



EVENT NEWSLETTER

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The HTA Reunion



A Message from the President.....

HARDTOP ANNIVERSARY REUNION 2022.

Hello everyone. Sorry to be late with this newsletter. By the time you read this you will have enjoyed a great Christmas with family and friends and seen in the new year.

Well, the HTA 2022 at Mildura was a huge success. Coupe owners turned up from far and wide in great spirits for a weekend of coupes and friendships. After all the trials and tribulations, which continued into the event itself, a great time was had by all. The only downside was having to cancel the drag racing which was planned for Saturday evening due to the weather not allowing the drag strip operator to prepare a safe strip for us to enjoy.

It was a huge undertaking to organize this event. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the following folks from the Ford Coupe Club for their time and effort in planning and executing this event:

Tas Mouras

Alan Paris

Vince Neville

Sophi Mouras

Anne Paris

Moya Hannan

Craig Barron

We also received a lot of help and assistance from several locals who, in various capacities provided invaluable support both in the lead up and the event itself:

- **Michelle Nicholas** and her team at Mildura Rural City Council for their ongoing support from day one.
- **Michelle Rummings** and her team at Mildura Gateway for providing the alternate venue for the event check in, show n' shine and Sunday dinner at such short notice and looking after us all.
- **Jan Phillips** at Aust Link. Nothing was too much trouble and went out of her way to accommodate us.
- **John Kimerlis** for opening doors for us and providing crucial local contacts.
- **Danielle Hobbs** and her team at Mildura City Heart for their support of the Langtree Mall display.
- **Brett Millington** and **Sarah Gilmore** at Mildura Regional Development for their help promoting the event.
- **Jeff McKeon** and the Committee and members of the Mildura Muscle Car Club for all their help over the course of the event.

We had a fantastic turnout for the event with participants arriving from South Australia, New South Wales, Canberra, Tasmania and even from the Northern Territory along with the Victorians. It was wonderful to see everyone mixing with each other and swapping stories of their own individual coupe journey. There were so many stories to come out of the event, but we have learned of the journeys there and home providing several memorable moments for everyone on the road.

Thanks to everyone for being here, this was one for the ages.

See you on the road.

Craig Barron
President.



Getting There.



We had folks travelling there from far and wide. Some of the journeys there were epic in their own right and have generated plenty of stories to tell.

The **Tassie** crew were on the water heading over to disembark in Geelong where they were met by a number of **Vics** for the run to Mildura.



Meanwhile, the group from **NSW** were going THROUGH the water!! They had copped plenty of flooded roads along the way and had to ford through flood waters (yes, that's a dreadful pun and fully intended!! – ed). Talk about going the extra mile!!





A bit across to the West, the SA brigade were all lined up and on the way over. Compared to north of the border, they had a fairly uneventful run in. A couple of the lads did it in style.



The Gathering of the SA Brigade



So, what about the Vics?? Aside from those travelling with the Tassie crew they went up mostly in small groups. A few went a day early to make sure everything was good to go and sort out any last-minute things. A couple from Ballarat did a tour of all the silo art and old Ford dealers in the small towns.



Meanwhile, in Vic....



Rural art tour for some Ballarat Coupes!!



Friday check in.



The event check in was scheduled to kick off on Friday afternoon from 3pm in the foyer of Verde Restaurant at Mildura Gateway. As you could imagine there was a lot of setting up and logistics to arrange. Thanks to Dave Ramsay, Dave Emery, Dale Sudholz and Vince Neville for helping transport up all the entrants showbags and associated gear.

The check in went extremely well and we were able to respond to the needs of any entrants with last minute issues or changes. Nearly all the entrants were able to check in and a good number hung around for the meet and greet in the relaxed atmosphere at Verde.

A big thank you to the folks at Gateway for looking after us for this very important phase of the event. A big thank you also to Moya, Vince, Tas, Sophi, Alan, Anne, Dale and everyone else who assisted us in getting everyone checked in and keenly anticipating the weekend to unfold.



HTA Mildura 2022 is now READY TO GO!!

Saturday Promotional Display.

The official kick off for the HTA Reunion was a promotional display for Saturday Morning at Langtree Mall. This was to promote the event and primarily the Sunday Show n' Shine. The display was limited to 10 coupes and we had almost 30 volunteer their coupes for the display. In the end we selected 1 example of each variant plus those of visual appeal.

Unfortunately, we had some rain to contend with while setting up and at the beginning of the display. This did not dampen everyone's spirits or enthusiasm. We had a great setup there and what a fantastic location!! Mildura City Heart had arranged a band to play and a pergola for us to enable check in of the small number of entrants who were delayed. The band "Steve Falcon and the Kingswoods" were terrific!! Thanks for the tunes.

The display was very well received. It generated a lot of spectators and a lot of interest for the event. The entrants who were on display also had a great time especially when the sun emerged around mid-morning. It was also great to see other entrants drop by and check it out.

Many thanks to Danielle Hobbs and her team at Mildura City Heart for all their help in supporting and setting up this display. Thanks also to Jeff and Tania from the Mildura Muscle Car Club for marshalling the cars in and out.





Khanacross.



Meanwhile over at Aust Link, Tas and his crew had set up the Khanacross course, scrutineered the cars, issued the drivers briefing and sent out the drivers on the first of their hot laps. It was quite a wet beginning so naturally the drivers were a bit circumspect in finding their grip limitations. There were a couple of very minor off-track excursions but on the whole, everyone was glad to get on track and get some laps in.

As the morning progressed the sun came out and dried up the track rather quickly. The drivers were happy about this as they were able to push their cars a bit harder. Carl had some bad luck when his transmission failed which unfortunately sidelined him for the weekend. Ben had his water pump come apart while on the track which necessitated a stoppage to clean up the track. Fortunately, Ben and a few others got on the spanners and got a replacement water pump fitted so was able to continue.

The group was joined by some of the entrants affected by the cancellation of the Drag Racing so jumped at the opportunity to get their speed fix at the Khanacross. There were plenty of spectators with the crowd bumped up by virtue of this being the starting point for the Poker Run.

The weather mostly played ball after the sun came out but around 4pm a localized heavy hailstorm hit the facility. Luckily everyone managed to get their Coupes inside the shed just in the nick of time!!

Everyone had a great time at the Khanacross. The drivers really liked the layout and the excellent facility. Many thanks to Tas, Vince, Evan and Kosta for running this part of the event. Thanks also to Scott for being on vehicle recovery stand by and clean up. Most of all thanks to Jan Phillips for making her excellent facility available to us and for going out of her way to accommodate us.





The Poker Run.



The Poker Run was conducted in and around the Mildura area. For the uninitiated it is a cruise with a difference. At the meeting point each driver is handed a playing card and a set of instructions to the next destination. They are also handed a panic envelope which discloses the final destination should they get lost. At the first stop everyone parks up and mingles. At this point the driver receives another playing card and instructions to the next stop. This is repeated until everyone arrives at the final stop with 5 playing cards. The winner is determined by who is holding the strongest poker hand under the "Texas 2 Card Hold 'em" format. Additionally, the panic envelope must be unopened otherwise the participant is disqualified. Sounds simple right???

Well, this took a herculean effort and meticulous planning by Alan and Anne. Shortly before the event all that work went out the window due to flood waters and they had to start again from scratch only a few weeks out mapping out a route and stopovers which avoided flood waters. The Poker Run went extremely well with lots of participants. Everyone enjoyed it thoroughly and had a great time despite the heavy dump of rain right at the end catching out several people between their cars and shelter at the football sheds!!!

And our winner – Michael Kempster. Well done Michael who received a Bowdens Car Care pack. One wag in the crowd remarked he can wash everyone's cars now!!

This event needed a lot of personnel to run, aside from Alan and Anne doing all the planning we wish to thank the following folks for their help at the various stops helping park the cars, hand out cards and instructions and ensuring everyone was accounted for:

- Bruce, Geoff, Peta, Chris and Lynne – family and friends of Alan and Anne who gave up their time to assist.
- Dale for providing the portable PA.
- James, Steve and Andrew from the Mildura Muscle Car Club.
- HTA entrants Tom, Dave and Steve



Event Marshall Alan addressing the participants at the meeting point.





"I'll follow you. No, I'll follow you. No, I'll follow you....."



"You sure this is the place???"



A Luxuriance of Landau's?? Could this be a thing??



Poker Run winner – Michael Kempster.



Drag Racing.

We were intending to run a drag racing evening on Saturday at the Sunset Strip Dragway just out of town. It is a great 1/8-mile strip and was very keenly anticipated. With sixteen coupes entered to run we were all looking forward to an evening of speed and noise.

Unfortunately, the persistent rain we received on Saturday Morning seriously hampered track preparations. As the rain hung around and kept washing the grip compound off the track, we were advised that time had run out to enable the drag strip operator to present us a safe track to race on.

It was disappointing to have to cancel the drag racing. Many thanks to Kingsley and his crew who put a lot of effort trying to come through for us.

It was just not meant to be.



Show n' Shine.

Sunday was the day for the big show n' shine, the climax to the HTA Reunion. This was to be held in Nowingi Place, an absolutely beautiful park beside the Murray River with lush lawns, plenty of shade and a permanent sound stage in place.

The Coupes are being parked where????



Unfortunately a few weeks out we were advised we would have to find a new venue due to flood waters inundating Nowingi Place.

Luckily we had a really good alternative at the Mildura Gateway complex at the top end of town. We had the use of an excellent grassed area next door along with all the facilities of the Hotel.

The Coupes started turning up around 8:30am by which time the temporary stage and PA was set up, St John Ambulance in position and a club pergola also in place.

A large portion of the Coupes arrived together let by Tom Vondrasek in the ex Rusty French XC which competed at Bathurst in the late '70's. They looked fantastic rolling down the road together.

Bumping in a large number of Coupes together and setting up was always going to be a challenge but this went very smoothly thanks to everyone who helped out – Peter and Trudy from the Mildura Muscle Car Club, Tas, Vince, Moya and anyone else who assisted.

The festivities kicked off at 10am where the participants and spectators were all welcomed to the event. The groups from each state were all called out and it was great to see all the crowd participation. The show car judges were to begin circulating around 11:30am for the presentations at 2:30pm. Until then it was time to mix and mingle. It was wonderful to see the cumulation of a 5 year wait for everyone to get together again, renew friendships and make new friends.



During the day we were treated to HTA entrant Steve Falzon as a roving interviewer behind the mic. He stopped and chatted with lots of entrants and it must be said, you have a great career ahead of you as an interviewer Steve!! Well done.

We were honoured to have the Deputy Mayor of Mildura Cr Helen Healy as our guest at the event. Cr Healy addressed the crowd with some very funny anecdotes of growing up in Mildura in a family of car enthusiasts. She was very engaging and had the crowd eating out of her hand. She also presented trophies for us.



Thank you Cr Healy for attending and welcoming us to Mildura.

On to the judging and we had Frank and Joe from the Mildura Muscle Car Club doing the rounds with their lists of Coupes being judged in the various categories. We also had on hand Dale Sudholz to act as umpire if the judges were unable to determine a winner.

For those who don't know, Dale worked for Allan Moffat back in the glory days building up his cars. Dale also built the Morley Ford XC for Rusty French so he certainly knows these cars from all angles.

It has to be said, those entrants having their cars judged did not make it easy for the judges!!

We did have to have Dale umpire a couple of categories which speaks volumes for the standard of cars presented.



Congratulations to the trophy winners:

Best XA - Alan OLLE



Best XB - Mark OLDIS



Best XC - Trent RICKARDS



Best GT - Hagen ZERK



Best John Goss Special - Simon EBERHARDT



Best Landau - Charlie SCICLUNA



Best Cobra - Matthew AMPT



Best Race/Replica - Stuart DEARDEN



There was also an award for longest distance travelled to attend. Not content to pick up the gong for best John Goss Special, Simon Eberhardt also picked up the longest distance travelled award.

The journey was mind boggling. Setting out from Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria just off the NT coast next stop was Darwin. Then on to Hobart to pick up the Coupe then on the boat to travel up to Mildura with the Tassie crew. Now, that is an epic journey!!

Rest up Simon, you earned it!!



At these events some tales of woe will emerge and the HTA Reunion 2022 was no exception.

We had one participant have his water pump fall apart at the Khanacross. Fortunately he was able to source another one and get going again. Another participant was not so lucky losing his transmission and sidelining his Coupe for the weekend.

But the hard luck award went to Wayne Johnston who unfortunately had a mishap on the way up and sustained damage to his Coupe.

Really sorry to see this Wayne, our hearts all went out to you. Hopefully the repairs are well under way and going smoothly. We look forward to seeing you and your magnificent XB down the road sometime.

Keep smiling!!











The Show n' Shine concluded around 4pm. During the course of the day we were collecting gold coin donations for the Sunraysia Cancer Resources centre. This is a wonderful local charity who provides vital help and support for locals dealing with cancer and other complex medical issues.



This is a 100% local charity, by locals for locals.

We are pleased to report a total of \$580.00 was raised through the collection tins. Thank you all for digging deep for this very worthy charity.

Sunday Dinner.

After the Show n' Shine entrants retired to their accommodation to freshen up and reconvene at Verde Restaurant at Mildura Gateway for dinner.

We had the whole place to ourselves, and it was great to see most participants in attendance. By 6:30pm the restaurant was full of happy HTA participants and guests set to enjoy the evening. Unlike previous HTA events this was an informal dinner and proved to be the perfect way to wind down from the event, get together and exchange stories from the event in such a relaxed atmosphere. We are extremely grateful to the folks at Verde for accommodating us and for the great food!!

Ford Coupe Club President Craig made a speech where everyone who had a major hand in the planning and execution of the event were acknowledged, for which all the entrants expressed their thanks and gratitude. Among the invited guests were Jeff McKeon and other helpers from the Mildura Muscle Car Club. They were acknowledged and as a token of our gratitude a donation of \$200 was made to the Sunraysia Cancer Resources centre in their clubs name.



The event banner attracted a lot of interest and the entrants were anticipating this would be auctioned off or put up for sale. We had decided from the outset that this would be a prize for a lucky entrant draw.

The lucky ticket drawn was entrant #8 - Narelle Hayman!!

The cheer that went up from that part of the restaurant almost lifted the roof!! We had a very happy Narelle come forth and collected the banner.

Congratulations Narelle, we'd love to see pics of it in pride of place in your garage!!

All that was left now was to thank everyone for attending in such great spirits and ensuring the success of the event. Safe journey home everyone.

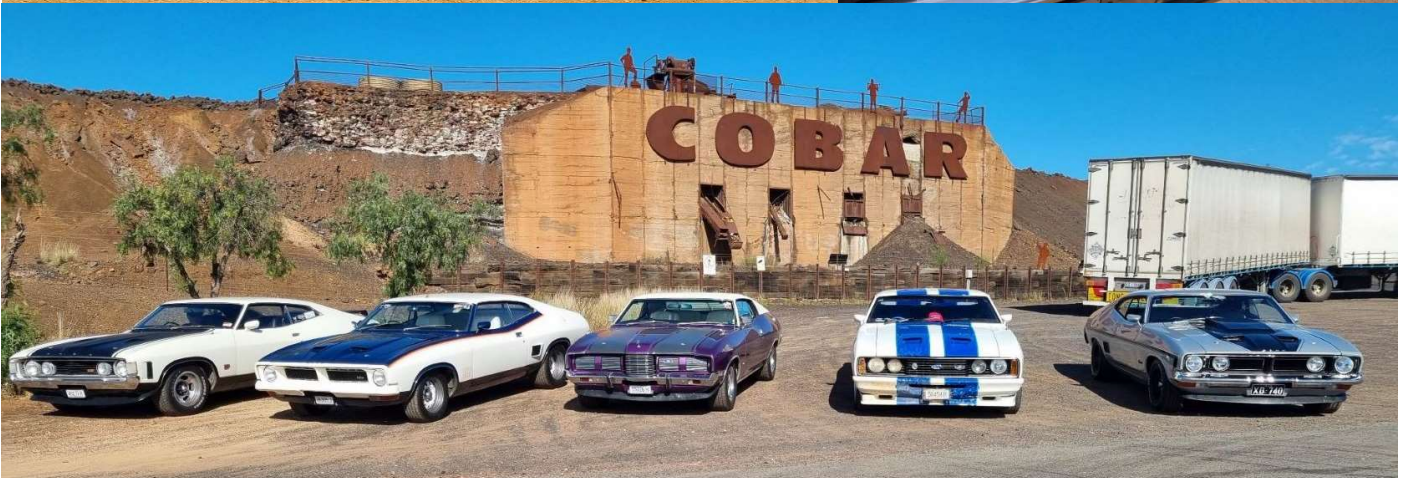
See you next time!!



Heading Home.



The trip home was uneventful for most of us but the crew heading back to Orange in NSW really took the long way home via Broken Hill and Cobar. That is some diversion!!



Meanwhile the Tassie crew were heading south and must have been an impressive sight driving through the Victory Arch at Ballarat.

Some of the SA brigade were seen at Ampol Ozpride on Monday morning fuelling up and getting ready for the drive home.

Hopefully a good trip home was had by all.



Acknowledgements.

In putting this newsletter together, I was sent a lot of photos from a lot of people, These are terrific photos of various compositions and subject matter and perfectly illustrate this wonderful event.

Thank you to the following folks who provided photos and gave permission for them to be reproduced in this newsletter, and also those who allowed me to “pinch” images they had posted on social media:

- Dean Weeks from Flying High Productions.
- Vince Neville
- John Swadling
- Wayne Swadling
- Martin Goff
- Jon Chandler
- Trent Burnard
- Brad Coulter
- Dale Sudholz
- Moya Hannan

If I have neglected to acknowledge anyone, please accept my apologies.

Thanks again,

Craig Barron
HTA Committee

Buy this book!!

For those who do not already have this book do yourself a favour and get one!! This is a pictorial of the long and storied career of motorsport legend, Ford stalwart, Ford Coupe Club patron and all round nice guy Murray Carter.

Beautifully authored by Tom Vondrasek this is a must have for any motorsport fan. Simply e-mail ccarter18.cc@gmail.com to place your order.



The Motorsport Memorabilia 'Must Have'

Cuppa Tea Motors: Murray Carter's 70 Year Career in pictures

Take a walk down memory lane and relive the exhilarating history and heartache that shaped Carter's career, including his defection from Ford to Mazda in 1983, to his touring car tenure starting with Falcon GTHOs and ending with the Ford Sierra. Many conversations and memories will spawn from this book, a perfect coffee table fixture in any racing enthusiast's home!

Printed by Whites Law Bindary, Australia, Cuppa Tea Motors is available for order through email at ccarter18.cc@gmail.com or via Murray's facebook page 'Murray Carter Racing'.

It comes in a hard cover and soft cover versions and is reasonably priced. Postage to anywhere in Australia is an additional \$20.



Orders via - Email: ccarter18.cc@gmail.com

\$60 Softcover | \$80 Hardcover



About the Ford Coupe Club of Australia.

The Ford Coupe Club came about back in 1993 when Jamie Bellamy met one or two other Coupe Owners and decided that instead of random meet ups with other Coupe owners, there surely would be enough of them to form a club, and to be able to share the secrets that go with owning a coupe. Calling cards were printed up, and wherever a Coupe was spotted, a card was thrust into the hands of a startled Coupe driver or stuck under the windscreen wiper blade. Unsuspecting Coupe drivers were approached at traffic lights, followed until their journey concluded, and harassed at car shows. Jamie's recruiting methods, although unconventional, resulted in the formation of a group of Coupe enthusiasts, of whom a number continue to be active members to this day.

It is from these humble beginnings the club thrives and now enters its 30th year as a vibrant, active club. We are also very proud of our founder Jamie who is still involved with the club to this day. We have meetings on a monthly basis and also at least one organized club run per month. These activities range from static shows, cruises, visiting places of interest, indoor activities in the winter months, motor racing and any other activities that arise.

We have a very strong Motorsport element within the club with some members regularly getting out their racing versions of their Coupes, mostly in tribute liveries from the glory days of touring car racing.

We welcome new members. To be a part of this vibrant club download a membership form: www.fordcoupe.club fill it in and send it in to us at fordcoupeclub@gmail.com or to PO Box 480, Mount Waverley, VIC. 3149.



Membership fees:

12 Months	\$55.00
6 Months	\$30.00
Long Distance members	\$30.00

A joining fee of \$20.00 applies for new members
Fees due by 31st of March annually, late fees may incur a \$20.00 re-joining fee

Meetings:

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Chevrolet Clubhouse, Unit 1, Number 3 Edgcombe Court, Moorabbin, commencing at 8.00 pm.

PAYMENT

Cheque or money order payable to: Ford Coupe Club of Australia
EFT or Internet banking payments, account details are:

Bank: Westpac
BSB: 033372
Account No: 108873
Account Name: Ford Coupe Club of Australia

Website:

www.fordcoupe.club



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