



# SWALLOW TALES

The Official Newsletter for the Members of the  
**SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc.**

VOLUME 28

NUMBER 2

June 2021

Two Aussie icons, at Moura, Central Queensland, 2020.



*Some Car This Simca*

## SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc

Dedicated to the preservation and restoration of SIMCA cars for the purpose of maintaining the Simca marque as part of the motoring history of Australia.

The Club was formed to provide technical information and spare parts assistance to Simca club members.

The Club has an affiliation with Simca owners and clubs throughout the world, permitting a global update of Simca activities to our members.

The Club maintains a register of Simca owners through our specialist Registrar for both Simca and Simca Vedette.

The views or opinions offered by members in this newsletter – Swallow Tales may not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Committee of Management.

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK – *by Iain Dyer*

Greetings to all,

It is actually David Reeves here! As you are likely to be aware, Iain and Leila have been having a few challenges lately with Iain's health, and I have been asked to put the June issue of Swallow Tales together. First of all, I have been in contact with Leila, and am pleased to report that Iain is back home from Hobart, and the prognosis is positive. I am sure we are all relieved to hear that, none more-so than Iain, Leila and their family. Secondly, the June issue is not going to be out in June – it is the 1<sup>st</sup> July today, and I hope to get it together and emailed/posted out early next week.

It seems that every few months we are lulled into a false sense of security regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and then, seemingly from out of nowhere, restrictions and lockdowns come into force – usually at holiday time, throwing everyone's plans into disarray! These school holidays have been no exception to that 'rule', and both the Sydney (Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June) and Brisbane (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June) French Car Days have been cancelled/postponed.

My plan was to drive Alice from Biloela to Brisbane and the Gold Coast – arriving there this afternoon in fact. I am still at home in Biloela, and hoping that Anastacia's press conference tomorrow morning will tell us the lockdown in South East Qld will conclude as hoped for tomorrow evening – although there is a chance it may be extended. If concluded, I will head down and catch up with Doug and Skip and discuss all things Simca. If extended, I won't make it to SEQ these holidays. Such is life during a pandemic, and we just need to 'roll with the punches.'

It is probably a good thing that I am not driving Alice down to Brisbane, as the forecast is for rain, and lots of it, and while preparing Alice for her adventure, I discovered the windscreen wipers are not operating. Fuses are ok. In the past, the switch sometimes required a bit of a jiggle, but it seems now, no amount of jiggling will coax the wipers to make their repetitive, and somewhat monotonous, journey back and forth across the windscreen. Have I been able to obtain the services of an auto-electrician? Not before next week – one business did not even call me back! I guess they have all the clients they need...



Have you booked your accommodation for the Dubbo reunion? If not, you better get onto that. It promises to be a great time, and I am looking forward to it. Dates are Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at Dubbo, then 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bathurst – October, of course!

**Dubbo accommodation:**

NRMA Holiday Park, Whylandra St Dubbo  
Ph. 1800 824 820

[www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au](http://www.nrmaparksandresorts.com.au)

**Bathurst accommodation:**

NRMA Bathurst Panorama Holiday Park  
Ph. 1800 669 911

[info@bathurstholidaypark.com.au](mailto:info@bathurstholidaypark.com.au)

Coming up in 2022, when hopefully international travel will be more freely available for us here in Aus, is The International SIMCA Meeting in Denmark, from the 26-29 May. For information, visit the website: [www.ism2022.com](http://www.ism2022.com)



Also, if you have Facebook and are not yet aware of the Simca Car Club of Australia's page, check it out. If you have anything you would like posted on that page, perhaps a picture of your SIMCA out on an excursion, or updates on restorations and such, send a message on the page, or send me an email: [dk\\_reeves@bigpond.com](mailto:dk_reeves@bigpond.com)

(Alice tends to dominate the page, so other contributions greatly appreciated!)

In the meantime...



Remember, keep sanitising, wearing those masks and utilise social distancing whenever you can!

Regards to all, and looking forward to catching up in October...

David Reeves (per Iain and Leila Dyer)



***P.S. You may notice that page numbers are a bit 'off' and there is a change in border about half way through. I have decided that I have spent enough time trying to rectify that – I do not know what I did, but I do not seem to be able to do anything about it. The articles all seem fine, and that is the main thing!***



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - by Rob Stapley**

Hi All,

Just when you thought we were getting back to normal we're thrown into restrictions and lockdown again. Ina and I had planned a weekend in Mildura for a stage show and birthday party but luckily didn't go because of uncertainty and if we had gone we might have been stuck there for a week or two. Of course, there are worse places to be and we remember the Simca national rally held there some years ago.

This uncertainty extends to the planned gathering and AGM in Dubbo later this year. As much as we all love each other's company do we want to be stuck in another state? Probably not but we have booked 4 nights in Dubbo and 4 nights in Bathurst. Easier to cancel than find accommodation at the last minute. We are actually looking forward to the travelling and catch up with you all.

Reminding you all that at the AGM all positions will become vacant and will need to be filled.

We are both anticipating a good turnout and are looking forward to seeing you all again and hopefully enjoy good health.

Cheers Rob.



Ed.: An appropriate spot to find a SIMCA – amongst luxury and muscle – and Rob too!

## SECRETARY'S REPORT - *by Doug Murphy*

**Secretary's Report:** Sad to see Iain and Leila handing over the Editor's position to David, but inevitably the baton has to be handed on. Great job! Presented with a quirky sense of humour. I think Lorraine does a great job too maintaining the Club's web page. So responsive and good work Lorraine. Member Alan Gascoyne has a museum of vehicles at Proserpine and he invites any member passing through to call in. His phone number is 07 49464342. This is a standing invitation.

With the recent covid induced lockdowns, the Peugeot Club of NSW advised the All French Day in Sydney set for July 11, has been postponed, whilst the Renault Club in Qld has advised the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Grand Display of French cars, which was to be on July 4 at Murarrie, has been postponed. Still to come on September 5, is the Chrysler Expo at Rocklea Show Grounds. There are some interesting extra exhibits there this year including a 1909 ....., a 1914 truck, and a DC3 fuselage on a truck.

Peter Gaggioni of Wangaratta has some parts for sale . You can contact Peter on 03 59215749. Laurie Borg has let us know about a Simca Versaille for sale in Great Britain. Question for our NZ members- on Face Book there are periodic presentations by Simca NZ do you know anything about them?

### **Treasurer's Report:**

This is shown in the Financial Statement below. Income during the year almost totally came from members' subscriptions, and being in covid lockdown situations, expenditures were on maintaining communication through the newsletter and the website. As the only asset the Club

possesses is cash, the value of cash holding increased from \$5209.32 to \$6598.35, producing a firming Balance Sheet.

**SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA INC.**  
Financial Statement : 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

<b>INCOME</b>		
Annual Subscriptions	\$	2,015.00
Donations	\$	20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,035.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Secretary Exp.		
Newsletter (Jun,Sept,Dec)	\$	473.85
Namebadges		
Fairtrading		
Stickers & Posters		
Website Costs	\$	170.00
Bank/Paypal Fee		2.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>645.85</b>

<b>ASSETS</b>	Cash at Bank	\$	<b>6,598.97</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		\$	<b>6,598.97</b>

**BALANCE SHEET - 30.06.2021**

Balance brought forward 30.06.20	5209.32
Add Income Amount	2035.00
Deduct Expenses Amount	645.97
<b>Balance as at 30.06.2021</b>	<b>6598.35</b>

**Membership Report:**

Here's the membership status as of today, 30 June. With an ageing membership. It is inevitable some members will decline to renew. It's to be expected. Interesting we lose three members and gain two. Youth can keep the Club going into the long term. Think of Leo H.

I remember some years ago at a Studebaker Club meet, the member sitting next to me said, "Well this is the last meeting I'm coming to, my eye sight has deteriorated to the point I won't drive anymore at night".

*New Members 2021:*  
Lucio Cesario

*Intending New Member:*  
Mitch Burnett of Perth

*Members that have advised not renewing for 2021:*  
Alexander Connors  
William Cross  
Ian Williams

*Members that have not advised not renewing but not yet paid for 2021:*  
Harsha & Shashika Wickramasinghe

## QUEENSLAND REPORT - *by Luke Huntly*

Hi Everyone,

Not long to go now until the BACK TO DUBBO REUNION. We are definitely looking forward to catching up with those who can make it. Skip has visited Bathurst to do a recon for the Rally – a great city, lots of history and of course Panorama circuit. He is sure that a good time will be had by all. After spending time in Dubbo we will arrive in Bathurst on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, but there is no end date, stay as long or short as you want, up to you.

A few Queensland members attended the Cotton Tail Run in St George over the Easter Weekend, run by the Roma Historical Motor Club. David has reported on this in his Adventures with Alice!

We also had the pleasure of seeing David at the Roma Plough Day and Tractor Pull on the May Day long weekend. This was run by Roma Historical Precincts Inc as a fundraiser to support the establishment of a museum in the old butter factory. Although Alice was not well David brought along his other pride and joy, a 2005 Holden Monaro CV8Z, 'Norma Jean' to display. Worrying it would be too 'modern' to put on display, he was pleasantly surprised to meet up with another Monaro owner who saw David's car and decided to display his vehicle as well. There were 34 vehicles on display including Luke's Etoile, Michelle's MGB GT and David's Monaro.

As some of you would know Luke likes his farm machinery and this day gave him the chance to show off his ploughing skills with his Massey Ferguson 35 pulling a Massey Ferguson 2 disc plough and also with his Fordson Major pulling a Rabbit Ripper. Luke also did the tractor pull, pulling the Sled he helped build, in his 1974 White 2270 as well as his Fordson Major. These were no match for the other souped up tractors with big loud V8's.

A couple of weeks later the Etoile was on display again along with 20 other cars, 4 motor bikes, a collection of model stationery engines and a collection of antique scooters and tricycles, for National Motoring Heritage Day at the Butter Factory.

Even though the Etoile doesn't get out often, Leo enjoys pretending to drive 'Daddy's Car' at home in the carport. Leo really loves his cars and we hope this fascination continues.

Doug reports: The Queensland All French Day is on Sunday, 4 July from 8.30 am to 3pm at Murarrie Sports Ground, same time and place as previous years.



Doug received an email and flyer from this year's AFD host, the Renault Club. The position on the field map for the three majors is shown, but no mention of Simca. We were put into the 'Other' category. So I took the matter up with the organisers and pointed out we are an Incorporated club, just like the bigger ones, that past practise is no justification to leave us out and besides democracy functions with government representing the majority but protecting the minority. So we're now in a category Simca, Other. It's all about recognition. So after making a song and dance, I hope you can all come. I hope to see you there.

Hope to see everyone soon.

Luke & Michelle Huntly

***Editor's note: At the time of writing, The Grand Display of French Cars (Brisbane) was going ahead. Due to COVID lockdown in SEQ, this event has now been postponed. We hope to catch up with Luke, Michelle and as many as possible, at the rally in Dubbo, come October!***



At the Plough-Pull in Roma (May Day long weekend). Alice couldn't make it due to her inability to 'hold her oil' - Norma-Jean went in her stead, so the SIMCA Club was represented by one Simca (Luke's), one MG (Michelle's) and one Monaro (David's).



Luke demonstrating his ability to plough, at the Plough-Pull, Roma.





David and Leo admiring Trixie at Plough-Pull, Roma

From David:

The Easter weekend saw Alice head out of Biloela on Good Friday, heading towards Roma to have lunch with Trixie and the Huntlys. Having checked the google, it seemed the most direct route was to travel from Biloela, to Theodore, to Taroom, then head out along what seemed (according to the Google machine) a very long and lonely road – about 170km worth – from there to Roma.

A phone conversation with Luke assured me that, yes, the road was sealed, and yes, it was wider than a single bitumen strip. You see, I have followed the google's advice in the past and found the identified route to be somewhat lacking as far as being able to remain on the bitumen when traffic is approaching from the other direction. I did not want, and I'm sure Alice didn't either, a 170km stretch of road that I would have to keep moving onto the shoulder.

As it turned out, there was quite a lot of traffic heading in the other direction for the Easter weekend, and from the looks of the vehicles, many on trailers, I imagine they were heading for Rockhampton to participate in the Rocky Nats, held over the Easter weekend. So I was pleased I was able to remain on the bitumen for that stretch!

After a delightfully refreshing lunch at "Chateau d'Huntly", Alice and I headed for St George – the Pelicans' Rest Tourist Park to be more precise, where we met up with some other members of the Roma Historic Motor Club, who had put together an unofficial rally over the weekend. Skip drove up from the Gold Coast, although he chose one of his more modern vehicles. Rather than his Simca wagon, he drove over in his 1988 Peugeot 505 wagon. He thought 1988 was far too modern for the collection of vehicles on display, so the 505 remained at Pelicans' Rest, and he joined me and Alice on the drives around the area.

Saturday, the cars were on display in Henry Street – right in town. "How convenient to the cafes of St George!" I thought. "While Alice is being admired, along with the other cars, Skip and I can pop across the road, sit in a delightful café and enjoy a caffeinated beverage, and perhaps a slice or something" I thought. Well, it seems the café owners didn't get the memo saying there would be a lot of extra people in town (the Camp Draught was on that weekend too), so a takeaway from the bakery and sitting on a bench on the corner had to do. The bakery did a roaring trade, and the coffee, toasted sandwiches and service were great!

Once the display was officially concluded, we all went for a drive to the weir on the Balonne River, read the cairn explaining how St George came to be named, and drove up to the Beardmore Dam, which was full so there was quite a bit of water flowing through. Alice learnt that she didn't need to slow down going over grids, and in fact, quite enjoyed going over them at speed. I learnt that there were an amazing number of small, flying insects that filled the cars as they were parked at the dam, resulting in a rather distracting drive back to the Pelicans' Rest. Thank goodness for Mortein once we got back to the park!

Sunday's drive was out to the Silos at Thallon, lunch at the Nindigully Pub, then a visit to a cotton farm and home to dinner at the camp kitchen. A great day was had by all – and with Skip's phone and maps app, we were able to determine that Alice's speedo IS a little optimistic – I thought the little Morris Minor was really flying as I was doing 110 to keep up. Skip's app informed us that we were actually doing 100. 100 is probably still a flying pace for a Morris Minor, but I think this one had been modified! Useful to know, and explained why it seemed to take soooooo long travelling from Biloela. I thought I had been trundling along about 95. Maybe I was doing only 85!!

Bearing that in mind, the return trip was not quite as long, and Alice did a great job. I will say, if you are stopping at Taroom to fill up at the Servo, they do great toasted sandwiches, but the coffee does not come with a similar accolade! Go with a can of coke – you know exactly what you're getting there!

The ANZAC weekend brought Alice out on another little excursion. We trotted out to Baralaba, about an hour's drive, and one of the school's I service is located there. I had made arrangements to go out on the Saturday afternoon to be interviewed for someone's assignment, so I thought it would be a perfect opportunity to get Alice out of the carport, and off on an adventure. Of course, she handled things very well, as you would expect, but the interview took a little longer than anticipated, so the return trip to Biloela was at dusk, and of course, the dusk became "the dark". The headlights were fine – I had replaced the fuse back in December after we drove back from the Gold Coast. However, the flying insects were atrocious! Poor Alice was completely covered with specks of spattered insect across her windscreen, across the top of her bonnet, all over the headlights, and stuck between the grille and the panel that sits above the grille! Grrrr!

On the Monday afternoon, I thought I would take her for another little drive – sort of a preamble prior to heading out to Roma for the Plough Pull over the May long weekend (in Queensland, the first weekend in May is Labour Day). I headed out towards Banana for about 20km, then turned around to head back into town.

"What's that smell? Is it inside, or outside?"

Well, it smelt like oil, and then blue-ish smoke started infiltrating the cabin. At that point, I figured it was NOT coming from outside and was definitely coming from under the bonnet! I would need to find a safe place to pull over – and learn whether my phone had coverage out of town! I kept my eye on the gauges. All seemed fine, then I noticed there was quite a bit of smoke billowing out the back. The gauges still seemed fine - then the oil pressure dropped, and I thought, "There better be a place to pull over safely very soon!"

We came upon the turn off to Prospect Creek State School, and there was plenty of room for Alice to move to the left, off the highway. And that is where we sat for about an hour, perhaps a little more, waiting for the RACQ to come and get us. Three or four people stopped to check on us, which was great, and we shared stories of old cars, and I educated them about Simcas! Even the RACQ guy said that he googled them before he came out. And yes, the phone had service!

My thoughts escalated immediately to “It’s a blown head gasket!” However, after many conversations with people, Luke Huntly being one, it seemed that it may not be that serious. And it turns out, that it was not. In fact, Luke had mentioned a similar occurrence one time when he was driving with Geoff Rose, and the copper tube connecting the oil sender unit had failed. Perhaps this could be Alice’s issue.

The mechanic actually made a house call about a week later and checked things out, saying, “I don’t think it’s the head gasket. Put half a litre of oil in her and bring her down to the shop next Wednesday afternoon.”

It did, in fact, turn out to be the copper tube at the oil switch, and we replaced the rocker cover gasket as well. (Thank you, Morrie!) All in all, a very easy repair, and a very inexpensive one. Alice is back driving around the streets of Biloela, much to the joy of the kids of Biloela State School – one year 6 boy in particular, who is always asking me, “Did you bring the Simca today Mr Reeves? Park it out on the highway so everyone can see it as they drive by.”

I am very grateful that it didn’t happen on the way back from St George on the Roma – Taroom Road, nor on the way back from Baralaba, in the dark, where my phone gets very sketchy service, if any at all!

Even when things go wrong, Alice always makes sure we find ourselves in a safe place, and usually not far from home! Good ol’ Reliable Alice!



Michelle, Luke, Leo, David and Skip, with Alice at the Thallon Silos – Easter, 2021.





Alice, with one of her Aussie relatives, on show in St George, Easter, 2021.



David, Skip and Alice at ‘those old cotton fields back home’ – or at least in St George!







Line-up of some of the participants' vehicles at the Thallon Silos, near St George, Easter, 2021. The Mini Club was well represented!



## WESTERN WHISPERS – WA STATE REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - *By John Pickles*

### WESTERN WHISPERS

WA State Representative's Report – By John Pickles

I am sure we all are now aware that our esteemed editor Iain Dyer has undergone major surgery and our Queensland member David Reeves has kindly volunteered to temporarily take on the role of producing our newsletter. While we thank David for stepping in our thoughts are with Iain and Leila who need our support in the coming months.

Like the rest of the country Western Australia has been subject COVID-19 related restrictions which fortunately have been less restrictive than our counterparts in the Eastern States which has allowed a limited number of car related events being held. The big event to date was the 2021 Classic Car Show which was held at the Ascot Racecourse on Sunday 18 April which played host to 61 car, bike clubs and traders. The feature of this year's show was a carefully selected variety of vehicles that made up the "Made in Australia" special display. Not sure but believe there may have been about 900 vehicles on display including Darrel Manning's one and only Simca 1000 plus the immaculate Aronde P60 owned by Justin Walker which attracted much attention. As with any car show you always come away with a favourite in mind, and as usual one out of reach of our allowance ..... this was my choice.





### 1949 CADILLAC

Since selling my much loved Simca's I have had three older cars and each have given me problems, particularly the current Rover P5 which has been the subject of much grief and still can't get the old girl to run right ..... Why did I sell my Simca? a question I ask myself every day.

Unfortunately the known circumstances scuttled the chance of holding our National Simca Rally, but thanks to the initiative of our Super Hero Rob Verhagen we have an opportunity to again meet with our family of Simcaites with a re-union to be held at Dubbo in October this year. To remind those who attended the 2002 Simca Rally in Dubbo of the great time we had, I have to show a few of the pictures taken at that event.







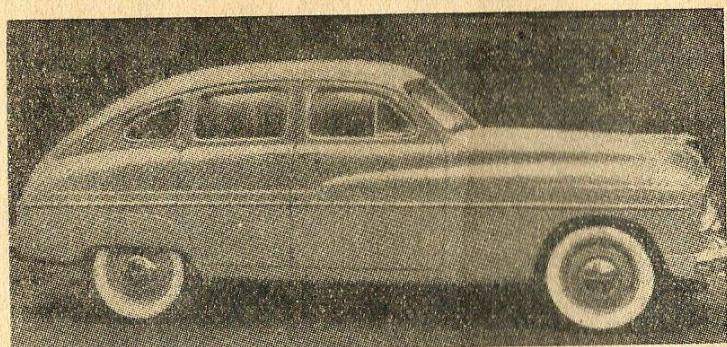
### BRAGGING RIGHTS

Little is said that in 1948 Simca was the fourth largest automobile manufacturer in France and by 1954 I believe they had risen to the second largest behind Renault. This article was published in the September 1949 issue of "Australian Monthly Motor Manual" magazine.

## French Car Production

French automobile production for 1948 totalled 198,372 vehicles of all types, these being classified as follows: Passenger cars, 100,091; trucks, 93,376; buses and coaches, 3,698; special vehicles (fire engines, ambulances, etc.), 450; road tractors, 757.

There was little change in the production from the different factories. Citroen continued to hold the lead in passenger cars, with a total of 34,164 units, followed by Renault with a cheaper and lower-powered car at 29,917. Peugeot occupied third place with 19,130; Simca (French Fiat) was fourth with 9,271, while Ford production was 4,270.



The French Ford V8—the Vedette—is not produced in sufficient quantity for export.

French exports totalled 79,446 vehicles for the year. These were 58,764 passenger cars, 19,790 trucks, 780 buses and coaches, 67 road tractors, and 45 special vehicles.

Renault was the biggest truck producer (37,659), followed by Peugeot, Ford, Simca, Citroen and Hotchkiss. The statistics do not take account of the tonnage of the trucks, and some of the above were small delivery vehicles.



Darrel Manning, our Simca guru of the west is a man of many talents, after lending his hand to model making with the 1:12 scale 1905 Lorraine-Dietrich he has now completed a second model in the form of a 1906 Renault AK Grand Prix Car. Every piece of this model has been hand crafted by Darrel.



### THOSE WERE THE DAYS

<b>1</b>  I am about to <b>SLOW DOWN</b> suddenly	<b>2</b>  I am about to <b>STOP</b>	<b>3</b>  I am about to <b>TURN RIGHT</b>
<b>4</b>  I am about to <b>TURN AROUND</b>	<b>5</b>  You may <b>PASS ON</b>	<b>6</b>  I am about to <b>DIVERGE RIGHT</b>

**These are the LAW!**  
**SIX** hand signals you should always use...

Road users! It is your responsibility — to use these hand signals! Failure to do so in an appropriate case is an offence punishable by fine. Your neglect may also affect your liability in the event of an accident. Make your intentions clear, early . . . give the **CORRECT HAND SIGNALS** . . . **BEFORE** you act!

Issued by the  
**QUEENSLAND ROAD SAFETY COUNCIL**

*Observe*  
**Road Safety Laws**  
 FOR YOUR OWN **SAFETY**  
 AND FOR OTHERS

**SIGN ON THE BACK OF SEPTIC TANK TRUCK:  
"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"**

Safe Simca Motoring

John Pickles

**VICTORIA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**  
– *by Andy Woodson*

Hi from Victoria.

As I write this, Melbourne is once again in lockdown. How sad. Country Vic had it for a week and then we were allowed to be set free. Anyway, our politicians seem to have no idea how the real world works, and the default position in any democracy should always be Freedom. Enough of the complaining.

One positive thing that happened a week prior to lockdown was the Winton Historics were on. I got a few good pics. It was a beaut, sunny day and 5000 people were allowed to attend. With less crowd, it was much easier getting around and buying a coffee and checking out a few classics. There were far fewer display vehicles than normal, but still a good day. It was good to catch up on the phone recently with a new Victorian member, Bernie, from down in Western Vic.

Bernie and I were good mates around 50 years ago as we worked next door to each other. Coincidences can happen in strange ways, but our mutual love of Simcas brought about the reconnection.

This week, my partner Louise and I took a trip up to Jindera NSW to visit a fellow member Barry. It was good to see 5 simcas in various conditions, and Barry was kind enough to furnish me with some bits and pieces. I will definitely keep in touch with Barry and his array of vehicles.

Not much else is going on in Vic at the moment. Later in the year a couple of swap meets appear to be coming back again. Shepparton and Bendigo are toward the end of the year, but I notice that Albury is holding a swap at the end of August which could be worthwhile attending. Anyway, I'm jealous of all of you interstate people that are free from lockdown and weird politicians. Hopefully things will return to normal soon.

All the best from Vic.

Andy Woodson.

*Pictures from Andy next page.*



**Editor's note: How quickly things can change! As Perth, Darwin, Alice Springs, Townsville, Palm and Magnetic Islands, Brisbane and Sydney are ALL now in lockdown (at time of writing), Victoria appears a 'Safe Haven' from our perspectives!**



World War Two Army JEEP.





Ed.: It's always lovely to see a SIMCA, whatever state she is in – what does the future hold for these beauties?

## TASMANIA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

– by Iain and Leila Dyer

Greetings folks.

This quarter you are fortunate to have an editor that is more articulate, better educated, better looking and much younger. Father time will catch up with him but I fervently hope ill health will not!



As some will know I was diagnosed with a brain tumour and have only just returned from Hobart, having had it removed. Thank you to the many well wishes for your support, it really helped getting through a daunting time. We are a remarkable little family and members are very dear to us.

Our Simca is still waiting patiently for the Weber I got off Morrie to be fitted. My good mate Geoff Sherriff has been coming over for a few weeks to do it, but I have had medical issues to deal with. It gives me something to look forward to, hopefully during my recovery time, enough about me.

There has been plenty of activity in the car scene. The Tassie French Car Club recently had a function at the car museum. Only two French cars turned up, a Peugeot Wagon and a Renault 12 Wagon. That being said they are a lovely bunch of people.

The June long weekend the Car Museum hosted a British Car Day. We turned up in an 'S Type' Jag I purchased for a flip. One owner, 120k's, lovely but boring as. Soon as I am well enough it will be on the market.



They do sell well to those who still see them as a proper Jaguar. Proper Jaguars stopped in 1972 when British Leyland took over and things were never the same.



One car I did fall in love with was an immaculate Triumph Herald 12/50 with the Vitesse front. I love Triumph Heralds, we had a new one and I learnt to drive in it at 15. Speaking of learning to drive in Triumph Heralds, so did Gerard Crombie. No I don't need help, much as I love my Simca, I basically love all the cars of that era.

That's enough from me, very much hoping to be in good health to be able to bore you all again next edition.

Kindest regards to all.

Iain and Leila Dyer.







Tasmania Rally, 2019: Lilydale.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT - *by Robert Stapley*

Hi all from Sunny South Australia,

Although winter is here at the moment, where we are the weather is pretty perfect, some rain to encourage the broadacre farmers and some sunshine to push the crops along. Amazing how in a matter of weeks dry land and stubble transforms into green as far as the eye can see.

Plenty happening in our neck of the woods, car related with local shows etc. to attend. The most memorable recently was a cavalcade of cars on northern Yorke Peninsula involving between 6 and 700 cars.

The cavalcade started at Wallaroo and travelled to Kadina, about 70 klms round trip. We were up early to get to Wallaroo start by 8am. and coincidentally arrived at the same time as Mel, who had come from Whyalla (300 klms or more) the day before. Of course, covid check-in but all ok and cup of coffee and bacon and egg roll for breakfast. We were travelling in Ina's 90A and P60 wagon with teardrop.

All went well until we got to Kadina and another covid check-in. Not funny waiting in line while marshals checked all cars and passengers with temperatures rising (both cars and drivers) and frustration at lack of planning and organization. Lots of coolant puddles on the road and lots of unhappy owners and not only Simca drivers.

Hats off to Mel who is not deterred by distance or weather conditions to get out in the Vedette for a run. We hope other members are doing the same to show off our cars as often as possible.

Once again we look forward to seeing you all later in the year.

Good health.

Robert and Ina.



Ed.: Mel and Gelske in front with the Vedette, closely followed by Rob and Ina in the wagon and 90A. Are they all sitting in the teardrop caravan having a cuppa perhaps?







Ed.: The wagon, a most versatile camping vehicle in its own right, towing the teardrop caravan – the original, if not the best, choice for Grey Nomads, dare I say?

## NEW SOUTH WALES REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

– *by Ian Powell*

"Slow work on the Rancho"

Work on the Rancho progressed ok until September 2020 and has stalled since due to moving and house renovations taking priority. The move included moving the Rancho to a new home, all easily achieved. The biggest problem to resolve was how to fit the car under a low roller door...solution being two burly gentlemen sitting on the rear tail and with the rear shocks already removed we got it in easily. Not sure of long term access once its back in road going condition.

Now with the house renovation finished, the plan is to get back onto the Rancho. It's great to have the rear steel work completed and the rear body firmly attached again, this required some work to have all aligned and properly secured.

We're about to tackle the brakes(leaking front and rear with badly scored discs and drums), wiring (nothing works properly, new wire and connectors required) and engine (flush, new electrics, carburetor overhaul, tune and general clean up) it was overheating when it was driven a few years ago from Sydney to Newcastle. Oh yes...and the brakes...and the interior.....

It's amazing this was advertised internationally as a restored car...another warning of believing the internet ads!







Ed.: The Rancho – of course, the keen observer will note the Bagheera in the bottom left corner!



Ed.: Ian's Bagheera in Tasmania, 2019 National SIMCA Rally.



## NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

– by Gerard Crombie

It's remarkable the places that owning a Simca has taken us to in the last few months. Amongst the more interesting recent places, a technology museum, a display of household items from past years, a winery, an apiary and honey centre, a genealogy centre, also as per previous reports a historic cement works site and of course a car and truck show.

The most recent visit has been to a WW1 & WW2 vintage plane museum (2 separate hangars). It's fascinating to see museum pieces on display that we can associate with our childhood or later. The technology museum above had the retail shop spring loaded wire system for transporting cash and transactions to a central cashier and also the later vacuum operated equivalent both available for us adults to play with. Somewhat less than fascinating was the dental clinic display (commonly called the murder house and for good reason!). It brought back memories of the new fillings I had that fell out eating toffee and the pain that the dental nurse made me suffer for needing to redo the job she had only done the week before.

Surprisingly, all too often we find items that we still have at home tucked away in the cupboard or even in everyday use on display as museum pieces. Anyway, back to the visit to the Warbirds Museum. Almost all the planes on display are airworthy and presented in pristine condition. Some you can book a flight (at a price). As always, a picture speaks a thousand words, and since I don't know much about planes I've included some photos: Photo one shows a Aermacchi (RNZAF), an American Mustang, an Australian Sabre and a few Harvard's (RNZAF). Photo two an Antarctic Expedition plane. Photo three a Royal Aircraft Factory B.E2c with bombs attached ready to be despatched by hand on German trenches (plane on left of photo). I would be happy to fly in any of the WW2 planes but wouldn't fancy wartime flying in a fragile WW1 plane. Especially hanging over the side dropping bombs while they shoot at you from below.

You may remember (from past reports) we have an older style classic caravan. This quarter some of my time has gone organising and doing repairs and maintenance on it. At the last warrant of fitness, they identified rust in the chassis that was in addition to rust I had previously identified myself. While organising those repairs (they have yet to be done) and new stoneguards for it, we found that some of the rivets holding the body to the chassis had broken so I had to make urgent repairs to those, by replacing with steel thread bolts into the box section, in order to use the caravan last weekend.

Meanwhile the last time we went to use the Simca, the oil light remained on, so the Simca is parked in the garage until that gets sorted. Simca activities have recently been competing with my indoor bowls activities. This year I joined a second club so have been more involved with indoor bowls than usual. I recently won the Auckland Catholic open singles championship and last weekend played in the NZ Catholic nationals. Unfortunately, I didn't achieve as well there.

Below are some photos from the WW1 and Vintage WW2 Warbirds Museum.











Miscellaneous Page

This is the wagon John Pickles has mentioned in previous Swallow Tales. At last report it was offered for free. Did anyone claim her?

There was also mention of three Simcas that were due to go to auction, but Iain and Leila feared they would end up at the crushers – any news on their wellbeing?

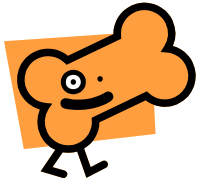
# SALE

***Peter Walker has a 1963 SIMCA 1000 Series 1 coupe.  
Has been restored, is LHD, registered and is asking \$25 000.  
Phone: 0400 840 834 Located: Victoria.***

Link to Just Cars:

<https://www.justcars.com.au/cars-for-sale/1963-simca-1000-series-1-coupe/JCM5192294>

I couldn't copy and paste the pic, so the link above is the next best thing!  
There is also a Vedette – it has been on the Just Cars site for several months.



## Funny Bones



Eddie was driving down the road and met a car coming the other way.

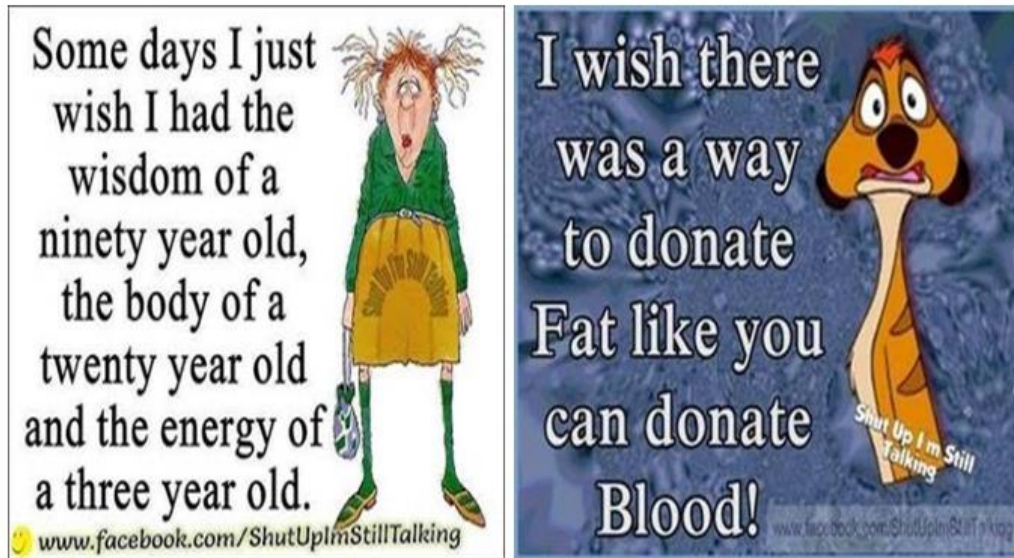
Although there was room to pass easily, Eddie forced the oncoming car to slow down and wound down his window and shouted, 'PIG!!'.

Astonished, the other driver looked in his rear vision mirror and swore at Eddie.

Then his car hit the pig.







**While driving to work, robbers jumped into my car and stole everything.**

They were pirates of the car I be in.


**New Teslas don't come with a new car smell:**

They come with an Elon Musk.

**Lockdown has turned us into dogs.**

We roam the house all day looking for food. We are told "No!" if we get too close to strangers - and we get really excited about car rides!!





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Hidden Valley Road, Berrimah 0828

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**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
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**TASMANIA**  
337-341 Argyle Street, North Hobart 7000

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### *PS - From the Editor...*

Please remember any contributions welcome or suggestions.

#### **Reminders:**

The 2020 renewal of membership is due on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. If you are overdue, please pay now. Don't forget members can pay their subscriptions by bank transfer or to the club secretary.

Electronic Funds transfer (EFT)  
BSB: 633-000 Bendigo Bank (branch at  
Braidwood NSW)  
Account number: 135350668

Please identify who is paying and for what if possible in the reference section with name and subs amount.

Don't forget to fill out Renewal Form attached so that all your details are correct/current. Please don't copy them from the previous year.



### Breaking News

This 1961 wagon appeared on Facebook Marketplace today (4/7/21)  
– asking \$6 000, which seems a bit steep to me. Located in Bendigo.  
Other pics on Facebook. Phone: 0402 093 058.







## SIMCA CAR CLUB AUSTRALIA Inc. CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

### Jan – Dec. 2021

**Surname:** ----- **Given names:** -----

**Membership No:** ----- Please print both names for family membership

**Address:** Please print full postal address

-----

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**Contact Details:**

**Home:** -----

**Mobile:** -----

**Email:** -----

Please indicate (x) in the email box to receive your club newsletter via email.

Please indicate (x) in the boxes for any personal information you do not wish to be published by the Simca Car Club Australia Inc.

**Any more/fewer cars than last year? If yes, then please let us know below.**

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### Annual Membership Subscriptions

Simca Car Club Australia Inc. membership operates from:

1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year.

All Membership Fees are due and payable each Year on: 1<sup>st</sup> January

**Annual Subscriptions are currently:**                      **Single \$40**                      **Family/Joint: \$45**

**Signature/s:** ----- **Date:** -----

(Both signatures required for Family/joint membership)

**Please pay Cheque/money order to Simca Car Club Australia Inc and post to:**

**Secretary/Treasurer S.C.C.A. Inc.**

**Doug Murphy**

**PO Box 2151**

**Wellington Point**

**QLD 4160**

Fees may also be paid by EFT to SCCA Inc. A/C:

Bendigo Bank: 633 000 A/C No: 135 350 668

International Transfers:

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**Please put your name and “Subs” in reference Section.**

Payment via PayPal – pre-arrange with Secretary.

