

# Western Model A News

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 01

FEBRUARY 2026



**Model A Restorers Club of Western Australia, Inc.**



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Paul Kelly**

[president@modelafordclub.com.au](mailto:president@modelafordclub.com.au)

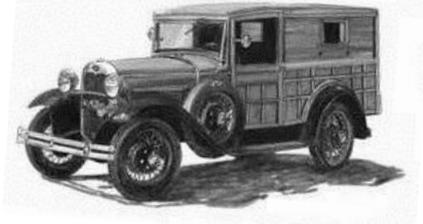
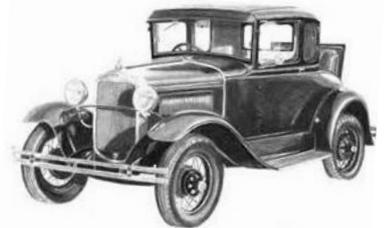
I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and welcomed in 2026 with a celebratory event. I have been enjoying the cooler temperatures of NZ, and arrived back late on Sunday January 18th - unfortunately too late for the Azelea Ley Museum Manning Park run. It was intended that there be a general meeting held, but due to my and Dean's inability to attend, it unfortunately needed to be postponed. I understand however, that Colin Riley promoted some freewheeling discussion about the future of the club, and some excellent ideas were raised and discussed which can be considered at the next meeting.



Since the festive season, we have now also had the Australia Day celebrations, and it is with great pleasure that I can inform you that one of our members was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for contributions to Mosman Park Council and Men's Shed of WA. You don't need to spend much time considering who that might be - of course it is none other than Brett Pollock. Whilst the award was for contributions to Men's Shed WA and Mosman Park Council, Brett has been an incredible community activist in many areas, and has encouraged numerous others to contribute to their communities. On behalf of the club, I congratulate Brett for his award.

I'm sure nobody needs a reminder, but this is the year of the national rally in Albany – for which planning is proceeding well. We are now entering the stage of needing to finalise the details of the rally. There has been exceptional interest, and we will need to be calling on members and others to help ensure that it is a success.

Given that the previous general meeting was postponed, I think it would be good if we could have this at our next run - the breakfast meeting on Sunday the 22nd of February at Point Reserve in Bassendean. Hope to see everyone there with their A's.



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# EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Ian Steer

[editor@modelafordclub.com.au](mailto:editor@modelafordclub.com.au)

Don't forget to let me know:

- If you are interested in receiving **newsletters from other clubs** (we get about half-a-dozen a month)
- If you could prepare the newsletter for May and/or September (otherwise there won't be one)

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## Potentially interesting items out there on the web

### "A News" - MAFCA Youth Newsletter

MAFCA publish their Youth Newsletter quarterly. They can be found on the MAFCA website [here](#).

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# REGISTRAR'S COMMENTS

Ray Mahony

[registrar@modelafordclub.com.au](mailto:registrar@modelafordclub.com.au)

Just a short note to thank all those who got their 2026 membership fees in early or on time. It makes my job as Registrar much easier - with over 90% of members now paid up.

Don't forget that if you make any changes, such as buying or selling a car, changing address, etc. - you need to advise me. We need to keep our records up to date for the Department of Transport.

**Western Model A News** is the official newsletter of the *Model A Restorers Club of Western Australia Inc.*

**Copy deadline** 1st of each month to: [editor@modelafordclub.com.au](mailto:editor@modelafordclub.com.au)

**VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF MARC of WA Inc.**

## MARCWA (INC.) CLUB CONTACTS

### ELECTED:

President:	Paul Kelly	0419 666 233
Vice-President:	Dean Roberts	0408 913 355
Secretary:	Andrae Moore	0427 773 621 (AH)
Treasurer:	Germaine Jeffree	0427 421 653
Committee Member:	Darren Jeffree	0428 421 653
Committee Member:	Brett Pollock	0427 637 973
Committee Member:	Colin Riley	0417 954 549

### APPOINTED:

Editor / Web site:	Ian Steer	0403 811 911
Printer:	Daniel Pinnington	0400 132 445
Registrar:	Ray Mahony	08 9271 7630
Events Coordinator:	Dean Roberts	0408 913 355
Regalia Officer:	Marilynn Horgan	0403 434 004
Librarian:	Dianne Paisley	9456 1184
Spare Parts Officer:	Darren Jeffree	0428 421 653
Property Officer:	Gary Moore	0409 337 629
Delegate: CMC	Toni Mahony	08 9271 7630
Delegate: CMC	Dean Roberts	0408 913355

Website: [www.modelafordclub.com.au](http://www.modelafordclub.com.au) MARC Email: [info@modelafordclub.com.au](mailto:info@modelafordclub.com.au)

**MARC WA Life Members:** Bill & Mavis Spencer (1987), Max & Dora Annear (2000), Ray & Toni Mahony (2004), Barrie & Gwen Guest (2006), Reg & Coral Blewett (2020), Alan & Edith Jeffree (2020), Steve Read (2020), John Moorehead (2023)

# EVENTS COORDINATOR

Dean Roberts

[events@modelafordclub.com.au](mailto:events@modelafordclub.com.au)

## February

**Event:** MARC WA Breakfast Meeting  
**Date:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
**Time:** 7:00 am  
**Location:** Point Reserve, Bassendean  
**Details:** Bring your own breakfast ingredients, barbeques available, meeting to follow  
**Organisers:** Anthony & Debbie Gilberthorpe

## March

**Event:** Classic Car Show  
**Date:** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March  
**Location:** Robinson Park, Tuart Hill  
**Details:** tba

## April

**Event:** VCCC Esperance Branch "Easter in Esperance"  
**Dates:** Easter (Fri April 3 to Mon April 6)  
**Location:** Esperance  
**Details:** (not a rally/no online registration required) We would be pleased to host you and partner and recommend you get your accommodation requirements sorted ASAP due to high demand. On-site camping is available with a limited number of powered sites and toilets/showers accessible in the clubrooms. The basic format will be similar to the last few Easters in Esperance; Friday evening check-in, welcome nibbles 6.00pm, Saturday morning cruise to various attractions, Saturday night meal (maybe burgers or pizza), Sunday morning public display in conjunction with the Markets, Sunday night BBQ and Monday morning breakfast to help you on your way. Small cash only per head fee for evening meals. There may be other activities added in due course with an emphasis on laid back relaxation. Hope you can join us!

## October

**Event:** MARC WA 29th National Meet  
**Date:** Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - Sat 24<sup>th</sup> October  
**Location:** Albany, West Australia  
**Details:** Get your [Early Bird Entry Form](#) in, and get your accommodation booked NOW. Refer to the National Meet [web page](#) and [Facebook page](#)

## Monthly

**Event:** LBW (Leeming, Bullcreek, Willetton) Coffee Run  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month (except January)  
**Time:** 10am  
**Location:** RAAFA Club, Air Force Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek  
**Organiser:** Steve Seddon (VCCC)

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# COME TO CLUB RUNS - IN ANYTHING!

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Ian Steer

Of course, the intent of club runs is that we all bring out our Model A's for members and the public to look at, analyse and admire - but more importantly than the cars, we want *members* at the runs.

So don't feel like you shouldn't come to a club run because you can't come in a Model A - you are very welcome to come along in *anything*. It is just important to see *members* at runs, regardless of vehicle.

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## KEEPING YOUR MODEL A FORD ROLLIN'

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Ian Steer

John Moorehead recently reminded me of the booklet that used to be handed-out to new members. It is "a collection of hints, tips, remedies and trouble-shooting ideas in the unlikely event that your Model A Ford 'Fails to proceed' ". It was compiled by ex-Editor Bevan Sharp from material provided by Steve Read and Alan Bergman.

I have scanned and tidied-up this document and placed it on the club website under the Resources heading - [Keeping Your Model A Ford Rollin'](#)

My copy lives on the parcel shelf of my car in case I ever get stumped out on the road.

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## PASSING OF MIKE LEROY

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Peter Sartori

I was informed of the passing of ex-member Mike Leroy of Waroona on January 13th. Mike was a member for quite a few years, and I helped him restore a 1930 Roadster. Some years ago the club did a run down to his property in Waroona.

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## PASSING OF OUR GYMKHANA HOST

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Andrae Moore

It is with great sadness that I inform members of the club of the passing of Ross Filear, the owner of the Stoneville property we have used for our annual Gymkhana.

Ross passed away at the age of 95 after a stint in hospital. Ross always loved having our club visit his property, and had fond memories of Model A Fords from his childhood. His face lit up every time we arrived. Ross's son, Peter, told me that his father often asked about the club and how everyone was doing.

Ross is survived by his wife Hazel, as well as his children and grandchildren. The club has sent flowers to Hazel to express our condolences.

Our thoughts are with the Filear family at this sad time.

# JANUARY MEET—HAMILTON HILL

Anne Steer

Sunday, 18th was a perfect day for our January Meet at Manning Park in Hamilton Hill. Sitting in beautiful weather under the most gorgeous shady trees, with a back-drop of the historic Azelia Ley Homestead and catching up with fellow MARC members was a pretty pleasant way to spend Sunday morning!

There is something about this venue which attracts the public to our cars. Every year, people of all ages will approach the cars, full of awe and admiration. Our members are always ready to engage in conversation and share the stories of the cars. This year was certainly no exception! A lady from the Cockburn Historical Society took many photos of the Model A's and was delighted that we were making such a great display for the public.



Brett absolutely made these kids day. And mum was pretty chuffed too!



17 members attended the January Meet, with 6 Model A's. Because there were no executive committee members in attendance and therefore no formal meeting, Colin Riley ran an informal, relaxed discussion. There were a number of things discussed, namely potential ways the club can move forward.

We all then had lunch, but no-one was in a hurry to go home. A great day for all involved.



# MY LIFE WITH A MODEL A

Edith Jeffree

Starting from the beginning, I was 3 years old when my dad bought his first vehicle, a 1928 Model A Ute. (In the early days, cars were cut down to be made more efficient on the farms by creating the ute.)

My brother, who is 2 years older than me, helped with the early memories of life experiences in a Model A.

The roof was in a poor state, but was very carefully re-covered with army grey blankets (my dad had spent time in the Army) thus the grey blanket roof. We had an interior light made with a jam tin with the side trimmed out, tied to one of the hood bows and wire ran connected to the dash for power. (Us kids thought this was special as neither of us were very brave in the dark then.)

I don't recall how we got on if it rained.

We lived on a farm at Newdegate where Dad share-farmed with my Uncle Vic Newman - who in time rebuilt the motor in the Model A.

Ok, we were ready for the big trip to Perth to visit my Grandparents living in South Perth, no sealed roads of course. My brother said it was around 4am when we set off to Perth travelling around 380 kms, rough corrugated gravel road with my brother sitting in the middle and Mum nursing me. It was a thrill for us to see the distant city lights. People my age would remember the small fuel garage called "Yuledo" (still there under a different name) that was the start of the sealed road. An all-day trip and into the night.

In a modern car today, it would take approximately 4 ½ hours (depending on speed of course).

Heading towards Victoria Park, not far from Diesel Motors as it is today, we had a puncture on a slight hill, no hand brake, but, not knowing how Mum ended up with a house brick, she jammed it under the back wheel. Maybe that is where I learnt what swearing sounded like. Can't remember times of arrival, just knew it was dark.

And that's my young memories....



Edith Jeffree and brother Darrell Tullett, Newdegate c1950



The Model A Ute, Popanyinning, c1955

Moving on a few years, my Mum and Dad bought a farm at Popanyinning, (between Pingelly, Wandering and Narrogin).

Memories of Model As were obviously still very close to Dad. He went to a clearing sale in a small place called Kent, and come back with a Model A Ute on the back of his truck.

Now 10 years old, and brother 12, first things were to get it going. It was a bit rough, but thought this was the best thing Dad had ever bought. We got it going, but found the petrol tank had a hole in it, so with a twitch of

Cont. over

# MY LIFE WITH A MODEL A (CONT)

Edith Jeffree

wire (like you do on farms) he tied a 4-gallon tin of fuel on the top of the running board, with a piece of garden hose directly to the motor. That was our treat, we could drive it around the farm - but if we ran out of fuel, we had to walk home. Couldn't wait for the next week.

We took it in turns to drive, but I had trouble reaching the clutch. So - you've heard of a "crash box"? - well that was me - little or no clutch.

Turns were taken with the crank handle, but my brother always seemed to be behind the steering wheel - saying he was older and could reach the pedals and levers (funny that!).

Eventually the gear box gave way. Dad pulled the gear box out, and found someone had replaced bearings with water pipe. It was parked near the shearing shed with old netting in the back, and chook nests.

Moving on several years, I met Allan (now my husband) who was a 1<sup>st</sup> year out teacher in Pingelly.

Four years later we were married. We received word of a transfer to the school in Beverley and the Model A from the shed came with us to start working on restoring it.



1928 Phaeton complete (late 1970s)

Then the next generation comes along. Our son, Darren, had acquired a 1928 Model A from Bencubbin and was ready to start restoring. So Allan worked with him in the shed - re-restoring his own Model A. When they were both ready, it was decided to paint them both the same colour - a light beige.

Both cars were finished in time for our National Meet held at Noalimba here in Perth in 1992.

Our daughter in-law Germaine, and I drove the Model A's each weekend for 9 years as wedding cars.

Our Model A is now venturing onto our grandchildren (the 4<sup>th</sup> generation) to attend the National Meet in Albany 2026.

And that is my early life with Model As.

After several years, we received a transfer to Mandurah where the Model A was finished and ready for paint. The local spray painter suggested a colour that would stand out, so we agreed to his advice. Would you believe it was Torana Racing Green! (not what a few members thought was a good idea.)



2yo Darren Jeffree learning to drive a Model A



The "Champagne & Roses Vintage car Hire" wedding cars (1994 - 2004)

# NATIONAL MEET - ALBANY 2026

**Andrae Moore (Rally Director)**

With less than 270 days to go until the 29th Model A National Meet to be held in Albany, the committee is well and truly **busy, busy, busy!**

Planning is in full swing, with runs being developed, merchandise designed and sourced, catering and events organised, and entry forms being finalised. Entry forms will be available both **online, and in paper format** this year and will be sent out in **mid to late February**. Please keep an eye on your email inbox and our Facebook page for updates.

Interest in the event has been fantastic, with **over 170 Early Bird expressions of interest already received**. We have even received confirmation from a couple travelling from **Britain** who have already booked their flights and accommodation — making our National Meet 2026 **officially an international event!**

If you are available to assist with fundraising, or have a particular area of interest where you would like to help, please contact a committee member as soon as possible. Our ongoing fundraising efforts include the **Containers for Change account** and **scrap metal recycling**. Perth members — we will also be booking **another Bunnings sausage sizzle** very soon.

The more helpers we have, the smoother and easier it will be for everyone. Thank you for your continued support as we work towards making National Meet 2026 a memorable event. The committee will meet again in early February.

**Proudly sponsored by Early Ford Parts, Henry's Model T & A Parts and Yesteryear Garage and Parts**



Containers for Change code

## MEMBER'S SHED ACTIVITIES

**Ian Steer**

### Wheel Balancing

Following Paul Kelly's story about wheel balancing in the October newsletter, I thought I'd give it a go. My local tyre shops in Willetton said they couldn't do a Model A wheel, so I took my wheels to Tyrepower Claremont (where Paul had success). Sadly, I didn't register the fact that Paul had had his done on the static machine, and the young bloke tried them on the dynamic balancing machine. It was a complete failure - he said the out of balance was off-the-scale for most of the wheels.

I'm now waiting for the enthusiasm to build again to take all the wheels off again, carefully remove the hub caps again (with all the silicon I put on them to stop them falling-off), and go back to Claremont and talk to them about the static balancer.



A wheel on the dynamic balancer

## FOR SALE

### FOR SALE - \$27,000

Ford Model A, 1929 "Phaeton" ready to drive away.

- Good mechanical and interior
- Driven to QLD national event and back in 2024 with no mechanical issues
- Comes with some spares, manuals and covers

Call me for more photos or further information.

Colin Riley 0417 954 549



## WANTED

### Two vertical sections of a 1928 to 1931 closed car windshield frame.

I have a frame that has some corrosion on each side and we need to graft in replacement pieces.

Any old rusty, crusty frames out there that might have two pieces about 5" long that are usable?

Daniel Pinnington 0400 132 445

## THE BURTZ ENGINE

Ian Steer

Everyone associated with Model A's will have heard of the "Burtz engine", and we have several of them fitted to cars in the club (Allan Jeffree's ute, Daniel Pinnington's Fordor, Gerry ten Bokkel's Tudor, and Paul Kelly's Fordor). The engine takes its name from the main bloke behind the effort - Terry Burtz from California.

For anyone interested in the Model A engine, the story about the effort that went into the design of the Burtz engine *really* is worth reading. You can read about it [here](#).

<https://www.modelaengine.com/> contains lots of other interesting information about the engine.

# AMAZING MODEL BUILDER

Ian Steer

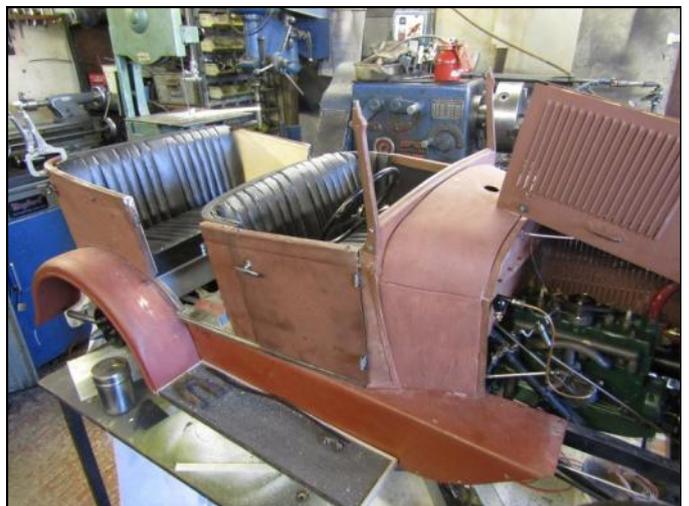
Ron Andrews put me onto the Facebook page of Leslie Olaf Nelson from the UK. He is an amazing model builder - from small sit-on working models of the Flying Scotsman, to making his own engines from scratch - and scale Model A's.



A model of his full-size car c2011. All parts made in his workshop, including tyres etc. Gearbox and diff have gears, brake linkages and steering work, lights work. Body beaten from copper sheet.



Leslie's phaeton with models.

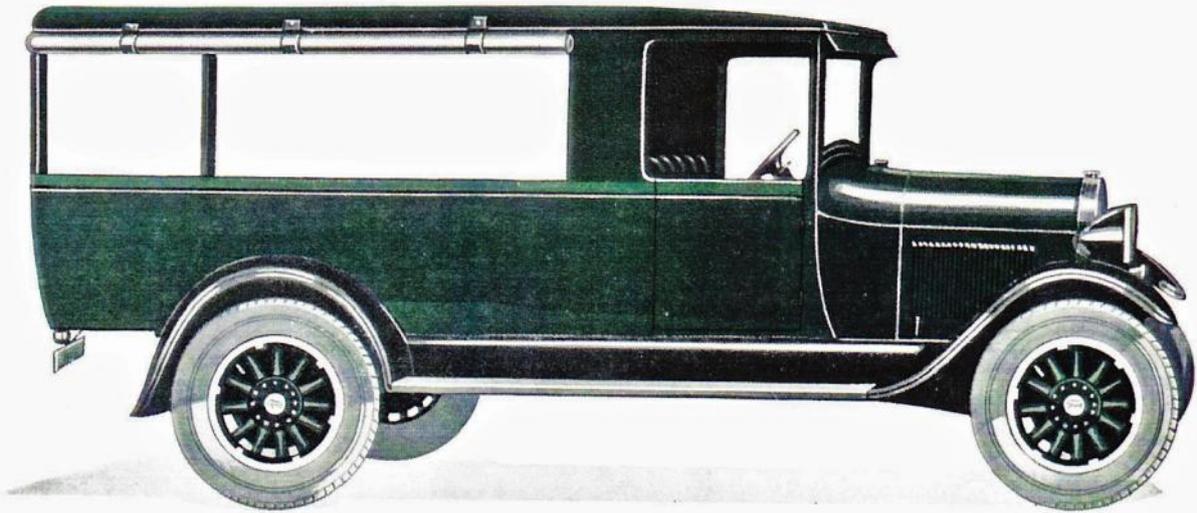


A larger model under construction c2016



# BOLTONS BODY CATALOGUE

Courtesy of Ron Andrews



TYPE No. 521.—FORD 30 Cwt. CANOPY VAN  
(Full particulars overleaf)

[ COOLING SYSTEM ENSURES MANY MILES WITHOUT ADDING WATER ]

## TYPE No. 521.—FORD 30 Cwt. CANOPY VAN

Similar in general construction to the Ford 30 cwt. Panel Van, Type No. 521 has open sides with weather-proof roll-up curtains at sides and rear. Wooden battens are fitted at bottom of curtains to prevent sagging when in use. Side panels and tailboard are completely protected with an outside covering of heavy gauge steel. The tailboard is hinged at the bottom and supported with outside chains.

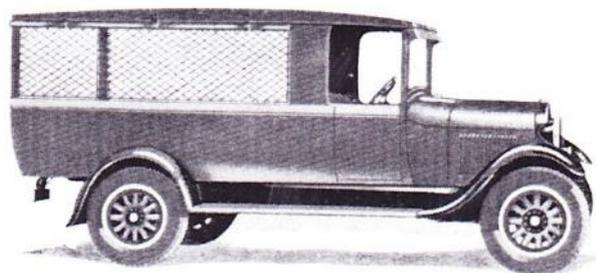
The Canopy Van is a particularly useful delivery vehicle for department stores, grocery deliveries, fruiterers, etc. Wholesale merchants of all descriptions also find it admirably suited to their needs.

This Van can be fitted with wire sides in addition to curtains at small extra cost. (See small illustration.)

DRIVER'S COMPARTMENT is identical with that of the Panel Van, No. 520.

### LOADING SPACE—

Length, 93 in. (max.)  
Width at Floor Line, 44 in.  
Width at Centre, 50 in.  
Height, 51 in.



Inset illustration shows Type No. 522.  
Ford 30 cwt. Wire-side Van.

[ ALL DRIVERS' COMPARTMENTS ARE WELL UPHOLSTERED ]

# MARC JAN/FEB ACTIVITIES IN YEARS GONE BY

**10 Years Ago:** The December Christmas lunch at the VCC clubrooms attracted 76 guests. David & Pat Bussard reported on the Manning Park run where 17 cars (that number maybe including some '30s V8s) turned-up. New member Stephanie Will turned-up for the first (?) time to be introduced to members.

**20 Years Ago:** Dora Annear reported how 57 people attended the Christmas lunch at the Mosman Park Bowling Club.

**30 Years Ago:** The Christmas lunch under a marquee at Darren & Germaine Jeffree's house sounded like it was a great success. The All Ford day display had 7 Model A's on display. 14 Model A's attended a picnic at Peppermint Park

**40 Years Ago:** Christmas dinner at the Bistro at the Merlin was attended by 41 members and friends

## CMC NEWS

The January 2026 CMC Voice Newsletter can be found here:

<https://councilofmotoringclubswa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/CMC%20January%202026%20Newsletter.pdf>

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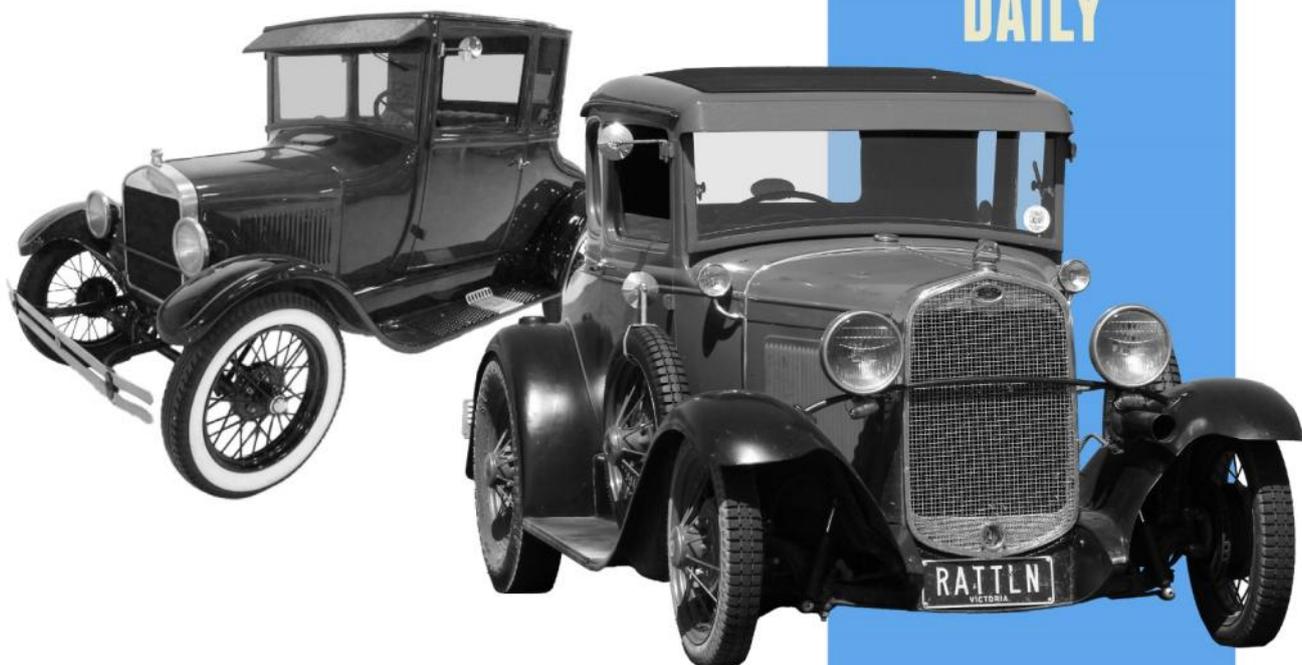
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