



Minutes of the AOMC Delegates' Meeting Monday February 28th, 2022 at 7.30pm

The meeting was held at the Jaguar/Austin Healey clubrooms, Springvale

There were 68 delegates in attendance representing 56 clubs.

Chairman Iain Ross welcomed all those attending to the first meeting of 2022.

Apologies: Allan Fabry (MGCC), Alan Lewis (Goulburn Valley VDC), Allen Fairweather (Western Restorers), Bruce Wilkinson (Lotus Club Vic.), David Esmore (Vic Mini Club), Graeme Vaux (Maserati Owners Club), Ian Clark (Dandenong Valley), Jim Stephen (Maserati Club), Lawrie Ulph (MGCC Geelong), Mark Fenton (Chrysler Restorers), Michael Cooper (Murray Heritage Enthusiasts), Richard Brown (Rover Car Club), Gary Gilchrist (Hist. Commercial Vehicle Club)

New Delegates: Chris Henry (Gippsland Vehicle Collection), Neil Trigger (Nth Peninsula Classic CC)

Minutes of the November 2021 Meeting: The minutes of the November Delegates' Meeting were accepted on a motion moved Rick Cove (EGHVC), seconded Bill Ballard (Ford Owners, Restorers & Drivers) and carried.

Presidents Report: Iain Ross reported that everything has been quiet due to covid and the subsequent lack of activity. Some changes to the way we operate may be with us for a while, like zoom meetings.

Treasurers Report: Mark Fenton presented his first report in his role as the new association treasurer. The AOMC finances are in a strong position. Cash balance as of January 31 is \$249,268. With the hopeful return to running car shows and the continued income from the engine number records service the financial future should be secure.

Correspondence: Howard Billing reported that there was nothing to report pertaining to this meeting.

VicRoads/Club Permit Scheme: Iain Ross reported that things have been very quiet on the VicRoads front with nothing official coming forth.

From the floor there was a report of a heavily modified vehicle on CPS plates at the Ballarat swap. The delegate reporting felt that the club should be punished for putting the vehicle on the scheme. Iain Ross responded that the vehicle can be reported to VicRoads, and they will write to the owner and the club concerned.

Chris Henry (Gippsland Vehicle Collection) reported on a bus that was put on H plates in 2021 that is now being used as a mobile billboard for a commercial business. Chris asked if there was any avenue to assist the club in pursuing this matter. Iain Ross responded that VicRoads are having a good look at commercial use of CPS vehicles. He is happy to follow this up with VicRoads.

Daryl Meek (Goldfields CC & Veteran CC) reported that last year CPS renewals were sent out late. This year the subcontractors controlling the issuing of renewals have lifted their game and have sent renewals out 10 weeks to 3 months before the renewal date. This is all good, but the problem is that the VicRoads system will not accept CPS renewals outside 60 days of the renewal date. So, if you receive your renewal very early, and try to renew your CPS more than 60 days before it is due, it will not be accepted.

Rick Cove (Gippsland Hist Vehicle Club) reported that he is having issues with having his renewals recognised on the VicRoads online system.

AOMC Events:

- **British & European Show (Feb 20th Yarra Glen).** Andrew MacDougall (Alvis CC) wondered how successful the show was, as for him it ended up a splendid surprise with the number of vehicles and public attending. Managed to get vehicles into the venue quite well, with QR code and vaccination status required to be checked before entry. Iain Ross responded that there were approximately 960 cars, 60 motorcycles and over 1,000 spectators. It was difficult to organise the venue due to the multitude of makes and models. Peter Welten (Triumph CC) reported that there were 17 Spitfires and 80 Triumphs at the show.
- **American Motoring Show:** Iain Ross reported that AOMC are looking at running an American show, but it is difficult with the number of events on the calendar. May run it in late winter to avoid competition.

- **Seminars:** AOMC are looking to stage several seminars in winter this year, with a restoration seminar, a club management seminar and a CPS scrutineers' session. Look for information on the website and in the newsletter.
- **Florence Thomson Rally:** Maureen Ross reported that AOMC were asked to run this event by the RACV, and it recognises the continuous contribution of women to pioneering motoring. The event will run from Friday April 29th to Sunday May 1st. It is open to woman drivers only in vehicles 25 years old and older. Entries are being sent out, and the numbers are limited to 75 vehicles.

Current Issues:

Club Insurance. Iain Ross reported that the AOMC are currently talking to insurers about a group insurance scheme for clubs. It is mainly aimed at assisting small clubs to get affordable insurance cover.

RACV Funding. RACV funding to clubs has only been available to clubs with an ABN. AOMC have negotiated with the RACV to be able to provide funding to clubs without an ABN through the AOMC. Basically, the club applies to the RACV for funding (for an event/activity) and if it is successful, the monies will be paid to the AOMC who will then pass the full amount onto the club.

Motorists Party. There are moves to start up a Motorists Party in Victoria to stand at state elections.

FIVA. AOMC representatives will be meeting with a FIVA representative who is visiting from Denmark.

Correspondence has been received from a club that is experiencing financial issues due to covid. Iain Ross noted that if a club is experiencing difficulties, talk to the AOMC and membership renewals will be deferred.

Engine Number Records: Philip Johnstone reported that covid hasn't stopped demand for the searches service. There have been requests for Holden, Monaro, Falcon GT, Model T Ford, Chev Impala, Renault, MGTC and various motorbikes. Iain Ross added that AOMC now has a collection of spring specifications.

Delegates Reports.

Rick Cove (EGHAC) pointed out the flyer that has been circulated to delegates advertising the 50th anniversary of the tri club rally with Shepparton and Warburton. Rick thanked the AOMC for their assistance with getting RACV funding for the event.

Chris Henry (Gipps Vehicle Collection) The Maffra Shed is currently closed for renovations and will re-open on April 2nd. Swap meet is on May 1st. At this time double vaccination is required for entry.

Daryl Meek: Motorclassica will be staged on October 7th to 9th at the Exhibition buildings. Categories will be advertised soon. There is a different management in place, and they are interested in a wider range of vehicles, especially pre-war vehicles.

With there being no more delegates reports, Iain Ross announced a short break for supper, with our Guest Speaker Ian Berg to commence after supper.

After the supper break, Ian Berg gave an excellent illustrated talk on James Munro and Company based on his recent self-published book "James Munro & Company – The Largest Garage in Melbourne".

His talk traced Munro's career as a Scottish immigrant with a background as a coach builder and a wheelwright. He purchased a wire weaving machine to make a bed base for himself, which his wife sold so he started to make more for sale.

After a visit to Paris, he signed up as an agent with Clement Bayard to import their vehicles. The rolling chassis were imported, and the bodies were built in his workshop.

Munro's business was situated in Elizabeth Street Melbourne, in a bluestone building he purchased in 1909, which still exists on the corner with Therry Street adjoining the Victoria market. A McDonalds fast food store is now on the site.

Munro then took on the agency for many other makes, such as Sunbeam and Crossley. Ian showed various slides of the vehicles that Munro was the agent for.

During the first World War, the Belgium and French factories that supplied Munro were destroyed, drying up his supply of chassis. By the 1920's he was out of the motor business, but the bedding business continued up to the 1970s.

Munro's grandson maintained ownership of the site and all the company records. Iain got to know him and gained access to the material that allowed him to produce his book.

Copies of the book were on sale after the meeting, and some of the proceeds were donated to the AOMC.

Iain Ross thanked Ian for his very informative talk and called the meeting closed at 9pm.

Note: A more extensive book review of Ian Berg's publication will appear in the April edition of the AOMC news.