.com.au

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→ khanacross@northeasterncarclub.com.au

POINTS SCORER **Stuart Lister** 0418 629 900

CAMS SCRUTINEER **Laurie Weston** 0419 395 421
→ camsscruiteer@northeasterncarclub.com.au

EVENTS CALENDAR 2020

JANUARY

15 Committee meeting
30-2 Bathurst 12 hour

FEBRUARY

2 Swanpool Motor Festival
5 **SHOW US YOUR CAR NIGHT**
19 Committee meeting
22 George Woods Rally
29 Rally Retro Festival

MARCH

4 **General Meeting**
7 Challenge of Clubs
12-15 Australian Grand Prix
18 Committee meeting
21 **VRC**
Mitta Mountain Rally
28 Welsford Wander

APRIL

1 **General Meeting**
5 **Khanacross Rd.1**
15 Committee meeting
17-19 ARC Forest Rally WA
18 VRC/VCRS Ada River Rally*
27-2/5 Targa Tasmania

MAY

2 VCRS
Victoria Cross Rally*
6 **General Meeting**
10 **Khanacross Rd.2**
13 Committee meeting
23 VRC/VCRS
Marysville Stages*
29-31 Historic Winton

JUNE

3 **General Meeting**
5-7 Supercars Winton 400
17 Committee meeting
19-21 Rally Tasmania TAS
20 VCRS Nissan
Nightmoves*
28 **Khanacross Rd.3**

JULY

1 **General Meeting**
15 Committee meeting
26 **Khanacross Rd.1^o**

AUGUST

5 **General Meeting**
9 **Khanacross Rd.2^o**
15 **Shepparton Rod & Custom Tour**
19 Committee Meeting
22-23 ARC/VRC
Eureka Rally VIC

SEPTEMBER

2 **General Meeting**
13 **Khanacross^o**
16 Committee Meeting
19-20 VRC/VCRS
Yarra Valley Stages*
26 Tour of Gippsland

OCTOBER

3 VCRS Tunbridge Trail
4 **Khanacross^o**
7 **General Meeting at Moyhu**
9-11 Supercars
Bathurst 1000
14 Committee meeting
16-18 ARC Rd.1 SA
17-18 VRC/VCRS Akademos
24 Bagshot Rallysprint

NOVEMBER

4 **General Meeting**
7 VCRS Tumut Rally*
15 **Khanacross^o**
18 Committee meeting
21 VRC/VCRS
Marysville Stages
27-29 ARC Rd.2 ACT

DECEMBER

2 **Annual General Meeting**
4 **Presentation Dinner**

* NECC Rally Championship round

^o To be confirmed

Note: dates & events subject to change

Cover photo: Guess the wreck - the Editor



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PRESIDENT PRATTLES...

Scott Mann → president@northeasterncarclub.com.au

G'day folks,

We might be back in hibernation, but...

Well what a difference a couple of weeks makes! You take your eye off the prize for a mere second (or weeks in this case) and next thing you know you've left the track and your now a passenger spinning through the muddy infield trying to work out exactly how and where to re-join the race...

As mentioned in last month's article, as a state, we were so close to returning to a new level of normality only to have it plucked away from us like when you pluck that lolly pop off the toddler. The end result is also the same, tears and potentially the toys coming out of the cot.

Putting all these poor analogies aside, as a community, we've all been here before so we know what we should be doing. We need to constructively ensure that those around us also understand what is the right thing to do and then actually do it!

What we don't need to do in this current climate is all get on our keyboards or in front of our phones and then get on our social media soapboxes and start tearing strips off individuals or groups just because they have a different view from our own.

Over the past month, I've seen firsthand how this has had a detrimental effect on individuals. I know many other folks in the big wide world of the web have stated how the words of the keyboard warriors can have a really negative effect on others. However, seeing firsthand has been an eye opener.

As many of our elder community members will attest, if you won't say it to someone's face, then don't say (or this case, type) it at all! It's right up there with the other statement of, "if you've got nothing nice to say, then don't say it at all!" Neither of these are new, but at times we all forget what happens to those around us when we don't abide by these statements.

We are all going through this again! Now is the time to reach out to those within our community and extend a hand of support instead of ridicule.

We all need to make the effort of picking up the phone and ring a mate, a family member, a neighbour, a work colleague to see how they are going. We may not be able to play in the forests or on the track, hell we shouldn't even lend a shoulder to have someone lean on it, but we can let someone bend our ear over the phone. Take the opportunity to share stories of old, or details of the new project (motorsporting or other). Check in on each other, do it without notice and do it regularly! If we stick together through this current situation, we will come out it a much stronger community.

A special call out is towards our kids. Pay special attention to these ones. They're struggling through the same crappy situation as you and I are. They too are struggling to understand why they can't go around and play with Billy or Kate. Or why they can't see Grandma or Pop. We all need to make sure we spend time we them an explain to them what's going on with the facts. Remember, unlike some of us, they definitely haven't been through something like this before.

Of course, if you are in a real rut without the proverbial Tiffor, reach out to the professional support agencies.

Lifeline: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636 or beyondblue.org.au

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au

Headspace: 1800 650 890 or headspace.org.au

Lastly, please take care of **you** as well.

So now that we are all on the merry go round again, what will the landscape look like when the ride stops this time?

Well, until all things coronavirus settle down around the country we'll need to continue with the period of hibernation.

At this stage the August general meeting will not be conducted.

We will need to await further direction from the government before determining if we can meet in September.

The next two rounds of the Khanacross will also have to be cancelled on account of the government regs. Further to this, Wangaratta Council need to provide a clearance for us to resume activities at the reserve and we are also very conscious of the local resident's apprehension of having a gathering within their local community and the associated risks that this could bring.

The September date is also posing some challenges for the local hall community as they have another significant event scheduled for this weekend. We'll keep you posted on this round as details become clearer.

The planned social drive across to Shepparton has been postponed at the venue's request. Again, we'll share a new date with you when it's locked in (potentially November).

We are still planning to conduct our October general meeting at Moyhu visiting our local door card manufacturer.

The committee has also stated planning for our end of year presentation dinner. Obviously, given the year we've had to date. We are still working through the format for the night. Details will be published in due course.

I think that cover's it all for the minute.

Last thing I want to touch on is an update on Les Adams and Chis Aggenbach. Les and Chris suffered from an excursion into the scenery at speed at the recent Bay Stages. From the reports I've received from Chris (via Jodi), the mighty 1600 went over once, or four times I lost count, it happened too damn fast!

My understanding is that Les was able to hop out of the car with minor bruising to both body and now back pocket. Chris unfortunately sustained some injuries, most notably a broken collar bone which subsequently required surgery to set it back into place.

Speaking to Chris via messenger (again via Jodi) shortly after the weekend, he stated the broken collar bone was much better than the potentially broken neck. A point he attributed to the HANS device.

Chris returned back home from Canberra a couple of weeks ago to continue his recovery.

I wish Chris a speedy recovery and hope to see them back in the forest again.

Well that's it for me this month, until I see you at the next event, stay safe!

SOME CHANGES TO THE CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

Ron Woodward → cps@northeasterncarclub.com.au

The review of the operation of the current club permit scheme was to have taken place this year. However, due to the current various situation in Victoria this will now be undertaken next year. In the interim several amendments will be introduced commencing in October. The ones which affect our club are as follows;

When a club member attends a VicRoads office to place a vehicle on the scheme an appointment to do this will have to have been made. (appointment fee will be \$19.00) This will mean that you won't have to wait in a queue and the staff member who serves you is fully trained in the club permit process. This change should ensure that your visit is both quick and the application is processed correctly. Renewal of a current permit will remain as per current. No mention has been made of having to present the vehicle when first applying for the permit.

A new offence of "failure to complete logbook" will be introduced (fine of \$165.00) This will replace the practice of issuing a fine for driving an unregistered vehicle (fine \$900.00) if you are detected driving a vehicle without a current entry in your logbook.

A fee (\$38.00) will now be charged for the number plates issued when a vehicle is placed on the scheme. The long-awaited option of slimline plates will now be available (\$150.00)

There will be a small increase in the cost of both 45 day and 90-day permits.

As a member club of the Association of Motoring Clubs we have been given the opportunity to comment on these coming changes. The Association will collate the results of these comments and present them to VicRoads. Unfortunately, the timeline for these comments is very short, only a matter of days. Due to this short timeline I have spoken to our president and based on the discussion have advised the Association that we do not have any issues with the changes.

Ron Woodward

CPS Officer

NOTICE

Our club has been approached by a friend of **Allan Moffat** seeking movie footage of Allan's participation in a Tarrawingee race meeting in 1962 (his first race meeting in Australia).

As 1962 is a long time ago the footage would have been taken by fathers or grandfathers of current day members and would have been on 8mm home movie film.

If, by some stroke of luck, someone can help with this please contact **Ron Woodward** (0400 250 861).

POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS

Ron Woodward → cps@northeasterncarclub.com.au

The North Eastern Car Club is a participant in the Victorian (VicRoads) Club Permit Scheme.

At the end of 2017 the committee made the decision not to admit any vehicles to the scheme owned by members who joined the club from the start of 2018 onwards. Members who joined the club prior to the start of 2018 would still be permitted to place vehicles on the scheme after this date.

Any persons not eligible to access the Club Permit Scheme through this club are advised to visit the VicRoads website and download the list of eligible clubs participating in the scheme (there are many).

Members who are eligible to place vehicles on the scheme are requested to contact the Club Permit Officer if they are proposing to place a vehicle on the scheme prior to obtaining a roadworthy certificate to discuss their application.

Ron Woodward
CPS officer

CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

Ron Woodward → cps@northeasterncarclub.com.au



PERMIT RENEWALS

The following vehicles on the Club Permit Scheme are due for renewal.

AUGUST 2020

Geoff Sefton	09920 H	29/08/20
Tom Kaitler	08129 H	11/08/20
Brendon Gigliotti	70740 H	26/08/20
James Perkins	82833 H	03/08/20
Michael White	82838 H	17/08/20
Richard Smyth	0936 H	27/08/20
Tom Kaitler		01/08/20

OVERDUE

Scott Kelly	40013 H	09/07/20
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IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you have a car on the Club Permit Scheme and you don't renew your club membership on the due date, your registration will be automatically **INVALIDATED** until your membership is brought up to date. You may be subject to fines from the authorities if caught driving the vehicle with an invalidated permit.

VICROADS PERMIT RENEWALS

As of Monday 23rd March, VicRoads have advised that:

" Currently, our Customer Services Centres and mail processing centre will remain open so Club Permit Renewals can continue to be paid as normal.

As you will appreciate, the situation is changing daily, we will advise further as soon as there are any changes to these arrangements. "

NOTICE TO ALL CLUB PERMIT HOLDERS

Due to the change in the frequency of committee meetings, I will no longer be available to sign Club permit paperwork prior to those meetings.

I will remain available prior to general meetings (6.30 - 7.30 pm) to sign paperwork and the mailing option will still remain available.

PERMIT SIGNING

Both club permit applications and renewals will only be signed in one of the following two ways:

1. During the hour prior to commencement of a monthly general meeting (first Wednesday of each month excluding January). Meetings commence at 7.30 PM.
2. Sent by mail to **Ron Woodward at 28 Lauriston Avenue Milawa VIC 3678**. Renewals must include vehicle condition report form (download form from club web site) and a stamped self-addressed envelope. Due to longer mail delivery times, please allow a 2-week turnaround time.

Note:

Please contact **Ron Woodward [5727 3407 or 0400 250 861]** to discuss any new vehicle applications prior to commencing application process. Please refer to details below regarding eligibility of new applications.

Ron Woodward → cps@northeasterncarclub.com.au

MEMBERSHIP

Richard Fung → membership@northeasterncarclub.com.au

EXPIRING MEMBERS

EXTREMELY OVERDUE

Clare Whitten & Family

OVERDUE

Ross & Christine Runnalls	Peter Gay	Paul Scalzo
Gerard Blum	Joe Giudice	

AUGUST 2020

Rolf Monschau	Michael White	Richard & Jacqui Bradbury
Peter Williams & Family	Sanderson Family	

SEPTEMBER 2020

Swen Tillack	Craig & Kim Green	Justin O'Connor	Brad Gourlay & Family
Matthew Bowman	Ellen & Thomas Crocker	Allan Holland	David Sheridan
Ben Dalton	Brodie Paul	Reece Masters	James Stanistreet
Tony Dalton	Paul McKenzie	Shane Gardner	Sam Prior & Simon Baker

OCTOBER 2020

Glen O'Brien & Family	Ross Cairns	Stuart Lister	Samuel Adams
Rob Ballard & Family	Thomas Carriera	Lane & Garry Griffin	Kevin McCluskey
Dennis O'Neill & Family	David Lovett	Ron Ligeti	Chris Swingler & Family
Norman Gunton	Timothy Fry	Jodi Mann & Family	Ian Inglis
Louise Harper & Family	Christopher Aggenbach	David Morris	John Berenger

NECC is supported by:



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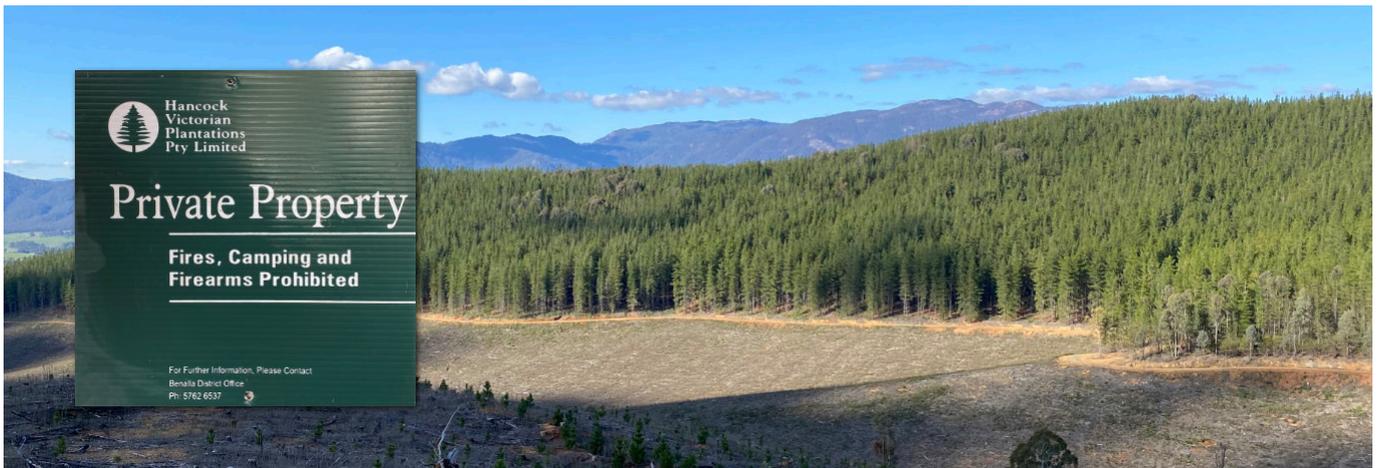


HANCOCKS BAN: The end of an era

Jeff Whitten → jeff@rallysportmag.com.au

August 28, 2001 – it was a watershed day in the life of the North Eastern Car Club. A day when the future operation of the Club changed presumably for ever, a day when everything the club had worked for over the years was unceremoniously tipped out the window.

And it was the day that club member Mark Richards will remember for as long as he lives. It was the day that the club became involuntarily involved with Hancocks Victorian Plantations, a large Canadian superannuation investment company who had just been given free rein over the management of the enormous stands of Pinus Radiata timber in Victoria, thanks to the Victorian government's relentless privatisation of many of the state's assets.



In other words, under Premier Jeff Kennett it gave the State Government of the time full control over everything that had been managed by the Victorian Forest Commission in the past. And of course that meant that the thousands of kilometres of forest roads and tracks that our club had been using over the years were now out of bounds.

So why was August 28, 2001 different from any other year? Over the years our club had enjoyed almost unlimited use of the pine forests in the North East - Merriang, Ovens, Stanley, Bright, Warrenbayne, Koetong and others.

When the club decided to give up motor racing at its Tarrawingee circuit in favour of rallying in 1965, the club embraced that decision wholeheartedly. Rallying was to replace racing. From that time on the rallying side of the club went ahead in leaps and bounds, with few restrictions as to what areas could be used.

Generally it was just a matter of fronting up to the desk of the appropriate regional Forest Commission office with a map of the proposed route of the next rally we wanted to run and permission would be given, albeit with the usual provisos. This amicable agreement was to continue for many years, however, without any forewarning, the club found itself in a situation where it appeared rallying "in the pines" as it became known, was no longer possible.

Mark Richards was the first director to be affected by these new bans and after applying for permission to conduct an event, he received a reply from Hancocks Victorian Plantations (HVP) which spelt out loud and clear that rallying in the forests under their (recently gifted) control would no longer be permitted under the existing criteria.

In addition, there were so many conditions imposed (including that a surety bond of \$5360 be levied, plus an additional \$350 road inspection fee), that any thought of complying with their fee schedule or requirements was totally out of the question.

As well as that, there was a long list of other conditions (restoration of roads after an event, cancelling the event if more than 75mm of rain or running or standing water occurred on the road surface). And so on and so on. As can be appreciated, Mark's event was the first casualty and the rally did not proceed.

Despite representation to HVP by the NECC, the CAMS Rally Panel, our local Member of Parliament and indeed CAMS itself over a protracted amount of time, rallying in the pines has never happened again and we are restricted to using hardwood forests (of which there are a diminishing number of suitable ones).

Nineteen years on we are no further advanced – we have still been unable to instigate a meaningful discussion with HVP. And while there remains a water-tight contract between the government and sporting and interest groups like ours, things are unlikely to change. Without putting too fine a point on it, rallying in Victoria has been decimated.

Yes, we can still make use of hardwood areas, but these are not always easy to access or indeed suitable for club events or higher status rallies. In addition, the amount of new houses erected on roads that we once used extensively have also been to our detriment.

It appears that we have no further avenue of appeal and the longer the ban is in place the less likely that things will change for the good. Those of us who have rally cars sitting at home in the shed understandably feel very bitter at the status quo, as do those of us who have children or grandchildren just busting to get into the sport.

It seems every avenue has been exhausted and the likelihood of the situation changing for the better is highly unlikely. I can understand that HVP's core business is making money for their shareholders and they have that right.

If any blame can be levied it's against the Kennett government and their staff advisers, who drew up this highly restrictive arrangement without consultation with those groups who have had almost unrestricted use for almost 20 years.

Much more could be said against the ban, but suffice it to say that had there been a ban like that which affected V8 Supercars, I believe CAMS (now Motorsport Australia) would have been in there like a bullet, fighting for our needs and endeavouring to have the situation remedied. That didn't happen, has never happened, and we are paying the price for it.

August 28, 2001 remains a very dark day.

Jeff Whitten

Note: These comments are the opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the North Eastern Car Club.

UPCOMING EVENTS

➔ KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR LAST MINUTE UPDATES

northeasterncarclub.com.au



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