

Minutes of the AOMC Delegates Meeting

Saturday 27th August 2022 at 12:30pm

The meeting was held at the Seymour Club, Seymour

There were 83 delegates in attendance representing approx. 59 clubs

Chairman Iain Ross welcomed all those coming to Seymour for the 3rd delegates meeting of 2022

Apologies: Allan Fabry (MG Car Club of Victoria), Andrew McDougall (Alvis Car Club of Victoria), Arthur Byron (Grampians Vintage Vehicle Club), Bill Metcalf (Austin Healey Owners Club), Bruce Wilkinson (Lotus Club of Victoria), Carl Jones (Mercedes-Benz Club & Aust Type 901 Registry), Damian O'Doherty (Vintage & Classic Car Club Ballarat), David Mills (Seymour & District Car Club), David Williamson (Rover Car Club of Australia), Dennis Brooks (Historic Commercial Vehicle Club of Aust), Dirk Versluys (Nissan Datsun Sports Owners Club), Geoff Hergt (Jaguar Car Club of Victoria), Geoff O'Neil (Colac Collectable Car Club), Howard Coleman (MG Car Club of Victoria), Jim Stephens (Maserati Club of Australia), Kathy Beimers (US Cruisers Club), Lawrence Glynn (BMW Drivers Club Melbourne), Martin Ball (Ballan Vintage Machinery & Vehicle Club), Patrick Sawyer (Escape Motoring), Ray Beagley (Southern Peninsular Classic & Historic Car Club), Richard Brown (Rover Car Club of Australia), Robert Mihelcic (Victorian Torana), Ruth Wood (Vintage & Classic Car Club Ballarat), Yvonne Barker (Western Vehicle Restorers Club).

New Delegates were introduced and welcomed: Michael Carter (49-59 Ford Customline Car Club), Joe Borg (Mustang Owners Club of Aust (Vic)), Peter Carpenter (Early Ford V8 Club), Geoff Murdoch (ASRF), Christine Anglin (VVCCC of Wangaratta), Roger Beattie (Fiat Car Club)

Minutes of the last Meeting on 23rd May 2022 were accepted with a motion moved by Bill Reid (FB-EK Holden Car Club) seconded by Bill Ballard (Ford Owners, Restorers and Drivers Club) and carried.

Correspondence: Nothing to report pertaining to this meeting

President's Report: It is good to be getting back together and not meeting on Zoom, and he hoped that other Clubs were starting to see improvement in the numbers returning to meetings after the Covid disruptions

Treasurer's Report: Mark Fenton reported that the AOMC finances are currently in a strong position and as of the end of July 2022 the AOMC Cash at Bank is a healthy \$320,231 with additional revenue from the Shannon's American Motoring Show likely in October to ensure we remain on a good footing for the year.

With the new financial year, we have commenced the membership renewal period and have already had almost 70% of Clubs renewed which is good progress, so thank you.

This time of year is also when the annual reporting is finalised in time for the AGM in November, and this is also underway with no significant issues to report.

AOMC Events: Shannon's American Motoring Show on 23rd October 2022 at Caribbean Park Events Central. The 2023 British and European Motoring Show will also be held at Caribbean Park, on 26th February 2023. National Motoring Heritage Day will be promoted more heavily next year to help raise the public profile of our movement, and all Clubs will be asked to participate to show off our cars to the public

Current Issues: Some delegates requested at the last meeting that the movement be represented by a single voice in Victoria, and the AOMC has initiated discussions with the Victorian Federation to see what can be achieved. Keith Mortimer is leading those discussions which are due to commence in early September.

Group Insurance Scheme: AOMC has been looking at a group insurance scheme through a broker. Iain would like to collect more detailed information about what Clubs are actually paying for different types of insurance, and Howard will be contacting a selection of Clubs to collect this information in order to help identify a competitive offering that would be available to AOMC member clubs, especially for the smaller clubs that may currently be under insured.

VicRoads Consultation: The formalities of the changeover to privatisation have now been completed, and our past contacts are now no longer available to us. AOMC is working to maintain close contact with those responsible for the CPS and issues relating to our movement.

Motoring Shows: we are changing the location for AOMC shows from Yarra Glen Racecourse to Caribbean Park which is more central and the area available is much bigger. Other parts of the old Caribbean Gardens previously used for swap meets is now part of the Caribbean Market and they will no longer be running car shows in that area.

Engine Number Records: Philip Johnstone reported strong interest in the past few months with searches on Pontiac, Packard, Buick, Porsche, Daimler, MG, Austin Healey, Vauxhall, Austin 7s, Mini Cooper S, International trucks and motorcycles, in addition to the usual Holden Monaros and Toranas and Ford GTs.

Graham Keys (Wolseley Car Club) thanked Philip for the significant help he offered one of their members recently and was thanked warmly with applause from the floor.

Bereavements and illnesses: Iain noted the recent passing of Reg Hunt (of car sales and racing driver fame), and Alan Fairweather (AOMC Delegate from Western Restorers). Iain also welcomed back Rick Cove from recent illness.

Delegates' Reports:

Chris Henry (GVC Maffra) reported on what is happening in the museum recently, including their Mostly Motorcycles and Maffra Cars display, and noted the AOMCs report that their Facebook page promoting this event had received the most hits this month which is encouraging. With 230 motorcycle and 30 cars this display will continue until November and after that it will be Rarities and Replicas. There is also a new signature event next year (19th March 2023) to be known as Songs and Cars, which will relate the musical Industry to specific cars, and they are currently looking for a Big Yellow Taxi and a Pink Cadillac to add to their display. They are trying very hard to attract a new demographic to the museum by looking to cross over with other interests and community groups. They also have a booth at Motorclassica.

Rick Cove (GHAC) reported that an upcoming rally on the Melb Cup weekend is well under way in the planning and entries close on the 9th September 2022. The Swap Meet for Latrobe Valley Gippsland Historic Automobile Club is on 16th October 2022.

Maureen Ross reported that the Florence Thomson rally is on again next year and a permanent date has been set for all future events, which will now be held on the last weekend in April, so please note the new date in your calendars. Next year event will be in Wangaratta and applications will be open in November. The event is owned by the RACV and AOMC has been contracted to run it each

year, to celebrate women's contribution to motoring, and is limited to a maximum of 75 entries. This year's event with 60 cars was very well supported. The theme this year will be "get your granddaughters driving your cars" to encourage them to get involved.

Terry Roche (Triumph Car Club) reported that for the past 17 years they have met with the TCC of ACT and they are doing it again in October with 40 cars plus another 40 cars from the TR Register.

Graeme Moody highlighted the impact of aging members on the ability to run swap meets and suggestions have been made that the swap meets of the VDC and DVCC should be joined because they cannot get enough people to man the gates and the car parks. He is concerned that many of the younger car owners are not engaged in our movements. He asked delegates to think about how we can recruit younger people into the classic car movement.

Ian Clarke (DVCC) supported Graeme's comments and spoke of the efforts to involve local scout groups in their car club activities and they are hopeful that it will enable them to involve a couple of scout groups in manning the swap meet as well, which has a benefit of putting the money into community groups as well as getting younger people involved in the movement.

Tony Hall (Escape Motoring) spoke of the Highball Cars and Coffee events held every few months in Melbourne that attract 1000-2000 cars, with many of them already on CPS, but some are just involved in Facebook sites. They are just as passionate as we are, and it is important that we get them all involved and attract them to be affiliated with the AOMC.

Daryl Meek (Goldfields Car Club and VCCA Vic) reported that Motorclassica is fully subscribed for 7-9th Oct 2022, except that there is space for involvement in the Marque Park event (replaces Club Sandwich) on Friday and Clubs are welcome to attend the outside event. Contact Daryl for more information if interested. There is also a possibility of a 2nd Motorclassica in Sydney starting in 2 years' time. He also spoke of his activities in the western districts and invited people going to Bay to Birdwood to stop in Nhill for a coffee with Daryl to see some of the cars he is now storing in his new workshop (old Holden Dealers) and also see a Vintage Fashion Show.

Paul Vellacott noted 2 major achievements of the AOMC related to LH drive vehicles and the CPS and gave a brief history of LHD vehicles in Australia, which ultimately allowed LHD vehicles to be approved for use on the CPS together with the use of logbooks for the CPS.

John Phoenix (Seymour & District Car Club) spoke of their 3rd Show and Shine on 13th March 2023, which incorporates a market and a swap meet. It is being held in collaboration with the Lions Club. He also spoke of one of the most historical war memorials in Australia, being the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial, which is one of the biggest tourist attractions in Victoria, and car clubs are welcome to come to Seymour to see it.

John Blackwell (Seymour & District Car Club) reported that the Army Tank Museum at Puckapunyal is closing on the 16th December 2022, until it is reopened as a new museum outside of the Army base in 2024. There is an open day in late October/early November and visitors are welcome (with appropriate security checks required for its current location).

Roger Beattie (Fiat Car Club of Vic) reported that the club has had no historic events since 1991 but they have a new event coming in early November (flyers available) and for those attending the swap meet in Bendigo, there will be a display night under lights at the Harness Racing Club on the Friday night.

Guest Speaker: Iain introduced Geoff Gwilym, CEO of VACC and invited him to tell us about what the VACC is doing to represent and advocate for the automotive industry.

Geoff noted that this conversation must include talking about electric vehicles (EV) and the impact on the industry but would also note that the privatisation of VicRoads is topical and is in progress partly to bring about the modernisation of the registration system, which is a good thing.

The conversation about EV's cannot be avoided, no matter how right or flawed it may be for some. The entire conversation globally is about electric cars – it is like it is the only conversation. It does not matter where the electricity comes from, there is an ideology that says it is right. Geoff spoke about proposed legislations regarding CO2 emissions and the programs around the world to incentivise the change to electric (and/or penalise the internal combustion engine technology) and this is having a big influence on the automotive industry and car users generally.

One of the big issues for the VACC is the need for labour to service the changes being made to the automotive industry, noting that the current trades do not recognise the change to digital technologies where problems may not be electrical, but due to software coding issues. This will require new skills and it is a challenge to get young people into the industry when wages are low. Wages, and therefore costs, will need to lift due to the rarity of skills available to the automobile service industry. The VACC needs to be involved in these discussions.

For ongoing information about the automotive industry Geoff referred delegates to his regular podcast (with Greg Rust and Shane Jacobson) called The Grill, accessible on the VACC website.

With questions from the floor, Geoff addressed other issues of interest including the VACC role in pushing for an annual roadworthy for cars over 8 years old. He agreed that this is a VACC position consistent with their need to support their own members commercial interests but it is not a high priority, however he also encouraged the AOMC to join the conversation and advocate for exemptions for club cars, or low mileage vehicles to ensure the best outcome is achieved without unintended consequences.

VACC is also asking for national schemes that address the changes in vehicle recycling caused by the change in materials of manufacture. He suggested that older cars have “more value” in recycling discussions because they can be fixed instead of being disposed of, and this is part of the debate around whether old cars should be banned (eg cash for clunkers). He suggested that banning old cars probably won't happen, but future controls might involve additional charges based on mileage or use, and this would be a way to minimise the impact on the low mileage old car movement.

Daryl Meek spoke of his involvement in FIVA and the need to get all affected Australian parties on the same page and overcome an unwillingness to adopt European positions when advocating for the historic movement. He spoke of European efforts to have a consistent definition about using these vehicles that involve trade-offs to ensure they are historical, not just old, and that we need to get on the front foot to advocate for the required changes, before we are made to change to something not wanted. He also noted that annual check-ups in European schemes are not necessarily roadworthy checks but are a measure to ensure the vehicle still meets the historic definition for which their exemptions/allowances/permits were designed.

Geoff noted the importance of policy preparation and that when advocating to government it is important to launch your policy positions before the Government announce theirs, and to make sure your policy position aligns with what the Govt want to achieve. You are then in the best position to influence what the changes are. It is also important to provide the numbers/dollars that will support

the politicians' arguments. Geoff also suggested that the influence of independent politicians should not be underestimated when planning an advocacy strategy. It is also best to ensure that you have your policy positions already in their hands as they develop their policy position, so the earlier you start the better off you will be, and there are advantages in doing things such as proposing the use of existing European standards as it means there is less work to be done to prepare for change.

When asked about the implementation of e-roadworthies by VicRoads he believed that despite issues in its initial implementation it is actually now going OK, and the new consortium will probably continue to improve the process.

Geoff concluded by sharing his excitement for the automotive industry and was happy to receive the invite to address the AOMC today and enjoyed the discussion.

Iain thanked Geoff for a most interesting presentation and hoped that the AOMC and VACC could work together in the future to help secure the future of the historic movement and the automotive industry in Victoria.

Iain thanked the delegates for coming today and referred them to the AOMC website to stay up to date with the latest developments. The meeting closed at 2:22pm