HERITAGE TIMES

Issue No 123 — Month of October 2026

The newsletter for members of

THE BEGA HERITAGE MOTOR CLUB Inc.

BHMC since 2002. Prior to that, it was the Bega Branch of the Classic & Historic Automobile Club of Australia

Our aim: *TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESERVATION, RESTORATION & USE OF OUR MOTORING HERITAGE*



Would this ute ever move under its own power again?
For the answer, see page 3

Address: The Secretary, PO Box 49, BEGA NSW 2550 or
begaheritagemotorclub@gmail.com

Meetings: CWA Hall, 30 Church Street, BEGA
at 7.00pm on the first Monday of February, April, June, August, October and December

CLUB OFFICE HOLDERS

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Vice-President: Garry Thornton
Secretary: Jenelle Gorsch
Assistant Secretary: Vacant
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Assistant Treasurer: Alan Smith
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Events Coordinator: Vacant
Events Assistant: Vacant
Publicity Officer: Dave Burns
Newsletter Editor: Dave Burns
Raffle: Linda Boardman and Fran Thornton
Registrar: Henry Petterson
Responsible Persons who can sign Declaration Forms: Henry Petterson, Garry Thornton, Jack Sargent and Gary Gerrey
Sergeant-at-Arms: Garry Thornton



President's Message

Dear Members,

The "Winter Blues" are over and summer is on its way. We could not complain about the recent weather as we've had beautiful days, although we do need rain.

Congratulations to Tony Watson on getting his OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) – well done, Tony.

The midweek run to Cobargo was a very good day although I was unable to attend.

I have it on good authority that the Boydtown midweek lunch went well. Hopefully someone who attended has taken photos and write-up for our magazine.

I remind everyone that the destination for each midweek run is chosen by the members that go on the previous midweek run, so if you want to influence where the runs go, come along to one.

The Saturday lunch at the Tathra Bowlo was a great day out despite the attendance being low.

As you all know, our Secretary has a lot "on her plate" so she will NOT be able to continue as Secretary next year. This means that we need someone to step-up for 2027….please……...

REMEMBER:- NO SECRETARY, NO CLUB, NO CONCESSIONAL REGO's!

I know that Secretary is not an easy position but we, the Committee, will help as much as we can, if we are re-elected. The AGM is in a few weeks' time. We also require a Social Events Officer. PLEASE REMEMBER:- the Club is only as good as its members. I know we all have our own agendas but there must be folks in the Club that have a bit of time on their hands.

On Tuesday, G.T and myself set out to organise the Club Xmas party. More on this at the October meeting.

Regos are going well; 3 new regos have been done, along with 8 renewals for the month.

The run on Saturday 26th September to Aqua Cafe at Pambula Beach was really well attended. It was a coffee run which turned into a lunch for those who wish to stay on. The owners of the cafe supplied a parking area for our historic cars which got a fair bit of attention from holidayers staying in the caravan park.

I hope everyone is keeping well…..speedy recovery if not.

Cheers,

Henry

President

Membership Fees Due 31 Oct

Payment can be made by direct deposit into the club's bank account, adding your name in the Reference box. Or you can bring the correct amount of cash to the meeting on Monday 5 October and fill in the membership renewal form while you're there.

If you haven't paid your fees by 31 October, you can't vote at the Annual General Meeting in December. More importantly, if your heritage vehicle is on conditional registration, it is unregistered and uninsured.

Restorations

This year, each *Heritage Times* edition will include an article on a classic car/bike restoration. The aim is to let members know what skills other clubmembers may have and how they may be able to help with a restoration.

Helping each other is what makes us a great club.

Bruce Libbis' 1952 FX Holden

Words: Dave Burns
Photos: Bruce Libbis





The early history of Bruce's FX ute is largely unknown. About 2015, Andrew Duchesne found the ute in a shed in Ballarat, VIC where it had been sitting awaiting restoration for several years. Andrew already had an FX sedan and decided that his sedan and the ute would make a good, matched pair, so he bought the ute and trailered it back to Bega (photo above). It was complete and in mostly original state, even though it showed the signs of a hard life. After several years, Andrew decided that he needed to get rid of some classic cars and felt that as he didn't have the time to do the restoration, he would sell the ute to Bruce Libbis.

In October 2021, Bruce began the restoration by stripping the entire car, removing the outer panels and sand blasting the body. This revealed the extent of the rust which was a lot more than he had anticipated. [Where have I heard those words before? – Ed] The inner and outer sills had to be replaced and rust cut out of both rear guard-arches. The lower quarter of the rear outer panel on the passenger side had to have a new piece welded in.





Restoration (cont'd)



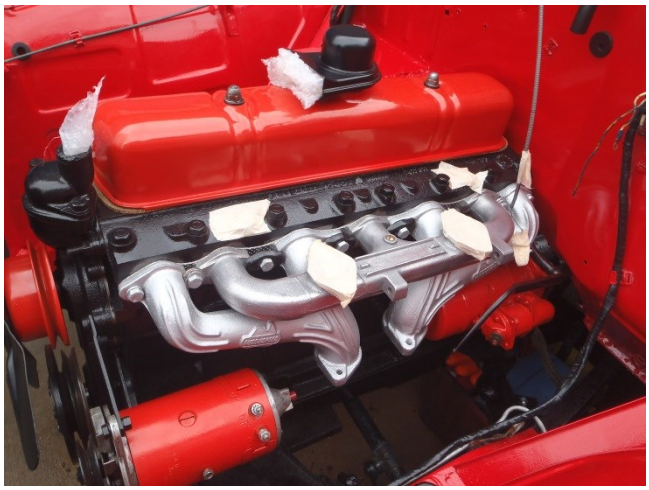
Judging by the many small dents in the body as well as a large dent in the rear, this ute had had a hard life. Bruce repaired all the dents and straightened the panels to get the ute back to its original shape. Once all the bodywork was done, it was painted in 2-pack Sting Red, which is a stunning Holden Commodore colour.

When Bruce bought the ute, the motor was not the original one but it was in reasonable condition. It is a 138 cubic inch grey motor which he painted red. With the help of Keith Nolan, Bruce completely rebuilt it, boring out the cylinders, shaving the head, port and polishing the valve ports and fitting a race cam. The original twin Stromberg carbies were overhauled and headers were fitted to the exhaust system. The 3-speed manual gearbox was in good shape and only needed a gearbox kit to get it ready for refitting. The differential was OK and only needed cleaning up.





Restoration (cont'd)





The suspension is original except that Bruce fitted wider rims with white-wall tyres and lowered the body by 2 inches. The brakes were reconditioned and a new alloy radiator fitted.

The distinctive grill on this model is an important feature and luckily was in reasonable condition. Bruce removed a few small dents from the grill and polished it back to its original lustre. The bumper bar was badly rusted so Bruce decided to paint it body colour.



Restoration (cont'd)



On the inside, Bruce has reproduced the original interior as closely as he could (photo above). It was re-upholstered in grey leather by Grant Lenin, including the original seats. The old instruments were retained and cleaned with Bruce adding tachometer and oil pressure gauges. The original steering wheel was replaced by a sports wheel wrapped in leather.

By November 2025, the restoration was complete and the ute was registered. In March 2026, Bruce entered it in the Merimbula Rock'n'Rodders Club car show where it got the prize for 10th best car on show (photo below).

Congratulations, Bruce, on a meticulous restoration producing a stunning classic vehicle.



Cobargo Pub Run

Thursday 20 August

Words and photos: Jenelle Gorsch



Thursday 20 August was cloudy and a very fresh winter's day. A good group of members made the drive from North Bega pullover to the Cobargo Pub. We managed to stay together as a Club run with proper spacing between the cars for others to overtake.



The only exception was Carol Ogilvy-Garnock with Rosemary Poole and guest Joan Brown, who arrived maybe15 minutes later in Carol's Landcruiser. And that is okay too. John and Madeline Robinson came over from Bermagui and joined us at the pub. And it was great that they could be included. In total, we had 25 members and one guest.

The folk at the Cobargo Pub were friendly and welcoming. The service was outstanding. We were given a choice of where to sit, but we chose the dining area. The pub itself has been renovated and inside was beautifully restored. It even has a room where you can purchase some grocery items as the town does not have a grocery store.



Cobargo Pub Run (cont'd)

The food was excellent with a large choice of dishes. My hubby Jo actually had a seafood basket which some of the coastal towns do not offer.

On the day, there were some interesting coincidences. The first was that John Robinson had been the manager of the Bermagui Fish Co -op back in the day. I explained that my uncles were fishermen who owned the Kendon-B which was a trawler from Eden. And John proceeded to explain that he knew Ken and Don Brereton (The Beagle Brothers) quite well. He retold some little stories about them, which actually made my day.

The second coincidence occurred while we were eating lunch together with Rosemary, Carol and guest Joan Brown. Rosemary was a long-time resident of Pambula Beach which I did not realise. And I did not know that she lived between the two families that I grew up knowing as well. As Pambula Beach was very small to begin with, she knew my mum's entire family, all the Brereton clan. In our conversation, I kept calling mum Jenette and then I said that mum's nickname was "Doods". It was amazing, more stories from the past, including my uncles shooting patches of salmon with their net boats and pulling them into Lions Beach. All I can say is, it's a small world and that I had a really great day. I hope everyone did.

It's really good that we have been able to support small local businesses, cafes and pubs. It was a lovely casual catch up and I believe everyone was happy. I would like to thank everyone that came along.





New Member Sandy Keirle

Words and photos: Sandy Keirle



Hello all, Sandy Keirle here from a 320-acre farm in Terip Terip Vic, just east of Seymour. I'm looking to downsize to a 64-acre hobby farm with a few dogs and my cars so I have been looking around the beautiful Bega Valley.

My parents were car enthusiasts and enjoyed driving well. They both taught me to drive, fly aircraft and sail. As I had a model train set, I have interest in them too. I also like fishing, crocheting, gardening, cooking, chooks, horses and sheep!

I currently have an MGB (which I bought from BHMC member Jo Coulter), a MG RV8, a British Racing Green Range Rover (which is over 20 years old) and a TWR XJS Jaguar Sports that needs some TLC. I seem to be interested in English cars but anything with rolling wheels interests me… not so much the engineering but definitely how fabulous they are to drive! And sound!

Looking forward to a fab last months of 2026! Take care and enjoy your travels!

Sandy







Pambula Beach Run

Saturday 26 September

Words: Dave Burns

Photos: Dave Burns

On Saturday 26 September, 26 members got together at Café Aqua at Pambula Beach to put on an impromptu car display and to have a social chat. Some came for coffee, some for lunch and some stayed for both.



Those who enjoyed the outing were:
Tony and Deanne Watson,
Reinhold and Hanne Goersch,
Len and Rhonda Crowe,
Jo and Jenelle Gorsch,
Simon and Kathy Fox,
Bob and Nola Russell,
Alan and Lesley Smith,
Linda and Dave Boardman,
Col McRae,
Henry Petterson,
Adam Thomas,
Darren Marks,
Carol Ogilvy-Garnock,
Rosemary Poole,
Greg Duncan,
Tony Winterburn and
Dave Burns.







Pambula Beach Run (cont'd)



On a lovely spring morning, the owners of the café allowed us to park the cars in an area behind the café but adjacent to the caravan park. Many people staying at the park took the opportunity to inspect the cars and talk to the owners. The shaded parking area on grass was a great spot for people to comfortably inspect the cars.



Coffee and lunch were taken on the deck of the café with a gentle sea breeze and the sound of surf providing a relaxing backdrop. The members enjoyed their coffee and lunch so much that this venue may become a regular place for clubmembers to gather.





Car Club Classifieds

For Sale – 1969 MGB Roadster



This car has been used and maintained by an enthusiastic member of the Canberra MG Club for many years and is in excellent condition. The engine and manual gearbox are original. Now that the owner has passed away, the family are unable to keep the car. It's historic registration expires in April 2027.



Location: Canberra
Price: $13,500
Contact: Val on mobile 0412 577 817 or email val.long04@gmail.com .



For Sale – 1964 EH Holden Station Wagon

Over the last 15 years, owner has cut out all the rust and protected it with antirust solutions. All 4 doors were repaired and resprayed only 4 years ago. The car has a 173 red motor and manual gearbox.
Location: Millingandi, NSW
Price: $25,000 negotiable
Contact: Danny David phone 0488 323 332



For Sale – 1929 Chevrolet Tourer

This vintage tourer has a 6-cylinder, overhead valve engine with 3-speed manual gearbox. Brakes are rod-actuated on all four wheels. The car is fully restored and has 12 volt electrical. The car has been in regular car club use for the last 25 years and is on NSW club rego.

Location: Bega, NSW
Price $27,500 negotiable
Contact: Russ on 0449 744 869







For Sale – 1963 Austin-Healey Sprite

This MkIIA Sprite sat in a Sydney garage for several years until rescued in 2010 and restored over the next 5 years by an engineer, including repaint and new interior. It was used for club events from 2015 to 2022 and ran well. It has the 1098cc engine and 4-speed manual gear-box. Original colour is not known but it was repainted in Malmo Green which is a light green.



Since its owner died in 2022, it has been sitting in a dry garage and is not currently registered. Both hood and tonneau are included but are in poor condition and will need to be replaced. Does not have bumpers or hubcaps.

Location: Bega, NSW
Price: $10,000 negotiable
Contact: Judy on 0457 938 445





Last Meeting



BEGA HERITAGE MOTOR CLUB INC
General Meeting 3 August 2026
at CWA Hall, 31 Church St, Bega

Meeting opened by: Henry Petterson at 7:05pm.
Members Present: 26 per attendance book
Apologies: 19 members **Visitors:** None
Minutes of previous meeting: June 2026 Minutes were Emailed to members prior to meeting. Also included in August Heritage Times. Last minutes from June General Meeting to be accepted. Moved by Andrew Duchesne, seconded by Tony Watson. Accepted by members.
Correspondence: Not available for August meeting. To be included with August Minutes.
Presidents report: A thank you to Andrew Duchesne for chairing the June meeting. Bairnsdale club sent thank you for the nice outing we organised with them. Keep sending the Heritage Times.
Events: For our Club. Midweek run To Cobargo Pub. Saturday event to Tathra Beach Bowling Club. General discussion of upcoming events in our district. 08-08-26. Coffee and Cars 11am, Pambula.
16-08-26. Candelo Snow Day.
11-09-26. Orbost Car Festival.
07-11-26. Cooma Car Club Motorfest.
09-01-26. Pambula Show and Shine.
And for those going to Canberra:
Rear vision: the Holden collection at National Archives of Australia in Canberra until 31-01-2027.
Treasurer's Report
Treasurer's Reports for June and July 2026 were presented at the meeting. Please see attached reports page 3 and page 4. Motion that reports be accepted as read. Moved by Tony Watson, seconded by Col McRae. **C**arried.
General Business: Talk of Progressive Lunch next July.
Business cards for the club have arrived. These are to handed out to folk interested in our club. Embroidery business sold to Mark Anderson, now based in Candelo. He will continue our existing deal with BHMC.
Suggested new smaller canopy to be taken to events, to have our name included. Bunnings have them from Kings for 89.00 plus 30.00 for two walls and $10 freight. Meeting agreed to purchase the canopy. Also, to purchase extra advertising sails for the club for use at shows/ events.
Registrars Report: Henry attended HMA meeting, new emphasis on seatbelts. Electronic logbooks discussed. Transport for NSW - make sure records are kept in logbooks.
Tighter rules. Before 1969 club inspections accepted. Vehicles after this date to have pinkslip for first time club rego on vehicle. If wanting to use your vehicle for more than 2 days in a week, members need to contact insurance companies to check if this is possible. No need for breaking hammer.
Club Merchandise: Orders for shirts/ caps/ jackets being organised. Please see Dave Burns.
Specials are logbook wallet in Tan or black $30, Sky blue caps $20
New cars bought or sold? None from members at meeting.
Joke of the month: Andrew - Dog Trip to Vet/ how much for a cat scan. Len – once bitten.
True Story: From Tony Watson **–** prized chooks dead/ the fox.
Something Old: Items from Tony Watson/ Henry Peterson.
Raffle: Winners Col Reid, Bruce Libbis, and Jack Sargent.
Next General Meeting: in October, on the 5 October 2026 at 7 pm. CWA Hall 31 Church Street Bega.
MEETING CLOSED: by President Henry Petterson, at 8.05 pm.

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