

# NEWSLETTER

## SHANNONS 2013 NATIONAL VETERAN 1 & 2 CYLINDER CANBERRA CENTENARY RALLY

IN THE 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF  
THE VETERAN AND VINTAGE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA ACT (Inc)



### The year 2013 ....

will be a most significant milestone in the history of the National Capital. A large number of special events will be hosted in the ACT to help Australians from all all over, to enjoy their activities in their nation's capital city.

The Veteran and Vintage Car Club of the ACT (VVCC ACT) has been planning its role in the

celebrations for a long time now, and the team is anxious that all who bring their 1 or 2 cylinder veteran cars or motor cycles will enjoy the wonderful weather and the spectacular beauty of Canberra in Autumn.

Please invite your friends in the movement to join you for this special event. We assure you they won't regret it.

### WELCOME!!

The Veteran and Vintage Car Club of the ACT welcomes you to the National Capital on the occasion of the Centenary of the City of Canberra.

We are proud that our Club is the oldest established car club in the Australian Capital Territory, and 2013 is the 50th Anniversary of the founding. For us it is a very important year, and we want to show you some of the many delights of the city and share with fellow enthusiasts the joys of motoring in our city and surrounds.

We hope you will take home some wonderful memories of your time with us.

### ACCOMMODATION ..... PLEASE BOOK EARLY !!

The whole of the coming year is going to be a very busy time for the National Capital's accommodation industry.

We would very seriously urge all entrants and intending entrants, unless they have already done so, to make their accommodation bookings at the Canberra Motor Village, the Rally HQ, located in O'Connor. Mention the Rally as we have made a special block booking arrangement for the event. But please book ASAP.

Contact can be made by phone on 6247 5466, ask for Katie Stonham. Or email her at [groups@canberravillage.com.au](mailto:groups@canberravillage.com.au)



## LOOKING BACK

### When our one and two cylinder cars were new .....

When our cars were new, the crude roads of Australia were made for horse-drawn vehicles. Our cars were very much a rarity. Those that were on the road between 1900 and around 1908 were so few in number and in many instances unpopular with the general public because of alleged noise, smoke, and what became known as 'furious driving' because of lack of consideration for horse-drawn traffic, fellow motorists and pedestrians.

Our early cars, mostly of one or two cylinders, were principally owned by professional people such as leading retailers, business leaders, industrialists, and of course doctors. The average wage of 1905 in NSW was just £2/5/- to £3/0/-. But even single cylinder cars of 6 HP and less cost anything from £215 to £325 according to an article in a period Daily Telegraph. The cost of running a car was also steep, so the motor vehicle was exclusively in the province of the well-to-do.

We know that many of these early cars were sold to medicos in remote country towns, and in most instances, that the local doctor's car was the first motorised vehicle seen in those towns. It was something to be marvelled at, something that created enormous interest, and an invention that captured the imagination of almost every male.

Licences were not issued in most Australian states in the early years of the 20th Century, and motor vehicle registration was not a consideration. With the exception of motor buses from around 1904, and motorised vehicles that plied for hire. Three such motor hire cars were registered on police records in 1904 in NSW.

There were five fatalities caused by motor vehicles in the Sydney Metropolitan Area between 1902 and 1909. In that same period, more than 60 fatalities related to trams occurred on just 88 miles of track.

Today our cars are special. They are just as rare, if not moreso, than they were back when they were new. The chances of the public seeing one of our cars today on the road is of course very much smaller,

**Right:** In 1908, the Yass proprietor of Williamson's Garage, Mr T.P. Williamson built this vehicle to transport his soda bottles from another of his business exploits, to places as far afield as Harden and Boorowa. Williamson based this High Wheeler vehicle, on the 2 cylinder motor and transmission of a c1901 Winton, and appears to have also incorporated the seat and front coachwork panels. As far as is known, this was the first locally made car.

We are still plagued by fellow motorists for being slow, But our cars are probably in better condition today than they were when they were one year old.

It is not our cars and their drivers that could today be accused of reckless driving, inconsideration, scorching, or furious driving.

We are out to enjoy our hobby, and to share the heritage of these now rare cars with the generation of modern motorists more than a hundred years on. By and large, our cars are a great centre of interest wherever they are displayed, and the public take every opportunity to flock to see them whenever possible.

The John Sands Directory, well known to thousands of genealogists, listed just one commercial enterprise in Canberra in the 1913 edition.: "John Murray...Baker."

What would John Murray be able to relate to in 2013 if he could come back and see the city now. John Baker could only relate to our cars.

Canberra in 2013 will be very much looking back over those last hundred years since the founding of the city, and our cars, as the national treasures that they are, will be highly respected for their contribution to our heritage.

You'll be a part of history when you join with us in 2013.

### YOUR CAR PHOTO IS WANTED

We want every car entered to be illustrated in the event souvenir publication, but also we would like to feature entered cars in future copies of The Newsletter. Please email a photo or two of your entered vehicle to [rogerandegillian@grapevine.com.au](mailto:rogerandegillian@grapevine.com.au) or mail a hard copy to Roger Gottlob 16 Gairdner Circuit, Kaleen ACT 2617

### WANTED AND FOR SALE ADS.

As a special offer to entrants, we will advertise in your Rally Newsletter, for any parts you may need for your one or two cylinder vehicle, car or bike. Please limit ads to 25 words, and use your email or phone details as your contact.



### Official scoreboard

We received almost 60 Expressions of Interest for this event after it was launched.

We are delighted to be able to advise that since the Entry Forms for this event were circulated recently, we have received 26 confirmed entries, and they continue to roll in now on a regular basis.

Please encourage your friends who propose to attend to submit their entries early to help us in our event planning of facilities.

