

THE MOTOMETER

September
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

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Public Officer - Ian Russell

Inaugural Committee Members

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Gary Warren

Dale & Kay La Vars

Trevor Martin

Kelly Russell

Rosa Yates

Friends of Vintage Motoring email address

trevmax1@bigpond.net.au

WELCOME

Ben Creighton

John & Nicola Giorgio

Archie Giagkoulas

Con Giagkoulas

Craig & Zyra Norley

Paul Moore

Welcome to this exciting new chapter in Vintage/Veteran Motoring

Our Journey with the 1959 100E Ford Prefect Special

A Chronicle of Family, Nostalgia, and Restoration

For anyone who has ever loved a car - not merely for its mechanical parts, but for the stories it carries and the memories it creates - the tale of our 1959 100E Ford Prefect Special will ring familiar and true. This is the chronicle of a modest vehicle that became an emblem of youthful exuberance, family milestones, and the passage of time itself.



The Early Days: A Young Man's Dream

It was February 1960 when the future beckoned with a gleam of new paint and chrome. At just eighteen, I purchased a demonstration model 1959 100E Ford Prefect Special from Maughan Thiem Motors at Hindmarsh - a decision shaped as much by hope as by practicality. She was white, accented with a blue stripe, and soon became the canvas for my youthful impulses.

Being young and eager to make an impression, I set about personalizing the Prefect with a series of modifications. The bucket seats gave way to a bench seat, a strategic choice that made journeys more comfortable for my companions and allowed for closeness over the gearbox hump. A sun visor, proudly adorned with a horse encased in a horseshoe, crowned the windshield - an emblem of luck and a playful nod to my own spirit. The rear bumper was extended to accommodate the spare wheel externally, liberating boot space and changing the car's silhouette. I commissioned a special cover for the wheel, moved the number plate and its light, and fitted two side mirrors as well as dual aerials on the mudguards. Two spotlights found their place on the front bumper bar, lending the Prefect an air of adventure and a dash of bravado.

Each change was a reflection of personality - part necessity, part dream. The Prefect was more than a mode of transportation; it was a statement, and I hoped its flair would turn heads and perhaps win a few hearts along the way.

Love and Lessons

The Prefect's story took on new meaning in 1961, when I met Kay. Together, we embarked on a journey that began with driving lessons and laughter, nerves and triumphs. As Kay learned to master the clutch and gearshift, our journeys on winding country roads and bustling city streets became more than exercises in motoring - they became the foundation of a partnership, the beginning of our lifelong journey together.

With every outing, the Prefect bore witness to our early days as a couple, its backseat echoing with conversations, its dashboard the silent keeper of our dreams. It was during these formative years that the car transformed from a youthful indulgence into a symbol of new beginnings and shared adventure - a touchstone that would inspire me years later to seek out another Prefect and relive the spirit of those early drives.



The Pull of Nostalgia: Rediscovering the Prefect

By 1979, my affection for vintage motoring had only deepened. The journey had begun with a 1922 T Ford, but when word reached me of a 1959 Ford Prefect Special for sale, nostalgia exerted its irresistible pull. I acquired the car with a vision: to restore it to mirror my first Prefect, but this time, I resolved to forego the flamboyant embellishments of youth.

The newly purchased Prefect, still green and showing its years, bore the marks of age - rust here and there, patched over with black tape, a humble effort at preservation. Yet, this imperfect exterior did nothing to dull its charm. Just as I had once done with Kay, I taught my daughter Michelle to drive in that car. It was at its wheel that she passed her driving test, a rite of passage that stitched new memories into the fabric of family tradition. In time, my grandchildren, too, would take their first tentative spins behind its wheel, the Prefect serving as a gentle teacher across generations.

Breathing New Life

The Prefect remained a constant in our family life, a trusty companion on rallies and outings. But as the mid-1990s approached, the car's battle scars grew too numerous to ignore. Kay, ever practical, declared there would be no more rallies unless I attended to the car's worn condition.

Accepting the challenge, I withdrew the Prefect from the road and set out on a restoration journey. A talented young panel beater—someone with a genuine passion for working with authentic steel—undertook the meticulous work of repairing the body. Then, Kelly's uncle stepped in to paint the car, ensuring that the fresh coat matched the colour of my very first Prefect. When the restoration was finished, the Prefect returned to the road, gleaming as it once had, restored to its original charm but without the youthful embellishments that had once defined it.

Legacy on Wheels

The story of the 1959 Ford Prefect Special is more than a ledger of years and repairs; it is the chronicle of a car that became a vessel for love, adventure, and family legacy. From the laughter of driving lessons to the pride of passing tests, from rallies to restoration, the Prefect has always been more than machinery—it is a keeper of stories, a witness to the passage of time, and a bridge between generations.

As the years roll on, the Prefect remains at the heart of our family's journey—a restored classic, cherished and well-loved, carrying not just passengers, but the weight of cherished memories and the promise of those still to come.

As the years unfurled, the Prefect's role in our family's journey only grew deeper, shifting gracefully from treasured relic to trusted companion and, ultimately, club car. My son Ian and grandson Anthony, ever watchful, now steer the sturdy T Fords—convinced that time's passage has rendered me better suited for the gentler pace of the Prefect. Their care, a quiet act of love, allows me to embrace new adventures behind the wheel of the car that has so faithfully carried our history.



With the Prefect as our steadfast chariot, we have traversed the breadth of Australia, winding through every state and even crossing the Bass Strait to Tasmania. The Northern Territory remains untouched, a blank space on our motoring map, but everywhere else, the Prefect has performed with unwavering reliability, its engine humming through deserts and mountain roads alike, binding our family with every mile.

Reflecting on all we have experienced; it is astonishing to realize just how intricately our lives are interwoven with the Prefect's story. It has been present in every chapter—ushering in beginnings, teaching lessons, and bearing witness to the laughter and learning that marked our youth and shaped our adulthood. Through rallies, restorations, and countless shared adventures, the car has not only bridged generations but has become the silent chronicler of our joys and triumphs.

Now, as time gently carries us forward, the Prefect stands more than ever as a vessel of cherished memories and enduring spirit. It beckons us to look not only to journeys past, but to those yet to come—moments waiting to be coloured with the warmth of our family and the camaraderie of fellow Vintage Motoring enthusiasts. With Kay by my side, children and grandchildren nearby, and the Prefect gleaming at the ready, each trip promises new laughter, fresh stories, and the quiet wonder of the open road.

Our beloved Prefect will continue to weave its magic, forging new chapters and memories that enrich the tapestry of our family's motoring legacy—a testament to adventure, togetherness, and the kind of joy that only comes from a lifetime shared.

Tony & Kay Russell

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Sunday 19 October 2025

MONARTO ZOO ADVENTURE

October
11th

Classic/Modern Car Run
Meet 9.00am - TTG Hotel
either BYO Lunch
or purchase at Monarto
RSVP Dale La Vars

djlv@esc.net.au

SEPTEMBER RUN - Fish & chips with friends



It was fantastic to wake up to such a beautiful morning - perfect weather for our September fish and chip run, wonderfully organised by Ian and Kelly.

When we arrived at the meeting point, it was great to see other members already congregating and chatting. Everyone seemed to be gathering around Bob and Rosa's mode of transport - the FJ. I could hear the men oohing and aahing over this beautifully presented piece of motoring history.

After a bit of socializing and plenty of admiration for not only the FJ, but it was so nice to see Adam's Model T back on the road after having her engine and transmission rebuilt and she was also sporting a nice new hood.

Ian and Kelly along with Deborah alighted from their Model T and of course right behind them was Tony and Kay in the prefect.

Ian called us all to order, handed out run sheets and declared that it was time to hit the road. Engines roared to life, (well that may be a slight exaggeration) and soon we were cruising, there wasn't a lot of traffic on the road, so it was perfect for a relaxed convoy.

Eventually, we arrived at our destination: a quaint little fish and chip shop right in front of the marina the owners had set up a lovely spot for us all to sit under a canopy, you couldn't have wished for better hospitality. Ian and Kelly had chosen a top-notch venue — there was a lot of variety on the menu to choose from. I personally had the most beautiful, iced coffee – I highly recommend it, the hamburgers looked delicious, the batter on the fish was nice and crispy, and the chips piping hot. The chatter picked up again as we waited for our orders to arrive, in fact to be honest the chatter didn't stop from the time we all arrived at our meeting point till the time we all said our final goodbyes.

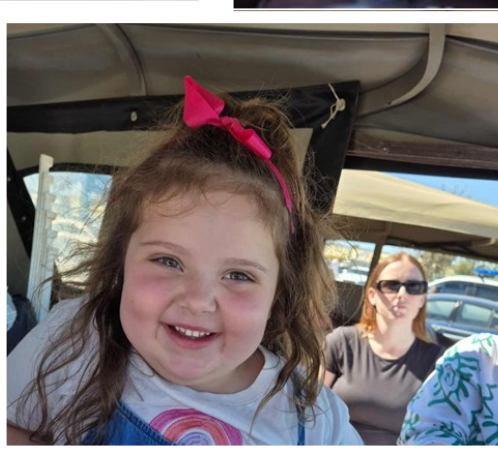


It's days like these that remind us why we love being part of this group - great company, great cars, and simple pleasures enjoyed together.

One of the most special parts of our outings is seeing how they bring people of all ages together. It's not just about the cars — it's about community, and that was clearer than ever on this run.

It was especially touching to see the young members of our group forming bonds of their own. My heart melted when I overheard two four-year-olds — who hadn't seen each other since December — tell another child (not part of our group) that they were best friends, out of the mouth of babes. That simple moment captured the true spirit of these gatherings: lasting friendships, joyful memories, and a place where everyone feels welcome.

A big thank you again to Ian and Kelly for putting it all together, and to everyone who came along and made the day so memorable. Until the next run.



Upcoming Events

Friends of Vintage Motoring

**Sunday
12th
October**

Monato Zoo
Organiser: Dale & Kay La Vars
djlv@esc.net.au

**Saturday
8th
November**

**Tailem Bend
Private Train Museum**
Organiser: Bob & Rosa Yates
bobjy@bigpond.com
General Meeting

**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
General Meeting

**Sunday
14th
March**

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



Tailem Bend

Trains carry us to the next destination,
but also to memories that last a lifetime,
Lets make new memories together.



**Sunday 8th November
Classic/Modern Run.**

Admission to the museum
will be a \$5.00 donation
please bring cash

Meet

TTG Hotel Carpark

9.00am

BBQ Lunch - BYO Drinks



Club Polo Shirts are now available

\$35.00 each

Please email Maxine to place your order

trevmax1@bigpond.net.au

GENERAL MEETING

Agenda

Welcome	President Adam Welcomed all those present to The September Meeting of the Friends of Vintage Motoring	
Present:	ADAM JONES, GARY WARREN, TREVOR & MAXINE MARTIN, DALE & KAY LA VARS, JARRYD LA VARS, IAN & KELLY RUSSELL, TONY & KAY RUSSELL, LIN WARREN, ROBERT & ROSA YATES, DEBRA SPACKMAN. JENNY MCKENZIE, TREVOR NORLEY, PAUL MOORE, MARGARET SANTIN, LISETTE SANTIN, EBONY & ANTHONY RUSSELL, JAYDEN & JORJA RUSSELL, KIEREN O'NEILL	
Apologies:	Ronette O'Neill, Paul Van Ruth, Mik & Marg Bojko, Jake & Cheree Bonicci, Zara Russell, Brody Manuel, Sian Costi & Nathan Costi, Craig Norley & Zyra Norley	
Acceptance of Committee Minutes:	A published in the Motometer and distributed by email - August 10th	Moved: Ian Seconded: Trevor That the minutes as distributed by email be accepted Carried
Secretary's Report:	Reminder Fish & Chip Run Applications for membership as per the below new members list	Moved: Maxine Seconded: Rosa That Secretary's Report be accepted Carried
Treasurers Report:	Bob presented the Treasurers report As per the financial statement signed by the President	Moved: Kelly Seconded: Kay That Treasurers Report be accepted Carried
New Membership:	Ben Creighton John & Nicola Giorgio Archie Giagkoulas Con Giagkoulas Craig & Zyra Norley Paul Moore	Moved: Bob Seconded: Jarryd That the members listed be accepted Carried

<p>Monthly Runs:</p>	<p>11th October Run: Monarto Zoo - Classic/Modern car run. Meet TTG Hotel. Dale outlined the running of the day and advised that he would be sending an email in coming days with a further information.</p> <p>8th November Run: Taillem Bend, - Classic/Modern car run.</p> <p>13th December Run: Christmas Party, - .</p> <p>1st February Run: Cummins House – Mik Bojko</p> <p>14th March Run: Penfield Trains – more details to follow.</p>	
<p>Application to DPTI</p>	<p>Members present were reminded that - DPTI new application to be forwarded on 14th December with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership growth. • Further meetings. • Events. • Future plans. 	
<p>The Motometer:</p>	<p>August edition published and distributed by email</p>	
<p>Memorabilia</p>	<p>Members present were shown a sample of the proposed Club Polo Shirt these will be offered at \$35.00 each.</p> <p>Name Badges available - \$5.00</p> <p>Biros - \$2.00</p> <p>Key Rings - \$6.50</p> <p>Stickers - 2 for \$5.00</p>	<p>Moved: Ian Seconded: Trevor</p> <p>That we move forward on the purchase of club t-shirts</p> <p>Carried</p>
<p>General Business:</p>	<p>A \$2.00 lucky square was distributed for purchase with the winner being Rosa.</p> <p>All those present thanked Ian for organising such a wonderful run. It was suggested that this be an annual event.</p>	
<p>Meeting Closed:</p>	<p>Adam thanked all those for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.</p>	

SWAP MEETS & CAR SHOWS

Sunday October 12th - Strathalbyn Swap Meet

Sunday 19th October - Bay to Birdwood

**Sunday November 9th - Shannon's Yankalilla Classic
Motor Show**

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

Sunday February 15th - Murray Bridge Swap Meet

Sunday February 22nd - All British Day

Sunday 15th March - Woodside Swap Meet

Sunday 22nd March - All Ford Day

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