

THE MOTOMETER

November
2025



FRIENDS
OF
VINTAGE
MOTORING INC



“The Voice of Friends of Vintage Motoring”
**“Timeless Stories, Technical Wisdom,
and Club News”**

Committee Members

President - Adam Jones

Secretary - Maxine Martin

Treasurer - Bob Yates

Public Officer - Ian Russell

Inaugural Committee Members

Mik & Marg Bojko

Gary Warren

Dale & Kay La Vars

Trevor Martin

Kelly Russell

Rosa Yates

Friends of Vintage Motoring email address

trevmax1@bigpond.net.au

WELCOME

Samantha Kimber

Brian & Heather Walsh

Welcome to this exciting new chapter in Vintage/Veteran Motoring

The Green Machine: My Unlikely Love Affair with a Ford

By Jake Bonnici

Growing up, I was a Holden tragic. Watching Bathurst and cheering on Brocky was the highlight of my year - so the idea of ever owning a Ford? Pretty much unthinkable. Yet, here I am, proudly driving a 1923 Ford Model T Ute. Life's funny like that.

How It All Began

Back in February 2020, I took the plunge and bought my first Model T - now affectionately known as *The Green Machine*. To say I was nervous about owning a Ford would be an understatement. But with Trevor and Maxine as neighbor's - a mechanic, a treasure trove of spare parts, and a lifetime of good advice right next door - I figured I'd be in safe hands if anything went wrong.

One weekend, I was at a car show admiring a beautifully restored Chevrolet pickup when I decided to scroll through Facebook Marketplace. As fate would have it, up popped a Model T Ute - located in Birdwood, just a short drive away - and listed for a very reasonable \$12,000.

The Hunt for the T

We went to take a look, and of course, it wouldn't start. I got chatting with Donald Friend, the car's custodian, who was selling it on behalf of his sister. It had come over from Perth, where it had been restored by its previous owners, Shirley and Graham Anderson. Graham had bought it back in 2009 for \$22,000 - apparently, a moment of weakness (and a healthy retirement account) was to blame.

After some back-and-forth with Trevor that evening, we decided to offer \$7,000, knowing it needed a bit of work. A few anxious days later, Donald came back with \$7,500 - he didn't want to haul it back across the Nullarbor. Deal done.

A Little TLC

Once home, the Green Machine got the attention it deserved. We sorted out the starter motor - the culprit was a bent shaft - replaced the e-timer and added a front damper. After a trip to Regency (where I think I might've taught the inspectors more than they taught me), we settled on calling it a 1923 Model T Ute, with a 1920 chassis and a 1925 engine.



Since then, it's been nothing but joy. The old girl starts every time, runs smooth, and turns heads wherever she goes. Without a doubt, it's the **most reliable car I own** - and probably the most fun.

Lessons from the Tin Lizzie

The Ute has become a real family favourite. There are no grand restoration plans - we'll just keep driving it, fixing what breaks, and letting it roll on for another hundred years. If the Model T has taught me one thing, it's this: **never drink and drive** - especially when there's a pedal for reverse! It's a car that keeps you on your toes and rewards patience with personality.

Looking Ahead

Of course, once you catch the Model T bug, it's hard to stop. I'm already keeping an eye out for my next vintage/veteran vehicle - hopefully something a bit bigger. Three grown men on a front bench seat is a tight squeeze, though the "air conditioning" (otherwise known as an open cabin) works surprisingly well.

Owning a Ford might've once seemed unthinkable, but this old T has earned my respect. It's more than just a car - it's a rolling reminder of simpler times, clever engineering, and the joy of keeping history alive on four skinny tyres.

The Garage of Goodies

The home garage is just that, it's a garage but it's where my dreams come to life. The Tribute HDT Aero was created in the garage and breathing life back into the 1967 RR Silver Shadow recently became a reality. The Morris Minor 1000 rests proudly on the hoist awaiting its next outing and the Porsche 911sc reminds me everyday why I love cars. My most bizarre investment made is the Pontiac Trans-Am, not Smokey and the Bandit, but just as ridiculous. Owning a working replica of KITT from Knight Rider is something dreams are made of. As a kid in the 80s, I watched every episode of Knight Rider 7 times and perhaps that put me in good stead with the car gods and I thank them for it.

But now it's time to roll up the sleeves and make another dream come true. This time it's not my dream, it's my wife's and no, it's not a locomotive, it's her Daimler DE36 Landulette. Ill need a hand with this one too Trev!!

**See you all at the Christmas Party,
Jake**



39th Down Under London To Brighton

Sunday 26th October 2025



Since the change of the rules for the Down Under London To Brighton allowing any car, Motorcycle or Commercial vehicle over 100 years old to enter I decided to enter the Model T. The Saturday was a terrible day with lots of rain, and I wasn't sure I would even go but when I woke on the Sunday morning the weather was beautiful although very windy. Saxby was my passenger for the day, and Kelly and Ian met us at my house at 8.30am in trusty old Jaffa. We headed off in convoy to pick up Tony on our way to London Road Mile End. On arriving at the starting point, it was nice to see so many veteran and early vintage cars already assembled. The pilot car this year was an absolutely stunning 1913 Rolls Royce.

After a quick welcome by the mayor of Mile End we were on our way. The route was really nice and different from the previous years that I had entered. We travelled down Sir Donald Bradman Drive then onto Tapleys Hill Road before weaving our way through some back streets to the CCC Clubrooms at Glandore. Here we had a wonderful morning tea of Tea, Coffee, Soft Drink, Water and a very nice London Bun. I was only able to eat half my London bun, so Tony was more than happy to polish off the rest. After a chat and a rest, we were back on the road heading to our final destination of Brighton. The



lawned area was full of beautifully polished veteran cars on one side and all the vintage cars on the other. It was very windy on the waterfront but was still a very enjoyable afternoon sitting around chatting with Ian and Kelly. After all the officials was over with, we decided to head for home. As we were leaving the reserve we were presented with our plaque for participating. Our trip home was really good apart from the wind blowing the side curtains open a couple of times. It was a very enjoyable day, and I really encourage anyone that has a car 100 years and older to consider participating. You won't be disappointed. I will certainly be entering again next year and hope to have the Dodge back on the road by then.



Adam Jones

ST KILDA TRAM MUSEUM

The day turned on perfect weather as all the cars and members gathered at Krispy Kreme in Bolivar for the drive out to St Kilda. I travelled with Ian Russell in the Model T Ford, which made the trip feel extra special.



Once we arrived, we headed straight to the St Kilda Hotel for lunch. The view stretched out over the water. Well, over where water should have been, but the company more than made up for the low tide. The atmosphere was relaxed, and everyone enjoyed catching up.

After lunch we moved on to the St Kilda Tramway Museum, one of Adelaide's hidden treasures. The volunteers there have preserved an incredible collection of historic trams, many of which once ran through Adelaide's streets. We were able to ride several different trams, each from a different era, on the line that runs from the museum to the adventure playground and back. It was amazing to see how the designs, interiors, and controls changed over the decades.



Exploring the sheds was just as much fun. Rows of stationary trams, some restored, others in the middle of being worked on gave us a closer look at Adelaide's transport history.



Dominic and Sofia had a fantastic time pretending to be tram drivers. Dominic was especially fascinated by the old tram that had a toilet built into it.

The day wrapped up with a smooth cruise home with Kelly, rounding off a wonderful outing filled with history, good company, and plenty of laughs

Looking forward to the Christmas Party, celebrating with fellow club members

Debra





Friends of Vintage Motoring Christmas Get Together

Date: Saturday, 13th December

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: 1355 Lower North East Rd., Houghton

Join us for a festive afternoon of fun, food, and good company!

Father Christmas will be visiting the children, followed by a delicious **BBQ tea**.

Guests: Feel free to bring along an adult non-member

Cost: \$10.00 per non-member adult

Please BYO drinks & a Chair.

Contributions:

We kindly ask members to contribute **either a salad or a sweet** to share.

Maxine will be in touch to confirm what you'd like to bring.

Looking forward to celebrating with you all!

RSVP for catering purposes:

kiar@bigpond.com



Upcoming Events

Friends of Vintage Motoring

**Saturday
13th
December**

**Kids Christmas Party
1355 Lower North East Rd Houghton
2.00pm
Organisers: Kelly & Maxine**

**Sunday
1st
February**

**Cummins House
Organisers: Mik & Marg Bojko
mikbojko@hotmail.com**

**Sunday
29th
March**

**Penfield Trains
Organisers: Ian & Kelly Russell
kiar@bigpond.com**

**Sunday
12th
April**

**Presidents Run
Save the date more info to come**

**Sunday
3rd
May**

**Breakfast Run
Organisers: Maxine & Trevor Martin
trevmax1@bigpond.net.au**

MEETING MINUTES

09/11/2024

Welcome	In the absence of Adam Bob welcomed all those present to The November Meeting of the Friends of Vintage Motoring	
Present:	Dale, Kay & Jarryd La Vars, Nathan & Dylan Costi Bob & Rosa Yates , Garry & Lin Warren Mik & Marg Bojko , Anthony & Ebony Russell Tony & Kay Russell Ian & Kelly Russell, Debbie Spackman, Trevor & Maxine Martin, Jess & Adrian Czabania, Simon Czabania, Paul & Jane Moore, Brian & Heather Walsh, Jenny McKenzie, Trevor & Raelene Norley	
Apologies:	Paul Van Ruth, Adam Jones, Jayden Russell, Kieren & Ronette O'Neill, Sian Costi, Erin & Ben Lawes, Brody & Zara Manuel	
Acceptance of Minutes:	As published in the October Motometer and distributed by email	Moved: Dale Seconded: Rosa That the minutes as distributed by email be accepted Carried
Secretary's Report:	Email sent to all members re upcoming events	Moved: Jarryd Seconded: Jenny That Secretary's Report be accepted Carried
Treasurers Report:	Bob presented the Treasurers report As per the financial statement signed by the Public Officer - Ian Approval was sought for the treasurer to have a cash float of \$100.00 Approval was sought to spend \$300.00 of club funds for the Christmas party	Moved: Tony Seconded: Gary That Treasurers Report be accepted Carried Moved Mik Seconded Anthony Carried Moved: Tony Seconded: Marg Carried
New Membership:	Sam Kimber Brian & Heather Walsh	Moved: Bob Seconded: Mik That Sam, Brian & Heather be accepted Carried

Monthly Runs:	<p>13th December Run: Christmas Party, 1st February Run: Cummins House – Mik Bojko 14th March Run: Penfield Trains</p> <p>Maxine spoke about the upcoming xmas party, she had a list of food etc and asked members to advise what they would like to bring.</p>	
Application to DPTI	Members present were reminded that - DPTI new application to be forwarded on 14th December with the following:	
The Motometer:	October edition published and distributed by email	
Memorabilia	<p>Polo shirts - \$35.00 Name Badges available - \$5.00 Biros - \$2.00 Key Rings - \$6.50 Stickers - 2 for \$5.00</p>	
General Business:	<p>A \$2.00 lucky square was distributed for purchase with the winner being Rosa—Rosa donated \$20.00 back to the club.</p> <p>All those present thanked Bob & Rosa for organising such a wonderful run to St Kilda</p> <p>Adam has suggested that the committee purchase an Esky so that members can purchase drinks at runs. After some discussion it was decided not to proceed at this stage</p> <p>It was decided that the club organise the use of a square for enabling members to pay for purchases and membership on runs by credit card. Members were advised that a small fee as set by the bank would be added to their purchases</p>	<p>Moved: Tony Seconded: Dale Carried</p> <p>Moved: Kelly Seconded: Gary Carried</p>
Meeting Closed:	Bob thanked all those for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed.	



Club Polo Shirts are now available

\$35.00 each

Please email Maxine to place your order

trevmax1@bigpond.net.au

SWAP MEETS & CAR SHOWS

Saturday January 17th & 18th - Yesterdays Power Rally Milang
Oval

Sunday January 18th - Hahndorf Lions Swap Meet &
Toy Sale

Sunday January 18th - All Holden Day
Wigley Reserve, Glenelg

Sunday February 1st - McLaren Vale Swap Meet

Sunday February 15th - Murray Bridge Swap Meet

Sunday February 22nd - All British Day

Sunday 15th March - Woodside Swap Meet

Sunday 15th March - Gawler to Springton Veteran & Vintage
Run

Sunday 22nd March - All Ford Day

Sunday 3rd May - Old Crocks Run Wigley Reserve Glenelg

**FIND TREASURES YOU NEVER
KNEW YOU NEEDED!**