

No. 304

February 2009

# A30 MINUTES

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN AUSTIN A30 CAR CLUB INC.

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## *From the Front Seat*

A message from Club President, Don Jones

Welcome to February 2009

Due to the floods in Queensland Don has been unable to send in the Front Seat report this month via his email provider but reported via mobile phone that he wishes everyone the very best for the new year.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1934 AEC Eight Wheel Drive used by The Department of Interior displayed at Lardner Park show.



**Australian Austin A30 Car Club Inc.  
(Ass. Inc. No. A8084W)**

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008  
At the Camberwell Uniting Church Hall. 314 Camberwell Road, Camberwell

**Meeting opened by – Brian Brooks** at 8.20pm

Brian was Acting President for the evening as Don Jones had important business to attend and our Vice President Jim Fowler was not in attendance at the time.

**Attendance:** Brian thanked all the Members for attending the meeting

**Apologies:** Glenys, Bruce & Angela Hall, Angela, Cristina & David Napoleone, Bronwyn & David Taylor, Ian Warren, David Linke, June Overton, Bob Laughton, Jeanette Allen and Graeme McIntosh

**Minutes of previous Meeting:**

Moved: Harvey Overton      Seconded: Tom Bacon      Carried

**Business Arising from Previous Meeting:**

Nil

**Secretary** – In David Linke's absent Dot Bacon stood in as Secretary

**Correspondence:**

**In:** Austin 7 Club of Victoria – Light Shaft  
Austin Motor Vehicle Club of Queensland – Austin Times  
October and November  
Deniliquin District Veteran & Vintage Car Club – News Bulletin Nov/Dec  
Apology to the Clubs who have sent us their Newsletters, but these were the only ones tabled on the night.  
Lumley Special Vehicles – Insurance for your Special Vehicle  
Agreement for Hall Hire

**Out:**

Agreement for Hall Hire to Church  
Card sent to Camberwell Church in appreciation  
Moved: Percy May Seconded: Graham Blair      Carried

**Treasurers Report – Dianne Davie**

Diane gave report on the Club's finances. Everything going well

Moved: Ro      Seconded: Mario Napoleone      Carried

**Editors Report - Brian Brooks** standing in for Graeme McIntosh who was absent

Brian reported that Web Site was excellent

Items about A.O.A. such as accommodation etc. is now on the Web Site

At this stage we were interrupted by the appearance of fellow in a Red Suit who decided to crash the meeting.

After much laughing dear old Santa handed everyone a present. We all thanked Santa.

Santa made the big mistake in asking if anyone had any questions.

Mario asked him how many vans are on his Christmas list.

Poor old Santa was very depressed.

Some members would be unaware, but there seems to be vans popping up in the Club. Then it was suggested that Santa pop over the road and visit the Police Station. Well he never returned.

Brian then finished the Editors report saying that members should have a look at the Web site

And see the changes that Graeme has made.

### **Librarian – Brian Brooks**

Plenty of books available, if you need any information please give Graeme a call.

### **Club Captain – Fred Brauneis**

#### **BBQ Fred & Annette's – 14<sup>th</sup> December 12.00 noon - \$20 per head – Address in Newsletter**

Fred reported on coming events, to be published in Newsletter.

Some ideas were – Daylesford, Maffra and Brian Brooks mentioned Anderson's Mill at Smeaton

which is only open on the first Sunday of the month.

Events coming up that the Club attended each year are –

Melbourne to Mornington Run

Australia Day in the Gardens

Hanging Rock

### **Membership Secretary – Tom Bacon**

Tom reported no change in numbers

Club Permits coming in

Brian asked Tom with the Renewal Form for fees next year 2009/2010 could he make room for member's Email address.

### **Merchandise - Brian Brooks:**

Brian has plenty of Merchandise available.

### **General Business:**

**Bob Talbot** suggested that the Club could apply for a Saugage Sizzle at Bunnings in Keysborough.

Brian said that the committee would look into it. As it appears a good return can be made.

**Don Jones** gave a report on the Red Plates. Could have a 30 day book instead of 90 days.

Details later.

**Tom Bacon** asked that the Club send a Get Well Card to Bruce Hall who is in hospital.

**Lynall Dowel** showed the members a box, which they may be able to use for car parts etc. Members seemed to be interested. Thank you Lynall

**Don Jones** reported that he had a call from a gentleman? down the Peninsula saying he had an A30 Sedan 4 door for sale. He travelled down to look it over, one tyre was flat but

the rest of the car was great and asking price \$350. He did wonder why it was so cheap. Of course Don jumped at it gave him \$50 deposit and said he would be back. Later in the week he rang to say he was coming down to pick it up. But to his shock and horror the wife answered the phone and said No Sale as the car belonged to her. Apparently they are going through a divorce and he tried to get rid of her car. Nice fellow.

**Brian Brooks** suggested that members keep a supply of the Clubs Information Cards (yellow) in their glove box, as you never know when you may see a stray A30 parked in the street and you just pop one under the windscreen wiper.

Special Effort was drawn and Brian thanked all the members who donated the prizes and wished all the members a Very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year and to drive carefully.

**Meeting closed at 9.15pm and the next will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 8.00pm**  
**NO MEETING IN JANUARY**

After meeting was closed the members enjoyed a lovely supper and a chat.

**Dot Bacon**

**Acting Secretary**

## **AUSTRALIAN AUSTIN A30 CLUB CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

As a token of appreciation for the support from our country and interstate members a free raffle was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at Fred & Annette's Christmas function where a good time was had by all – thanks Fred and Annette.

Prizes for both draws were two club coffee mugs and a club key ring.

### **Interstate members:**

Successful member was **Eddie Tick of Ettalong NSW**– congratulations Eddie, by now you will have your prize.

### **Country Members:**

Successful members were **Bob & Ethel Gibb of Portarlington Vic.** – congratulations Bob & Ethel, by now you will also have your prize.

Thanks again to all our Country and Interstate members for your continuing support.

## *Two Stars and A Wedding*

Recently my A30 was the star of a wedding in Williamstown (well, technically the bride was I guess)

Robert Taylor



## **A30 Club Christmas BBQ at the Brauneis Place**

Graeme McIntosh

The date for our Christmas lunch had been set months before and following "Worlds Best Practice" of "Just in Time" management systems, the last minute panic was setting in. Fred was relaxed as he had the food supplies under control but Annette had a problem. She had purchased a roll of fabric to make new table cloths for the eating tables and the shop had gave her exactly the length she had asked for, about 60cm too short on our first calculations for what she wanted. After many measurements of the fabric length and Fred's stack of old doors in his workshop (to be used as tables) the final lengths were decided on.

Fred's only concerns was the BBQ he was going to use for the spuds, it had not been used for many years so a test drive was decided to be done. The spuds cooked great but were covered in a black soot from the hot rocks. It was decided to wrap the spuds in tin foil and all should be ok. The only other problem was covered by setting up a tarp to give some protection from the rain for the BBQ, remember it had been raining none stop for three days and the forecast for our BBQ afternoon was for more rain. We all retired that night hoping for a warm sunny Sunday next afternoon.

Sometime during the night as we all slept soundly in our warm beds there was movement in the Brauneis house as Fred awoke, it was all starting to happen.

Fred was commissioning his personally designed, hand built, all stainless steel, food quality assured and tested BBQ rotisserie to cook our specially selected 'Butt of Beef' for the A30 club Christmas lunch.



The correct amount of heat beads and timber were fired for the heat and Fred had to maintained the correct temperature for the seven hour cooking process. The meat is secured to the rotisserie and counter balanced for smooth rotating operation.

I arrived about 10:00 just as Fred and Annette were frantically going through the 'Have we got the whatever" list, most items were ok and the rest Fred went off to get. Annette and I started on a quick cleanup of Fred's workshop and to setup the doors as tables on tressells, it is incredible how many configurations you can have to put four table in one square room. Eventually we decided on the final layout and fitted Annett's specially designed and just completed table cloths, they all fitted perfectly, what a relief.



As we set the tables the rain came down, then it stopped, then it came down again, one member rang to find out if the BBQ was still on, of course it was rain hail or shine. As the clock hands raced towards the arrival time the to do list got less, Fred was relaxed keeping an eye on the roast, I was ok as I did not know what was going to happen and Annette was in the kitchen chopping up fresh fruit, cheese and salad for a healthy food platter, watching the clock and dreading the ringing of the door bell as she

just wanted another ten minutes and all would be ready. Give or take a couple of minutes and the members started to arrive, just in time , we had made it. The weather had started to clear as well, the rain had stopped and the sun had come out for some short periods.



The first thing members did on arrival was check out the roast and the blokes then checked out the progress on Fred's A35 van rebuild.



A highlight was Bob Dixon's presentation to Fred of the A35VAN number plates Bob had purchased.



It was time for eating and we all lined up for our serves of roast meat, spuds and salad, enough for all and all was great.



Main course was followed by deserts, pavlova which is my favourite. I managed to get an extra large portion which was great, after this I noticed one last slice left on the plate, I hovered around for at least two minutes waiting for someone else to claim it, then down it went, it was extra good. Later I found out Annette had missed out on her pavlova, sorry, but you have to be quick when I am around pavlovas.





The weather by this time had turned out quite warm and sunny and there was no thoughts of cold wind and rain of three hours earlier.

While sitting around outside Brian Brooks presented us with a display of the clubs merchandise, key rings, cups, aprons etc. Due to a shortage of cups at the BBQ and Brian's salesmanship some members had to buy a club mug to have a coffee in before they went home.

Everybody was sitting around having a chat when in the background I heard someone say they had to go, within ten minutes the word had got around and everyone had gone.



After a ten minute clean up we surveyed the situation, looked like everyone enjoyed the meal as nothing was wasted. All the chips and lollies were gone, no sweets left, I took care of that, there was some meat left but that was good. The platter of good for you food of fresh fruit, salad and cheese that Annette was pushing time to make was hardly touched. (Goes to show we all prefer chips and lollies rather than carrots and celery)



Brian demonstrating that our club aprons do fit all sizes



The biggest bone for a little



Hope everyone had a good time, we did, and look forward to next year.

Graeme McIntosh



# On the Road

with Bob Laughton

G'day, a happy and prosperous New Year to all members, families and friends. Our Christmas dinner was nice, I got the push from the kitchen after last year, we had the out-laws over and all was good, all the usual trimmings except crayfish—I wonder why.

The months of November and December were quite nice, some good rain and cooler conditions than usual which helped push the season back about 14 days, the first time for 10-12 years. The fruit in the area has been good, cherries an excellent season, apricots great, white peaches, plums all good yields and cling stone peaches being picked at the moment, and all reports are good.

It's a big 'thankyou' to Father Christmas, alias David Linke for the RACV envelope! Beautiful.

It's been nearly seven weeks since the last rain here, raised dust a few days ago as we run into a time of probably about 42 degrees and over, it's damn hot here. In the world wide scheme of things it's not good, Australians as individuals have a good grasp of the situation and our government seems to be helping us out to no end, but there will be a lot of hurt as men and women lose their jobs, houses and cars, we all are in for a tough time for at least the next twelve months. Even in these tough times car companies and Government leaders still 'can't get it' i.e. Mr Rudd and President Bob are still calling for fuel efficient cars, well I thought car companies had been doing just that since 1904 and that's great, it's all about FUEL. Australia has plenty of CNG and LPG along with America, let's use it to our best advantage. There is enough 'gas' for Australia and America for about 300 years.

I've been down to Melbourne a couple of times over the holidays and it's dry all the way down, but what a mess it is at Kalkallo and Donnybrook with the new overpass, a delay on both occasions for about 20 minutes, and just a big parking lot for a couple of kms. The two new BP garages/cafes one on each side of Highway 31 near Wallan are now both open.

Just a thought, I wonder how many A30's (i.e. Bantams included) there are in America. I asked a member here and he just gave me a big laugh and wanted to ring the green cart to take me away, but it's more than that, does our club correspond with America?

G'day, enjoy ya Austins, go to the LPG and diesel pumps and try to keep away from Vic Roads Ha Ha

Bob

## Burman-Douglas Steering Box

GB 361204 (US 1893764) "Improvements in or Relating to Steering Gear"

A sports commentator and noted tautologist once spoke of a player making "forward progress". This story's a bit like making progress by going backwards, and gives a glimpse into spin-doctoring as practised in the middle of last century.

Previously, we've examined how, from around 1954 Morgan adopted a Bishop Cam steering gear provided by Cam Gears Ltd., and made to a 1924 patent.



Our current Prattle covers the Burman-Douglas worm and nut steering box, used in Morgan 4-wheelers from 1936 to 1954 (a few very early cars used a reduction gear mounted halfway down the column). The patent for it (GB 361204) was filed on 16 September 1931 and published in January 1933. That's 9 years after the steering box Morgan adopted later! The Burman-Douglas is the more sophisticated and complex design, and our motoring forbears seem to have thought it was a lot better - until they moved backwards to the Bishop Cam, that is... The "Service Station and Motor Mechanics' Manual" (1941), in a treatise covering Bishop Cam, Marles (later Marles-Weller) and Burman-Douglas designs comments:

"The Burman-Douglas steering gear ... is looked upon by experts as being one of the most perfect types of steering gear in existence. As an outstanding indication of its efficiency, it may be quoted that it was the steering gear used by Sir Malcolm Campbell in his "Bluebird" when he established the world's land record of over 300 miles per hour.

The Burman-Douglas gear was designed by a British engineer who had had long experience of the manufacture and use of steering gears of many different types..."

The patent holder was John George Douglas of Luton, Bedfordshire. The design was claimed as a refinement of earlier worm and nut systems, in part to eliminate lost motion in them... There are some marked differences, however, between the manufactured box as we know it and the patent specifications. The most significant is that the production boxes have no adjustment for wear (except for end-float in the column). The patent does have provision for wear adjustment, the nut being split circumferentially and longitudinally to permit wear to be taken up by tightening screws accessible simply by removing caps in the box casing. Also, as we know it, the nut is located and held in position as a sliding fit inside the casing, wear here being another factor contributing to slop in the system. In the Patent, the inner column, and hence the nut, is located and held in place by a spigot on the end plate at the bottom of the box. But then, in the convoluted logic of the aforementioned publication: "...This tremendous bearing area between the main nut and inner column gives an obvious tendency toward long life. So great is this contact area, that the maximum load and speed can never break down the oil film."

Later, however, the article goes into some detail about procedures to be followed when wear takes place between the nut and inner column... So, why was the Burman-Douglas box dropped from 1954 for what publicists then claimed was an improved and more sophisticated product? As far as I can glean, Morgan's spin was that the post-war Burman-Douglas boxes were of appalling quality (they were right!). But perhaps there's a bit more to it than this. The replacement Cam Gears box is a cruder and simpler device - perhaps it was cheaper to buy. Then, too, the Austin A30 made the same move at about the same time, suggesting there may have been a problem with continuing supplies (some A30 owners consider the Burman the better box). After World War 11, the Burman Gear Co was supplying the industry with larger and more sophisticated recirculating ball designs - perhaps they deemed it uneconomic to continue production of the older worm and nut devices?

# **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

## **18 February 2009** (Wednesday)

Club meeting at the Camberwell Uniting Church at 8.00pm

## **18 March 2009** (Wednesday)

Club meeting at the Camberwell Uniting Church at 8.00pm

## **6 April 2008 (Sunday)**

Gisborne Steam Rally (Sunday)

### **If enough Club interest is show Brian and Fred will organise the following proposed Trips**

#### **Andersons Mill at Smeaton**

Boom to Bust - the End of an Era

In a picture postcard setting on the banks of Birch's Creek at Smeaton, Anderson's Mill stands! as a powerful reminder of an industry that flourished after the gold rush of the 1850's. Standing today much like it was over 100 years ago the bluestone building and its magnificent water wheel are still in place.



#### **Maffra Museum**

The Gippsland Vehicle Collection provides Gippsland with an outstanding rotating display of interesting vehicles: cars, motorbikes, machinery, historic vehicles, carriages, trucks and auto memorabilia.



#### **Werribee Open Range Zoo**

**Fred Brauneis - Club Captain. Tel: (03) 9457 4038 (ah)**

#### **CLUB PERMIT VEHICLES ARE AUTHORISED TO ATTEND THESE EVENTS.**

*Note: Owners of vehicles operating with Club Permits should carry a current copy of this Newsletter & a copy of the AOMC Club Permit Handbook in their car at all times.*

# **Buy, Swap & Sell**

## **FOR SALE**

Mesh or Plastic Sun Visor for Austin A30

Contact Sandy or Less 02 63626810

## **FOR SALE**

### **VALE**

**Don Rogers  
1926 to 2008**

Don Rogers was a car man from the time he bought a car at age thirteen and had to work as a mechanic for the owner to pay for the car.

Don was a foundation member of the Austin 7 Club

Don love cars and would always try to save a car from the wreckers. This habit extended to all things mechanical especially stationary engines, he made collections of everything.

Don was an Austin enthusiast

Every move he made required a larger garage with all things grouped and labelled.

Don believed that God made everybody creative and curious.

Don's museum class collection will be auctioned at Kerang on 28 February 09 at 10 am

## **WANTED TO BUY**

Accessories to tart up my A30. Things like Bumper overriders, wind deflectors, fancy gear lever knob, 13inch wheel chromed wheel rims, badges etc

Phone David Linke 03 9543 8263

(2/2)

*Advertisements in this section will be inserted, free of charge, in two issues unless I am advised otherwise. The notation at the end of the advertisement indicates how many times it has been displayed. ie: (1/2) - first insertion , (2/2) - second insertion. Ed.*



## FEBRUARY 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		<u>Club Meeting</u>				
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## MARCH 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		<u>Club Meeting</u>				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## AUSTRALIAN AUSTIN A30 CAR CLUB INC.

### CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** of each month from **February to December**. Commencing at **8.00 pm**.

### VENUE

CAMBERWELL UNITING CHURCH  
314 Camberwell Road, CAMBERWELL. VICTORIA.  
(Near Camberwell Junction)  
Melways 45 J1

Parking available at front and rear of the building.

### CLUB MERCHANDISE

Club Lapel badge	\$ 5.50
Club Window Sticker Badge (internal)	\$ 3.00
Club Key Ring	\$ 5.00
Club Grill Badge (Members)	\$20.00
Club Grill Badge (Non Members)	\$25.00
Tea & Coffee Mug with Club Badge	\$ 8.00
A30 50th Year Rally Cloth Badge	\$ 9.00
Barbecue aprons Heavy black cotton with Club emblem and pocket	\$20.00
A5 Binder for copies of 'A30 Minutes' inc. 25 pockets	\$10.00

**All items are plus postage, if applicable**

**All Club Merchandise enquiries to Brian Brooks  
Telephone: (03) 9386 9385**

### CLUB CONTACTS

Please direct information & enquiries as follows:

**Correspondence to the Secretary – David Linke**

**Newsletter articles to the Editor – Graeme McIntosh**

**Membership enquiries to Membership Secretary – Tom Bacon**

(Contact details are shown inside front cover)

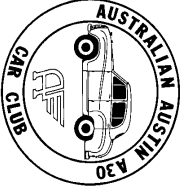
### SPARE PARTS

Contact Thorpe at

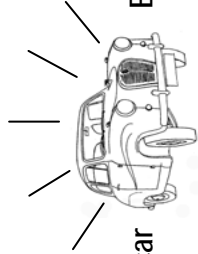
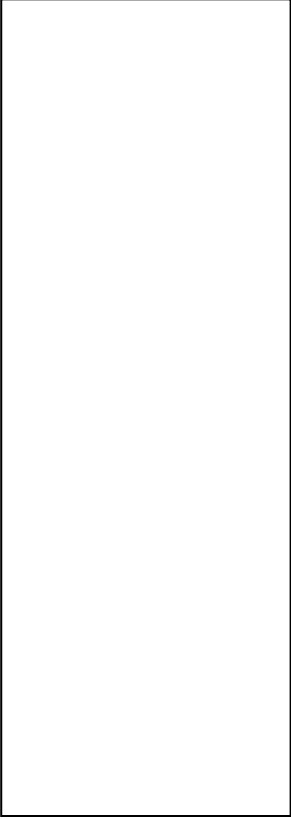
Morris Minor Australia, 56 Alex Avenue, Moorabbin. Victoria. 3189

Telephone: (03) 9555 1793 Fax: (03) 9532 2241

**Note: The current membership card is now laminated and has the Club stamp on the reverse side. Members wishing to purchase items from Thorpe of Morris Minor Australia, Moorabbin, Vic. should present the card to obtain a discount. Country & Interstate members must quote their name and membership number. Thorpe has been provided with a current membership list to identify members.**



IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO: THE SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN AUSTIN A30 CAR CLUB,  
Unit 2 12 Catherine Ave MT WAVERLEY VIC 3149



Austin A30 - small car

BIG personality!