

# Coffs Splutter

August 2025

**COFFS HARBOUR VETERAN, VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB  
INC.**

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**We've all taken a trip down memory lane at some stage but last month, the Club took a trip down Ferguson Street! Read about it inside....**

# COFFS HARBOUR VETERAN, VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

2025-2026

*Life Members — Geoff Maunder, John Lansley, Des Drury, Bob Dixon & Keith Winkler  
(dec.)*

## The President's Corner



As the new President I've been asked about how the club is going to cater for the large diversity of cars and its members so that everyone can feel that they can fully participate in club activities. This is a difficult question to answer. In my opinion the answer lies in the fact that our car club is not primarily about cars, instead, it's about our members who come together to share a common interest. In the years to come long after we have finished playing with our cars, we may not remember the cars we owned, but I'm certain we will remember the lifelong friendships we forged.

I felt very proud of our club members, who took time out from their busy lives to attend the Biggest Morning Tea (Dragons Abreast), fundraiser at Mylestom. There was a good variety of our cars on display which drew an interested crowd of onlookers. The food and variety show were fantastic and I'm sure we will be back next year to support this worthy cause.

**Club Meetings:** General Meetings are held at the Boambee East Community Centre (30 Bruce King Drive, Boambee East) at 7.00 pm on the first Thursday of each month except for January when no meeting is normally held.

**Club Fees:** A joining fee of \$5.00 applies. Annual fees are \$45.00 for a Single Membership, \$50.00 for a Family Membership, \$15.00 for a Junior Membership and \$10.00 for Associate Membership. Fees are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year for the calendar year. However, as membership of an approved car club is an RMS requirement for Concessional Registration of vehicles, annual fees for members seeking registration of cars in the following year are payable at the Rego Day, normally the third Sunday in November. For members joining the Club after 30 June each year, half annual fees will apply.

**Club Newsletter:** A full-colour copy of the Club's newsletter "Coffs Splutter" is emailed to all members with a valid email address registered with the Club. For an annual fee of \$15.00 (payable to the Treasurer) a member may arrange to have a printed B/W copy delivered by Australia Post to an address of their choice.

*All articles appearing in "Coffs Splutter" are the sole responsibility of the author(s) as to matters of fact and veracity.*

## Car Display Dragons Abreast Biggest Morning Tea, Mylestom - 5th July 2025

It was an interesting day out at Mylestom on an early morning, where we went instead of having an afternoon tea as per usual.

A good group of people met at the usual starting point, where as they went down the new highway, they met up with the others who had gone straight there (Including the reporter of this article). There were also some people with some gems from the National Holden Motor Museum.

At 9:30am all car enthusiasts had arrived for the show, ten minutes later we were all inside (After having paid the \$5 admission bill). There were many people inside, mostly women, and finding seats was a tricky obstacle. We were also grateful to find some tasty snacks, including biscuits, quiches, and even sandwiches.

As we sat inside the hall, some people (presumably locals) on the outside took the opportunity to inspect the historic cars and what the show was all about.

While the people inspected the cars, we were treated to listening to a story by two women who are workers at the Coffs Hospital in the Breast Health Sector. A musical show by the Cabaret Girls Ballet was also provided, with a necessary refuelling intermission to take our minds off the very 'Full On' entertainment.

After the entertainment was finished, the raffle was drawn. None of our members won except where Leonie won a prize (A Blanket or Dining Table Cover I think). The remaining members then headed outside to where the rest were hanging at (The Car Show). We all then gradually started to head off back home, with the rest of us leaving at 12:30pm.

A Huge thank you to Geoff Maunder for organising the event, Steve Little for passing on this to our club, and to Gerry DeGabriele, who spoke about it at our meeting some month or two back.

*Report and Photos by Alfie A. Hambling*

Car Club Members and Cars: Barry - Citroen Dyane 6, Darren and Abby - Vauxhall DX, Des - Rover 3500, Eric and June - Vauxhall Viva, Geoff and Leonie - Triumph TR4, Glenn and Jenny Campbell - 1930s Willy's Coupe, Glenn Miller - Holden FJ Pickup, Graham and Marie Davey - NSU Prinz, Graham Kane - Triumph Dolomite Sprint, Hal and Marg - Holden FJ Sedan, Heinz - Borgward Isabella, Rudi - Wolseley 4/44, John and Lorraine - Modern, Allan and Alfie - Modern Subaru (With Learners Plates).

National Holden Motor Museum Cars and Members: Peter Eckford - Holden EK Pickup, Steve - Modern, Buick car.





*Car Club display looking North and South...Heinz and Eric's cars promoting the banners*



***National Holden Museum lineup***



***Willys and two Holdens completing our club lineup***



***Fellow car club members enjoying a great spread for morning tea!***

## Run to Jeff Eggins Tractor Collection - Sunday 20/7/25

After a shaky start due to mistakes in the original message which were then compounded by some further messages (I apologise for all this and promise to try harder) 19 members made it to the Upper Corindi property of Jeff and Debbie Eggins. Despite glum rain forecasts, the weather held. A few members of the Macksville Machinery club and the Grafton club were also present.

What a cracker of an event this was. Firstly, Grey Fergie tractors have touched so many lives in rural Australia that the nostalgia was palpable amongst all the attending members. Barry Milne described how he learnt to drive on a Grey Fergie. The motor was started by engaging first gear!

What really made the day was our hosts Jeff and Debbie (and their huge dog called Tiny). They had hot water, mugs and fresh hot bread for us! As well as plenty of chairs for us to sit on and chat!

Jeff is an enthusiast about tractors. He earns some of his income by slashing paddocks for folk. Phil B is a customer. He has 61 tractors. 28 of these are Grey Fergies. He had one of these with a flashing light at the gate to help us identify his driveway!

Jeff had nine of his tractors out on display for us. Over 17 years he has gradually acquired his selection. All of them have been bought in a 200 km radius of home. He would pay between \$200 and \$500 for Fergies depending on condition. He is almost always able to get the motors started and sees this as a challenge each time.

Jeff's interest in these machines began when he was growing Kangaroo paws commercially. He needed a sickle mower which was a Ferguson attachment and so he decided to buy a Fergie to pull it. He is a fund of knowledge about the history of these machines and also about the mechanicals. He suggests to young people who want to get into Fergies to buy a cheap \$500 tractor and then restore it usually for \$3000. There are plenty of spares available of different standards and quality and the Ferguson community is always willing to help! Especially Jeff)

Harry Ferguson was developing tractors from the early 1900's. What was special about them was the 3 point linkage that he had developed and the hydraulics to be able to operate this. Both of these were patented and have become an International Standard! This allowed farmers to attach a variety of implements to the tractor and improve their productivity. In the 1930's Ferguson came to an agreement that Ford would manufacture the tractors in the USA.

During WW2 he continued to develop his design. He cut off the relationship with Ford and the Ferguson TE20 was born. T for tractor, E for England and 20 for approximate horsepower. These were produced between 1946 and 1956. About 1 million were made in different guises and with different motors. Ferguson made an association with the Standard motor company in Coventry and an unused factory that had served in the war as an aero engine plant was turned over to production of the tractor. The original TE20's were powered by a Continental Z126 and were called the TO20 with the O meaning overseas because they were sent to the USA whilst the USA Ferguson factory was being built. Next came the Standard motor which was similar to the motor in the Vanguard predominantly in the interior aspects of the motor such as pistons, camshafts etc rather than the outer structure so the motors were not interchangeable. In 1955 the last of the petrol motor Greys were made. 1954 was the year that a diesel was introduced. The 3 cylinder 35 has been an extremely good motor.

Jeff had a variety of implements on display behind his tractors. There were ploughs, a scoop, a very dangerous looking circular saw, slashers, a winch, a device to jack up the whole tractor to change tyres and an inboard mower with an equally dangerous looking exposed belt where you could easily put your foot.

Tractor Trekking is a thing! Jeff described how he and other club members go on weekend runs along country roads with accompanying safety cars front and rear. The tractors must have a flashing warning light and a rear vision mirror. As they travel slowly, they must not travel on highways. They usually do 150km on a Saturday and 100km on a Sunday.

He showed us a standard accessory for the tractors, a spanner that will fit all the hydraulic nuts and also could be used as a fuel gauge with markings along the side.

He told us many stories of intrepid Trekkers that crossed deserts and travelled around Australia. Fergies saved the town of Wentworth by building levies when the population knew a flood was on its way. He believes 250,000 Grey Fergies came to Australia.

Jeff's extraordinary passion for his machines was infectious! By the end of the day, I was ready to go out and buy one! I got over it by the time I drove home.

The day was made by Jeff and Debbie more so than any machine we saw. As always, our club's cars are only an opportunity to engage with other enthusiasts of matters automotive. At lunch we presented Jeff with a small token of our appreciation, a club mug with our logo and thanked him with rousing applause. Thank you, Jeff.

Members Present: President Graham Davey (Passenger), Gerry De Gabriele -Toyota Crown, Max Eggins-Toyota Land Cruiser, Brad Riley -Jaguar, Graeme Wright -MGB, Jim & Wendy Fisher -Mercedes 450 SL, Andrew Winter & Alison King -Ford Model A Ute, Heinz Gress & Dorothy -Borgward Isabella Coupe, Hal Murray- Modern, Phil Bicknell – Modern, Barry Milne – Modern, Geoff and Leonie Maunder – Modern, Carol Horner – Modern, Alfie Hambling and Allan – Modern



**Jeff and Debbie introduce us to the collection (obsession?)**



*'Tiny' the dog was very friendly*



*Jeff demonstrates the saw attachment*



*Jeff has plenty of projects on his hands including this Chamberlain which needs gearbox work (above)  
Club cars out in the sunshine (below)*



## ***The Trip Up North***

*Once again, my Dad and I decided to go on another holiday up north to one of our favourite destinations to visit: Murwillumbah.*

*It all started when we left home at 9am in the morning, and popped in for a quick fuel stop and leak at the Shell Service Station in Park Beach. Once that was done we were off with me at the helm (With the trusty L Plates on both front and rear of the car).*

*I continued to drive us along the new highway from Coffs until the Grafton exit, following the old highway. We then manoeuvred going around so many roadworks (With crazy speed limit changes), finally reaching the outskirts of Grafton.*

*We then located where the auto parts store was (Super cheap Auto), and Dad managed to receive his package. We had a good look around, where I saw a metallic Peter Brock Key ring that was on sale for \$9.99 (I did not buy this unfortunately).*

*Dad and I then headed over to the Grafton Bunnings and had a little explore before we headed back to our car.*

*As we were waiting at the traffic lights, we saw an old white Ford pass us. When we reached the car Dad then became the driver.*

*Dad and I then headed along the Big River Way as the sign stated that this would take us back to the M1. We passed by many small towns like Ulmarra and Tyndale, often wondering when the join-up would be reached. We eventually reached our exit and continued along the highway.*

*After some time travelling along the highway, we again stopped at the Ballina Service Station for a stretch of legs and bite to eat. This time our bite to eat was some instant lunch (Sausage Roll and Chips for me, while Meat Pie and Chips for Dad).*

*After Lunch Dad and I had a good stretch, where we saw a Volkswagen Kombi Van, and a Toyota Landcruiser 80 Series.*

*Dad and I then continued to share the road together, going past many regional areas like Byron Bay, Bangalow Mullumbimby etc.*

*Much time passed as we continued to go along the M1. We then turned off at our exit near Tweed Heads, and followed Tweed Valley Way, past Sugar Cane Farms, small towns etc.*



*We then made it through to Murwillumbah, where we settled down, and stayed the night after a long drive. After our good nights rest, the next day we packed up and headed down to our car to go out for breakfast. Our Breakfast would be at the Wollumbin Street Bakery, where both Dad and I had pies and hot chocolate together.*

*After our bite to eat, we walked over to the Murwillumbah Services Club car park to inspect an interesting historic looking sedan. Originally we thought it was an Isuzu of some sort, until we saw the Ford Label and*

*Dad stated that it was a Ford Cortina. Dad also mentioned that he was thinking about buying one off an old neighbour of his, but declined due to the amount of repairs needed to bring the car up to registration standards.*



*As we looked at the car, the owner came over and a chat ensued. He stated that the odd modifications to the tires and steering wheel were aftermarket period add ons. Something that my dad and I found interesting and strikingly weird (If anyone has any thoughts or answers, please let us know).*

*Dad and I continued to wander the streets of Murwillumbah, where to our amazement we found a Datsun 240Z sports coupe, with a hefty price tag on the back window.*

*Later on, we then headed over a bridge across the Tweed River to the Riverview*

*Hotel over at South Murwillumbah. After a short time the friends with whom Dad had organised the lunch had come.*

*Our meals came with not much wait time, and other than the fish that tasted more like chicken to Dad and I, the food was pleasant.*

*Everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves and many topics of interest were discussed, like my recent achievement in completing the Cert III business course, what is happening in Coffs lately with the development projects, and how our friends mother used to own a Ford Cortina herself (But it was an older version with a column shift instead of the stick shift).*

*After a long chat with our friends discussing much for two hours, we all then said our byes, and headed home.*



**Article & Photo's by  
Alfie A. Hambling**



## **Minutes -Meeting of the Coffs Harbour Veteran, Vintage and Classic Car Club**

**Thursday 7th August 2025**

**Meeting opened: 7.00 pm.**

**Attendance:** As per Attendance Book= 33

**Apologies:** Geoff Maunder, Ian Blow, Leigh Stephens, Judy Riddel, Moira and Kevin Franklin, Rod Holmes

**Visitor:** Ted Fitzgerald, Hans Henrichsen

**Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes, as printed in the magazine were accepted as representing a true and accurate record of the July 2025 meeting.

**Moved:** Marg Murray

**Seconded**

Hal Murray

Carried

**Guest Speaker:** Nil

**Business arising from June 2025 Minutes/AGM:** - Correction for typo error-should read

**Publicity Officer Position-**

John Lansley nominated Graham Davey for the position of publicity officer.

Moved John Lansley

Seconded: Brett Moppett

Carried

**Correspondence In:**

- 12 Magazines
- **Invites:** Collectors Fair
- Membership enquiries x 1
- Invoice for Boambee Community Centre
- Beryl and Pete Heelis update
- Dragons Abreast thank you
- Guest speaker re bypass-October meeting
- Roma Smith Funeral
- BCU Statement
- Bypass Flyer

**Correspondence Out:**

- Reminder to members: Re event arrangement
- Email enquiries response
- Get well Pete and Beryl Heelis

**Business arising from correspondence-**

The attendance at Roma Smith's funeral be listed as a club run.

**Moved:** Graeme Kane

**Seconded:** Des Drury

carried

**Correspondence Moved:** Marg Murray

**Seconded:** Hal Murray

Carried

**Treasurers Report:** -

Treasurers report was read to meeting by treasurer Pauline Woodward.

**Motion:** It was moved that the treasurer's report be accepted, and all accounts/expenses be paid.

**Moved:** Pauline Woodward

**Seconded:** G Kane

Carried

**Events Reports**

**Past Events**

**JULY**

- Thursday 3rd General Meeting
- Saturday 5th Dragons Abreast Biggest Morning Tea ,Myleston - Well attended and entertaining!

- Thursday 17th Coffee Run to Nambucca Boatshed -Well attended.
- Sunday 20th morning tea and lunch at Jeff Eggins to view Grey Fergie Collection - 298 Sherwood Creek Rd Upper Corindi. Good turnout, very, welcoming and informative.
- Sunday 27th Glenreagh Timberfest (Glenreagh Showground) Drive independently and arrive at 8.30am. Car and Driver free entry. CANCELLED

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **AUGUST**

- Saturday 2nd Afternoon tea -Woolgoolga Lake Hal-Cancelled
- Thursday 7th Club Meeting-
- Sunday 10th August Rotary Car Show-call Bob 0411727255 or Mitch 0466376903 (from Rotary) to register your car to display on the day. Cars to meet at Plaza at 8.30am
- Sunday 17th Run to Urunga – Lunch at Ex Services /Gerry (gdegabriele@gmail.com)
- Thursday 21st Coffee Run to Coffs Harbour Wildlife Sanctuary /Hal
- Friday 29th-Sunday 31st -Coffs Antique and Collectors Fair, cars to park around 8.30am. at showground.

### **General Business:**

1. Events ideas put forward were: Fun activities e.g. gymkhanas, Social Events e.g. beginning of year BBQ, Visit Sheds, Venues (Clog barn, Bowraville, Nambucca River Cruise, Nursing Home Displays). If you have any thoughts, please contact Gerry (gdegabriele@gmail.com)
2. Graeme Kane led a discussion about the defibrillator. Some concerns and issues were raised. Gerry will approach the Coffs Ex club to make enquiries re; how they resolved the concerns and issues. Gerry will report back.
3. Magazine mail out list update- anyone interested in receiving the magazines from other clubs by email contact Marg Murray. (margmurr@bigpond.net.au)
4. Bypass guest speaker booked for October
5. The Ford RS Motor Club is holding an event Sat 23rd-Sun 24th Dec, here in Coffs Harbour, anyone interested in participating contact Graeme Kane.
6. Xmas lunch is booked for Sunday 21st December at the Sawtell RSL
7. John Bojarski let us know that on Sun 17th the Royal Navy division 725 will claim freedom of the city of Coffs Harbour, 10.30am at Cenotaph. Also, on Monday 18th 5pm Viet Nam Vets will hold a Lon Tan memorial also at Cenotaph.
8. Lorraine explained to the meeting that Roma Smith was the wife of Harry Smith. Harry was a founding member of our club. Romas funeral is at Hogbin Drive Crematorium, Friday 15th August at 11.30am.
9. Beryl and Pete Heelis are now at St Josephs Nursing Home (Azalea Avenue, Coffs). They are both allowed visitors.

### **Vehicle Movements: Nil**

**Fines:** Graham and Marie Davey, Lorraine Lansley, Hal Murray (IOU), Des Drury, Geoff Maunder

**Raffle Winners:** 1. Greg Taylor. 2.Tim Fitzgerald. 3. Graeme King 4. Russell Porep

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 4th September

**Guest Speaker: to be advised**

**Supper for September:** Lorraine and June

**Supper for October:** John Bojarski and John Mills

**Meeting Closed at: 8.06 pm**

**Secretary: Marg Murray**

**Chairperson: Graham Davey**

## Morini Franco



On our run to see the Grey Fergie Collection, an interesting moped was spotted amongst Jeff's collection. Several members were intrigued by this little machine which turned out to be of Italian origin and dates from the 1950's. I don't think many of us had heard of the Morini Franco make before.



Established in 1954 by Franco Morini, the company was the result of a split in the business partnership between Morini, and Vittorio Minarelli. Vittorio Minarelli and Franco Morini set up a factory together in 1950 called "FBM (Fabbrica Bolognese Motocicli Srl)" to produce motorcycle and moped engines. They then parted ways and each founded their own engine production companies; Vittorio Minarelli formed Minarelli and Franco Morini formed "Morini Franco Motori". The company later bought the "Moto Morini" brand name (a make originally started by Franco's brother, Alberto) which had been acquired by Ducati.



Probably not a factory correct gear shift lever! At some time in its past, the lever obviously broke off and was replaced by a recycled Sidchrome spanner. Ingenious!

## Alfie's shed



Alfie reports construcion of a new shed at the Hambling property is progressing well. The plan is for this to be a future historic vehicle storage bay!

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## For Sale

1976 Triumph Dolomite Sprint. In very good condition  
\$18,000 or near offer. For further information and photos please call John 0411 624 566





# Coffs Antique & Collectors Fair 2025

Retro & Vintage  
Antiques &  
Collectables

**Welcoming  
Australasian Shelley Club**  
With Special Displays and Trading

**Friday 29th Aug** Early Bird Trading 5.00pm to 7.30pm

\$20 admission includes Wine, Cheese and Lucky Prizes

**Saturday 30th Aug** 9.00am to 4.00pm - Admission \$10.00

**Sunday 31st Aug** 9.00am to 2.00pm - Admission \$10.00

Under 15 Free Lucky Door Prize - \$200 Voucher

**Exhibition Hall, Coffs Harbour Showground**

- *Trading* - Furniture, China, Glassware, Coins, Comics, Stamps, Dolls, Jewellery, Records, Tools & much more...
- *Displays* of Private Collections - Vote for Your Favourite
- Delicious Home Baked Lunches & Refreshments
- Vintage Cars Saturday. Vintage Farm Machinery Sunday.

**The Hardacre Star** (Coffs Harbour's Historic Taxi) visiting Sat morning



**Enquiries to Fair Secretary: Ingrid Gardiner 0409 860 637**

Proudly presented by Coffs Collectors Club Inc. supporting local charities

## COFFS HARBOUR VETERAN, VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CAR CLUB

All runs depart from Coffs Airport, Aviation Drive, Coffs Harbour (100m south of Dakota Drive intersection – Note please use northern entrance off Hogbin Drive),

- 1st Saturday outings depart **1.30pm**. Please take afternoon tea.
- 3rd Sunday outings depart **9.30am**. Please take morning tea and lunch.
  - 3rd Thursday coffee runs depart **9.30am**.

- Please check individual run details for any variations. If you are not meeting at the designated start or running late, please notify the run organiser, just in case there is a change to the run plan, or the club needs to provide café attendance numbers.
- Please drive with consideration to other road users (so we do not create queues behind us).
- Leave a reasonable distance between vehicles.
- When coming to a turn, ensure the car behind you is aware of the turnoff.
- **H registered vehicles must have the "Permit to Operate" in the vehicle at all and a copy of this Approved Events page on all runs.**

### UPCOMING APPROVED CLUB EVENTS (no Log Book entry Required):

AUGUST 25		
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rotary Car Show- Level-1 undercover carpark - Park Beach Plaza, Coffs Harbour. Display and entrant arrival and setup times - 6am - 9.30am. call Bob 0411 727 255 or Mitch 0466 376 903 (from Rotary) to register your car to display on the day	See details left
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Run to Urunga – Lunch at Ex Services Club	TBA
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Coffee Run to Marine Conservation Park	Hal
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> / Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	Coffs Collectors Fair, Coffs Showground	Gerry 0402 469 160
SEPT 25		
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting	
Thursday	Coffee Run – display cars at Marion Grove, Toormina, and have coffee at Link Café' (adjoining)	Gerry 0402 469 160

