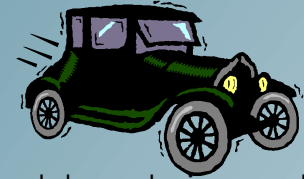


BRISBANE VINTAGE AUTO CLUB [Inc]



An inexpensive, friendly, family club, catering exclusively for Historic Vehicles (Veteran, Vintage, Post Vintage and Classic) built up to December 1978.

P.O. Box 443, Narangba, Qld, 4504.

Vintage Views – February 2025



“Happy New Year - 2025”



BVAC OFFICE BEARERS - 2025



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: - GLEN SORENSEN

BVAC Website: bvac.com.au

Facebook Page: [Brisbane Vintage Auto Club](#)



PRESIDENT	Adrian Bensted 6 Miner Crt Deception Bay Q 4508 Ph. 0438 305 516 Email: bensted.adrian@gmail.com	VICE PRESIDENT	Glen Sorensen 145 Church Road Eatons Hill Q 4037 Ph. 0423 885 055 Email: henryford1920@iprimus.com.au
SECRETARY	Mal Dale 6 Riesling St. Carseldine Q 4034 Ph. 0418 733 575 Email: maldale@hotmail.com	ASST. SECRETARY	Vacant Ph. Email:
TREASURER	Darryl Gomersall 23 Killara Crescent Kippa Ring Q 4021 Ph. 0417 709 500 Email: darryl.gomersall@bigpond.com	EDITOR	Peter Hibbert 435 Uhlmann Road Burpengary East Q 4505 Ph. 0416 328 929 Email: pthibb@hotmail.com.au
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR	Vacant Ph. Email:	SPARE PARTS	Vacant Ph. Email:
DATING OFFICER	Greg Henderson 34 Cruice Street Dayboro Q 4521 Ph. 0428 361 756 Email: gnkz@bigpond.com	QHMC REPRESENTATIVE	Vacant Ph. Email: bensted.adrian@gmail.com
LIBRARIAN	Vacant Ph. Email: rodneylang4@bigpond.com	SAFETY OFFICER	Greg Henderson 34 Cruice Street Dayboro Q 4521 Ph. 0428 361 756 Email: gnkz@bigpond.com
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Glen Sorensen 145 Church Road Eatons Hill Q 4037 Ph. 0423 885 055 Email: henryford1920@iprimus.com.au	WEB MASTER	Rod Hibberd 31 Cashmere Lane Cashmere Q 4500 Ph. 0437 870 127 Email: rodmaree@bigpond.com
LIFE MEMBERS	Rod Czislawski Maureen Hicks		

CLUB OBJECTIVES

- (A) To promote the restoration to original condition and also the use and exhibition of Veteran, Vintage, Post Vintage and Historic vehicles by members in competition and social activities.
- (B) To assist members to locate, restore, and maintain their vehicles
- (C) To form a library to assist members in obtaining information related to their vehicles.
- (D) To co-operate with other clubs and associations with similar aims.

Brisbane Vintage Auto Club Inc. hold monthly meetings at Events which are published in the Vintage Views (except January). Contact the BVAC Committee for further information.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO:

The Secretary, BVAC Inc. PO Box 443 Narangba, Qld. 4504

President's Report

2025 has arrived. Look forward to plenty of Old Car fun and frivolity.

I have some new ideas which will be revealed at the Australia Day meeting at Aspley Hornets prior to lunch at our storage facility at Deception Bay. We have access to the Environmental Centre breezy veranda and modern clean bathroom facilities. Come along and chat while the bay breeze cools us down on our special Aussie Day. Bring your drinks and salad. We are providing the barbeque meat and bread.

Our Bunnings Sausage sizzle on 18 January was a raging success. Thanks so much to our members who spent hours chatting, cooking, serving and having a good time. I will have Bunnings banners out at displays, runs etc to show our appreciation for the wonderful fund raising opportunities that they have given us.

Over the festive season we had the pleasure of our soldier son (25 yrs) visiting from Townsville. He has the car culture knowledge and mechanical ability beyond his years. I told him that I was impressed with his ability and he reminded me that his fascination with cars, trucks and motorcycles came from spending time building cars in our garage since he was a toddler. He loved our Beach Buggy that we built 20 odd years ago.



As we progress through this year we will have some special outings and invite our younger friends and relatives along.

Speaking of outings, we can brainstorm on things to do through the year. Our 'social' activities don't have to involve old cars every time. Unless 'you' want them to. We can go as a group to, bowl (lawn or Tenpin), fishing, mini golf, movie theatre days or nights, nursery visits, walking (wheelchairs welcome) and any other activity that you can think of. What is your favourite thing to do?

More will be announced on Australia Day.

Saturday February 1 is the TOOWOOMBA SWAP. Let's go in our club shirts and show the BVAC flag. I will be taking a trailer in case I find a special something, that I didn't know I needed, for the car that I haven't got yet.

So jump in, pump that throttle and lets get off to fun filled year.

Adrian Bensted.



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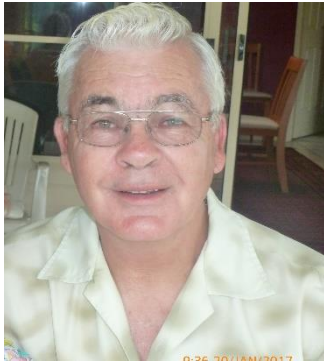
Also Servicing

Donnybrook, Morayfield, Elimbah, Burpengary,

Wamuran, Narangba, Beachmere, Wamuran Basin.

The Editor's Report: February 2025

by Peter Hibbert



May I wish you all an enjoyable and adventurous 2025 as we commence BVAC club activities just a little early this year, as you will be aware from the email sent by Mal Dale, where he outlines the 'new outlook' our club is looking at, with firstly, our hosting of a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle at Brendale, and then, for Australia Day, a full day for us commencing with a 10:00 am morning tea and our February general meeting, all to be held at the Hornets Clubhouse at 50 Graham Road, Carseldine. After that we intend continuing the day with a short club run to our new premises at 7 Josephs Avenue, Deception Bay, where the club will shout members a sausage sizzle lunch and a good look through the storage unit we have been allocated by the Moreton Bay council.

We ask that you make it your intention to try out our new schedules, it being our wish to encourage more members to our regular, and not so regular, activities. Also, as you probably know, our new president Adrian Bensted, is unable to make mid-week meetings, and so weekend club meetings must now become the norm. With the first one being on the 26th January, and the third weekend of the month being the day of our scheduled monthly run it does make the timing of the February meeting just 3 weeks later on Saturday the 15th February a bit close. Things will settle down, so we ask you to be patient and helpful as we work up into the new regime.

There will no longer be a meeting at the showground- rather, we intend to hold the monthly meeting during our monthly car run, probably after lunch or at a suitable time during the run. To that end we do need members to suggest possible venues for runs, as Maureen is no longer able to be our events co-ordinator. To that end, it has been suggested that on the 15th February we meet down Lyons Road to Lake Kurwongbah at 8:30 for a BYO morning tea and the monthly meeting, after which the run will go to Dayboro for lunch, either in the park there or at the bakery.

All will be made clear well before these events- this page is simply an attempt to bring you all up to speed with our committee's plans to make our club more inclusive. All and any suggestions will be taken on board and the whole club benefit. Thank you.

+++++

I did a club run with the Queensland Motorcycle Club recently and look what I saw there-

A 1914 'T' Model Ford- in original condition- 111 years old. WOW!



What a list of Cars: Is yours here?

Recently, with nothing much else to do, I found myself looking the current members list to see the range of vehicles owned by club members. The list is below, and although not surprised to see Ford at the top of the list, but to see Chevrolet as second was, to say the least, interesting.

126 cars in all! It would be interesting to know the general condition of the whole. Those on the road, how many are off the road and for what reason- Under restoration, Unroadworthy, Broken down- and if so to what extent? Without coercion or obligation, I would be interested to the answers to those questions and invite you to email or message the state of your car to me, the editor, for printing in a future magazine. Thanks to you all.

No.	Vehicle	Quantity
1	Ford	22
2	Chevrolet	21
3	Willys	11
4	Holden	9
5	Hudson	6
6	Morris	6
7	Essex	4
8	MG	4
9	Chrysler	3
10	Dodge	3
11	Austin	2
12	Bentley	2

No.	Vehicle	Quantity
13	Celica	2
14	Jaguar	2
15	Mercedes Benz	2
16	Nash	2
17	Oakland	2
18	Plymouth	2
19	Standard	2
20	Studebaker	2
21	Triumph	2
22	Allaro	1
23	Commer	1
24	Daimler	1
25	Desoto	1

No.	Vehicle	Quantity
26	Gray	1
27	Jeep	1
28	Marquette	1
29	Maxwell	1
30	Motor Buggy	1
31	Pontiac	1
32	Rugby	1
33	Stutz	1
34	Swift	1
35	Valiant	1
36	Volvo	1
37	VW	1
	Total Cars	126

We have already looked at Ford, and as there are so many Chevrolets, I thought it would be good to include an article to the Chev. It was to be on Rolls Royce, but as there do not seem to be any of them in the club they will have to wait their turn. So if you look further through this magazine you will find "The Chevrolet".

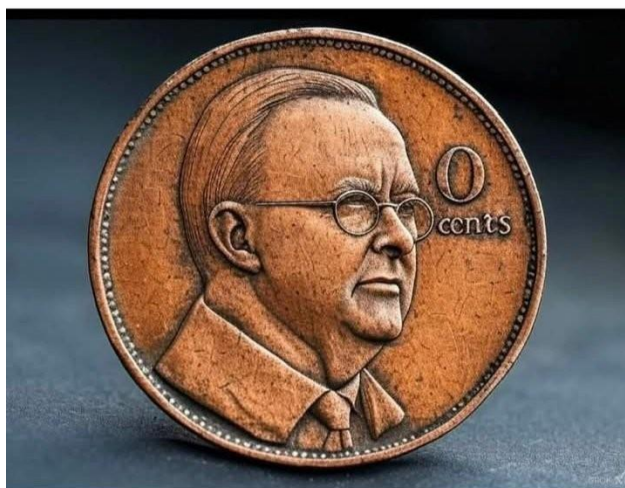
Hmmmm! Looks like Willys might be next.

+++++

AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY



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B.V.A.C Inc. General Meeting No. 618

Date: 4th December 2024

Location: Pine Rivers Showground Hall, Lawnton

Meeting opened by President – Glen Sorensen at 7.45pm



Attendance: 17.

Apologies: 10 as per attendance book.

Welcome:

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated by e-mail & posted. Confirmed on motion of Glen Sorensen. Seconded by Peter Lockhart. Carried.

Business arising from the previous meeting: Nil

Car Badge: New badges completed, to be picked up.

Name Badge: Grant Higgins presented with his badge by President.

Secretary's Report: *Inward Correspondence:* *Club magazines *Pine Rivers AH&I invoice *Jingle All The Bay 7/12 *Office of Fair Trading annual return
Outward Correspondence: *Card to Sue Godde *Reply to Sandgate Jingle All The Bay *Reply to Bunnings Christmas Market
Inwards received & outward endorsed on motion of Mal Dale, seconded George Schoenauer. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Report received and accounts passed for payment on motion of a/g Treasurer Mal Dale, seconded John Coutts. Carried.

Q.H.M.C. Nil

Events Co-ordinator: As per Events Page in Vintage Views. Australia Day run.

Spare Parts: Nil.

Dating Officer: Nil

Librarian: Nil

Editor: Thanks to Editor for excellent magazine.

Safety Officer: Nil

Web Master: Site updated.

General Business: Dayboro Progress Ass'n re Dayboro Day 2025 report by Greg Henderson. John Coutts suggested that a Club BBQ trailer be considered. Lease of MBCC storage facility at Deception Bay to be signed.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

President..... Glen Sorensen Secretary Mal Dale

BRISBANE VINTAGE AUTO CLUB (Inc.)



EVENTS PAGE



Please confirm event details prior due to changes that can occur due to unforeseen circumstances. Event email normally sent out in the week prior to the event.

JAN 2025

Sun – 26th Jan “BVAC – General Meeting & Australia Day BBQ”

As previously advised, general meetings in 2025 will no longer be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next general meeting will be on Sunday 26th January at 10am on the deck at Aspley Hornets FC, Graham Rd, Aspley. Cafe will be open from 8am for breakfast, coffee etc.

Following the meeting there will be a run to our storage facility at Deception Bay, where there will be a BBQ lunch. Club will supply sausages, onions and bread. BYO salad and drinks or whatever else you fancy. Bring a chair.

The storage facility will be open for inspection.

Ph: Adrian Bensted (0438) 305 516

FEB 2025

Thu – 11th Feb “BVAC Coffee Morning” – Club Pine Rivers, Lawnton. Social outing 10am. BYO good stories and share memorable times.

Ph: Mal Dale (0418) 733 575

Sun – 16th Feb “BVAC General Meeting & Monthly Event” – PLACEHOLDER.

Ph: Adrian Bensted (0438) 305 516

Wed – 26th Feb “BVAC Wrinkley’s Mid-Week Run” – Lunch location to be advised on Day.

Ph: Mal Dale (0418) 733 575

MAR 2025

Thu – 13th Mar “BVAC Coffee Morning” – Club Pine Rivers, Lawnton. Social outing 10am. BYO good stories and share memorable times.

Ph: Mal Dale (0418) 733 575

Sun – 16th Mar “BVAC General Meeting & Monthly Event” – PLACEHOLDER.

Ph: Adrian Bensted (0438) 305 516

Wed – 26th Mar “BVAC Wrinkley’s Mid-Week Run” – Lunch location to be advised on Day.

Ph: Mal Dale (0418) 733 575

BRISBANE VINTAGE AUTO CLUB (Inc.)



EVENTS PAGE



BVAC EVENTS 2025

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Jan 01	New Year's Day
Jan 27	Australia Day
Apr 18	Good Friday
Apr 20	Easter Sunday
Apr 21	Easter Monday
Apr 25	Anzac Day
May 05	Labour Day
Oct 06	Queen's Birthday (QLD)
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	Boxing Day
Dec 31	New Year's Eve

 	Gen.Mtg & Monthly Event
 	Coffee Morning
 	Midweek Event

Reminder – 2024/2025 BVAC Membership Fees are now due – Please submit membership fees if not already paid.

IMPROMPTU EVENTS

Remember SIVS registration requires Club Membership.

The BVAC Committee has reviewed the SIV's registration in regards to "Impromptu Events" and established BVAC guidelines so our members can work within the SIVS scheme, BVAC constitution and our risk management procedures.

*The BVAC Committee requires BVAC financial members who wish to hold an "Impromptu Event" to provide **at least 24 hours** notice of the event, with notice provided to all BVAC committee members by post or email.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: *The "impromptu event" details must include the event start location, "start time", destination location and "destination time".*

BVAC members shall also include a statement that their SIV's registered vehicle will be operated in accordance with the DTMR - SIV's conditions and restrictions as legislated. Once endorsed by the BVAC committee, the member shall carry the "impromptu event" documentation at all times during the event.



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Look what I saw...

I pulled in to my local shopping centre at Burpengary East today, today being Wednesday 22nd, and look what I saw- Three beautiful old cars, ones to be proud of!... Couldn't help myself. Just had to photo them and put them in the magazine. Thank you those owners out there, for stopping where and when you did.



Parts & Service Register:

It has been suggested by a member, and agreed to by the October members meeting, that the club re-instate what was once a very useful addition to the club's literary offerings, namely a list published monthly in the magazine, of the names and contact details of local or distant, even overseas, suppliers of parts or services which would be of benefit to members undergoing restorations or maintenance of their vehicles.

To this end the table below is provided for members to tear out or copy, then to detail such persons into the form as are known and acknowledged to the member to be of use. Your completed table should then be given to the editor at the next meeting or emailed to him (pthibb@hotmail.com.au) for inclusion in future magazines. This would be of vast interest and useful to all members, so go for it please!

BVAC - Vehicle Parts & Service Provider Register

NOTE: This list is for members to assist other members and no warranty as to the parts or service is provided by BVAC or its members

Service or parts Provided	Provider Details			Date Used	Rating 1 to 5	Member Name
	Name	Phone Number	Contact E-mail			
Old Motor Vehicle Wreckers	Horopito Motor Wreckers					
"	0011 64 6 385 4151	www. Horopitemotors.c.o.nz	Raeth. Nth. Island	10.5.23	2	Peter Hibbert
Shockie O/hauls, Gas struts etc, Power steer}	WW Shock Absorbers	07 3265 2133	wwshockabsorbers@iinet.net.au	Virginia	2004	Peter Hibbert
Springs, Wheel alignments etc. }	"	"	"	"	31/10/2023	John Coutts
Engines, Parts, Head shaving	J.C. Autos	07 3883 1900	admin@jcautos.com.au	28 Portwood St	30/10/2023	Darryl Gomersall
/	/	/	/	Redcliffe	/	/
Bearings, Oil seals etc. Excellent Service	Queensland Bearings	32653622	@queenslandbearings.com.au	260 Zilmere Rd	8/03/2023	Peter Hibbert
Vintage Tyres	Vintage Tyre Sales	418884883	P.O. Box 704 Bribie Island	Sandstone Point	17/07/2023	Lawrie Godde
Old Car Gearboxes/ other parts too.	Old Car Gearboxes	03 9553 3203		Moorabbin, Victoria	15/02/2022	Peter Hibbert

BVAC - Vehicle Parts & Service Provider Register

NOTE: This list is formembers to assist other members and no warranty as to the parts or service is provided by BVAC or its members

BVAC - Vehicle Parts & Service Provider Register						
Name	Phone	Contact Person or E-mail	Address (if Applicable)	Date Used	Rating 1 to 5	Member Name
Hydraulics. Valve Rebuilds	0402 692 096	sales@hmprecision.com.au	5/26 Huntington St, Clontarf	Visited only	3	Lawrie Godde
Gearbox repairs & parts	03 9553 3203 or		1/25/23 Wren St. Moorabbin. Victoria. 3189	2023	4	Peter Hibbert
Bearings & associated	3265 3622	Brian Peters	260 Zillmere Rd. Zillmere	2024	5	"
Instrument Repairs	3277 3888	John	124Evans Rd. Salisburry. Qld	2024	5	"
British Car Parts	5439 9729	classicportscarcentre@gmail.com	37 Pinelands Drive. Beewah	Club Visit	5	"
Engine & Head Re-	3205 5375	Ross	7/25 Paisley Drive, Lawnton	2024	5	"
Upholstery Motor	3067 0070	Ray Bray- 0414 421 264	60 Bellini Rd. Burpengary	Visited	?	"
Radiator Repairs	3205 2969	Troy	25/71 South Pine Rd. Brendale	21/10/2024	5	"

Chevrolet- Timeline Summary:

Chevrolet Classic Six:

The 1912–14 Chevrolet Type C, also called the Chevrolet Classic Six (Series C), Chevrolet Model C, Classic Six, or, at the time it was new, simply "the Chevrolet" (since there were no other models to confuse it with until 1914 when the models H and L were released), was the first Chevrolet, and was also sold by other ...



Is Chevrolet American or German?

Chevrolet is a proudly American brand founded way back at the dawn of the automobile in November of 1911, and it continues to focus much of its attention on the American market. The name itself comes from Louis Chevrolet, co-founder of the Chevrolet Motor Company.

General Motors:

General Motors, the parent company of Chevrolet, has more American-produced vehicle parts than any other automaker according to two recent independent studies. It's no surprise that Chevy is an iconic American brand. Chevy was initially founded in Detroit, Michigan.

HISTORY OF CHEVROLET

The Chevrolet brand has been around for over 100 years, and in that time, it has produced over 200 million vehicles. Chevrolet has established a reputation as a reliable producer of cars and trucks. The award-winning brand has had a rich history leading up to today. Here are some highlights.

1911 The Chevrolet brand is born in Detroit on Nov. 3, 1911, with the combined efforts of Louis Chevrolet, a Swiss race car driver, and William C. "Billy" Durant, the founder of GM.

1912 The first ever Chevrolet vehicle goes on sale in Detroit. It's the Chevrolet Series C Classic Six, a luxurious, spacious, and fast car.

1913 Chevrolet is slightly rebranded when Louis Chevrolet leaves the business, but allows his name to be used still. Under Durant's instruction, the classic Chevrolet bowtie logo is designed and used in an advertisement.

1918 In the same year that Chevrolet becomes part of General Motors, it also introduces its first truck.

1935 Fast forward a few years, and Chevrolet is doing well. They've topped Ford in sales, and they've been coming up with innovative vehicles unlike those of competitors. In 1935

Chevy released the Suburban Carryall, the first of the classic Suburban SUV, which is still going strong today.

1957 This year marks the release of one of Chevy’s most iconic vehicles in Chevy history, the Chevrolet Bel-Air, a handsome, stylish car perfect for late night cruises.

1959 The debut of the innovative Chevrolet El Camino combines the utility of a pickup with the styling of a car.

1967 The now-iconic Chevrolet Camaro debuts and the muscle car becomes a major competitor of the Ford Mustang.

1979 Chevrolet builds its 100 millionth vehicle – a 1979 Monza, a compact, four- passenger car.

1988 New Chevrolet full-size trucks debut for the first time since 1973, offering a new extended cab body style.

2011 The Chevrolet Volt debuts as the brand’s first extended range electric car.

The End.

+++++

Odd Lines of Laughter

A golfer rushed his wife to a maternity hospital but just failed to make it- she gave birth to a baby boy at the hospital entrance.

When he received the hospital bill for \$450 for “delivery room and services” he objected, stating that his wife had delivered the child on the lawn outside the hospital.

The account was amended to: “Green Fee \$450.

+++++

Patience is the ability to idle your engine when you feel like stripping your gears.

+++++

Father (to his bright son): “What’s the matter?” Son: “I had a terrible scene with your wife”.

+++++

“Is the doctor treating her for anxiety?”

“Oh dear no. She’s rich enough to have psychoneurosis.”

+++++

The telephone rings in Dublin.

He: “Hello. Dublin two two, three three, One one here.”

She: “Sorry. I wanted Dublin double two, double three, double one.”

He: “Not to worry. I had to answer the phone anyway,”

+++++

Ponderisms for February:

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to “put your two cents in”... but it’s only a “penny for your thoughts”? Where’s that extra penny going? (taxes?)

Once you’re in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they “slept like a baby” when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you’re ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

+++++

The intricacies of Cricket solved:

Intro by *Peter Hibbert.*

Over Christmas I saw that most of the time on television you could not escape the nausea of having to watch cricket. Now that is a game about which I confess makes me guilty of treason, as far as Australians are concerned- of not liking cricket. I mean, apart from Donald Bradman, who I was aware of as a ten-year-old child, there is not much about cricket that made any sense to me, so I never took any interest in it, from then until just recently. When I attempted to rectify my ignorance, I discovered this explanation that describes the game completely and competently. Here it is:

- You have two sides, one out in the field and one in.
- Each man that’s in the side that’s in goes out, and when he’s out he come in and the next man goes in until he’s out.
- When they are all out, the side that’s out goes in, and the side that’s been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out.
- Sometimes you get men who are still in and not out.
- When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out, he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in.
- There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out.
- When both sides have been in and all the men are out (including those who are not out),

THAT’S THE END OF THE GAME. GOT IT?

Hmmmmmm! I think I’ll stick to tiddly winks!

+++++

Chevrolet – the Story of a Global Brand

A. Louis Chevrolet and the Legend of Beaune



Baby Louis Chevrolet

Like many inventors and pioneers, Louis Chevrolet (1878-1941), the racing driver and automobile designer, represents a challenge for any historian or biographer. Myths and legends surround him and his life. Numerous anecdotes have been told about his career. Today, it has become very difficult to differentiate between fact and fiction.

Chevrolet's childhood and youth are well documented. In 1878, he was born on Christmas day in the town of La Chaux-de-Fonds in the French-speaking part of Switzerland. He spent his early childhood nearby in the sleepy little village of Bonfol. Even today, Bonfol remains a small town where the only reminder of its famous son is a memorial plaque on Place Louis Chevrolet.

When Louis was nine years old, his family moved to Beaune in France. There, Louis' father owned a watch store, but the venture was not successful. As a

result, Louis started working at the age of eleven to support his family. He found employment in the Robin bicycle workshop, where he learned the fundamentals of mechanics. He repaired coaches and bicycles, until one day he was sent to the "Hôtel de la Poste" to repair a steam-driven tricycle belonging to an American.

This must have been the moment when Chevrolet fell in love twice. He fell in love with automobiles, and also with the idea of emigrating to America. The American, whose tricycle Chevrolet had skillfully repaired was none other than the multimillionaire Vanderbilt. Taken with the talent demonstrated by the young mechanic, Vanderbilt encouraged Louis to come to America: "We have work for you there!"

The truth in this rumor cannot be confirmed. However, the young Swiss did follow the call from across the Atlantic to fulfill his very own "American dream".



Louis Chevrolet in 1895

B. The American Dream

Initially, Chevrolet went to Paris – then the European center of automobile production. In the workshop of Darracq, Louis learnt the basics of the internal combustion engine. Subsequently, he may have also worked for Hotchkiss and Mors. His earnings paid for his trip to Canada where he found employment as a chauffeur and mechanic for a few months. From there, he moved to New York and was employed as a mechanic by a fellow Swiss migrant, William Walter. A short time later, Chevrolet joined the American subsidiary of the famous automobile company, De Dion-Bouton.



In 1902, the De Dion-Bouton subsidiary was shut down and Chevrolet was out of a job. What was clearly a setback in his career proved to be a bonus on a personal level: as a chauffeur for the Treyvoux family he met his future wife, Suzanne. Wedding bells rang in New York in July 1905, and the couple was to be blessed with two sons, Charles born in 1906 and Alfred in 1912.

In 1905, Chevrolet started work with Fiat, but again he did not stay long. A year later he moved to Philadelphia to work for Walter Christie.

In the meantime, Louis' fascination with engines had reached yet another dimension – carried away with the notion of speed, he became a racing driver.

Louis Chevrolet in a De Dion-Bouton in Brooklyn in 1901

– carried away with the notion of speed, he became a racing driver.

In the Christie factory he was appointed first assistant in the development of a new race car based on a completely new concept: front-wheel drive.

C. "The Dare-Devil Frenchman"

As early as July 16, 1895, the "Journal de Beaune" reported a cycling race whose winner was the fearless Louis Chevrolet. Some ten years later Chevrolet participated in his first motorized race, the "Three Miles" in New York, during which he reached a top speed of 109.7 km/h – a world record.

In the same year, Louis Chevrolet built his first race car in which he was clocked at 191.5 km/h – yet another world record.



set foot in a race car.

Louis Chevrolet in 1905

Subsequently, his successes as a race car driver grew and grew.

While his brothers Arthur and Gaston also competed, Louis generally came in first.

Despite all of the spectacular successes, Chevrolet paid a price for his race career. Celebrated in the American press as "the dare-devil Frenchman", he spent nearly three years in hospital beds as the result of various accidents. When his youngest brother, Gaston, died after a racing accident, Louis never again



Louis Chevrolet

D. Establishing the Company



industrialist in the
and smart, an
terms of finance. Walter Chrysler once said of him that he could charm a bird off a tree.

Chevrolet's successes as a race car driver influenced his career. The booming automobile market and its cunning investors began to notice the daring and innovative Swiss, and among them was William "Billy" Durant (1861-1947), the financier from Boston. The two met while Chevrolet drove race cars for Buick.

Only a short while later, in 1911, Durant and Chevrolet founded the "Chevrolet Motor Car Company" in Detroit.

Durant who previously had founded General Motors in 1908 was an enigmatic character. His biographers portrayed him as a charismatic

Billy Durant

spirit of the early 20th century, both charming enthusiast and an adventurer - not just in

Durant's interest focused not only on Chevrolet's performance as a race car driver. It was much more his fine French-sounding family name that rang in the financier's ears. Just as in 1904, when Durant bought up David Dunbar's ailing automobile manufacturing company "Buick", it was the name that clinched the deal.

One year after establishing the "Chevrolet Motor Car Company", the first "Classic Six" rolled off the factory floor in Detroit. The four-cylinder "Baby Grand" and the two-seater "Royal Mail" and the "L Light Six" followed.

In the meantime, Louis Chevrolet proved to be a gifted designer. All four automobiles displayed the distinctive Chevrolet signature, and if it hadn't been for the legendary "cigar fight" between Chevrolet and Durant in 1914, the Swiss would have probably helped design numerous other automobiles for the company. But sadly the motor cars produced between 1911 and 1914 were to be the only ones personally inspired by Chevrolet.

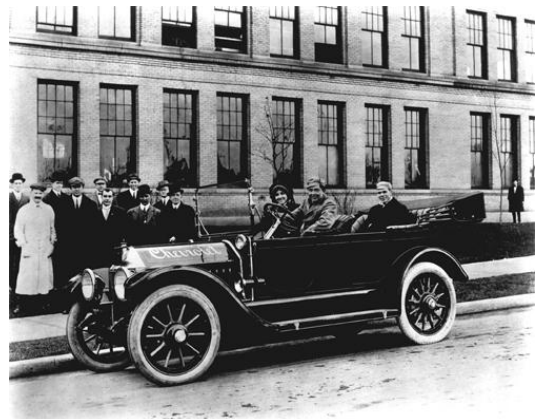


Louis Chevrolet and Billy Durant

E. The Decision to Build Mass-Produced Vehicles

When the two headstrong founders of the company, Durant and Chevrolet, aimed at positioning their company in 1914, an argument developed. During a vacation taken by Chevrolet, Durant had restructured the company to focus on more affordable cars which would compete with those manufactured by Ford. Chevrolet considered this an insult, as he himself had always been interested in building "high-powered speed cars" and other exclusive models.

If we are to believe the declarations made by Durant's widow and Chevrolet's sister decades



Chevrolet Classic Six

after the argument, it was a laconic comment made by Durant which caused the break-up of the partnership. Durant had suggested that Chevrolet, now an executive in the automotive industry, should change from smoking his cheap "blue collar" cigarettes to more exclusive cigars.



Production Milestone

Catherine Durant later said that her husband did not so much dislike the brand of the cigarettes, but the way in which Chevrolet stuck them in the corner of his mouth. In any case, this suggestion must have hurt Louis Chevrolet so much that he countered: "I sold you my automobile, I sold you my name, but I shall not sell my personality to you." He then packed up his cigarettes and left the company.

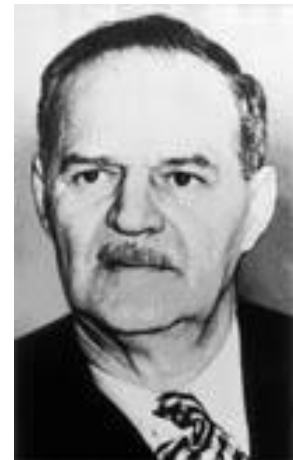
Durant had made a fundamental decision which has influenced the Chevrolet brand to this day. He institutionalized the brand as a synonym for good quality yet affordable automobiles.

While the Chevrolet brand developed quickly along the lines established by Durant, Louis Chevrolet returned to his passion.

His motto was to design modern automobiles and participate in races. In fulfillment of this goal he founded the "Frontenac Motor Corporation" in 1914. In a difficult economic environment he manufactured the first serially produced Frontenac - the showpiece of the American automobile industry in the 1920s. In 1926, he and his brother Arthur established a new company, "Chevolair 333", and began developing a light aircraft engine. The company was liquidated after a fight between the two brothers.

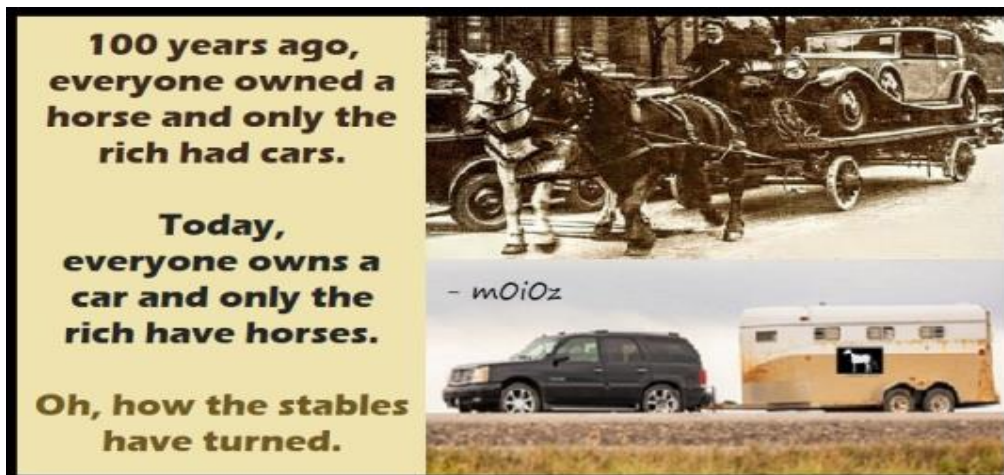
Without further ado, Louis then founded the "Chevrolet Air Car Company" in Indianapolis, which had to close shortly thereafter as a result of the ensuing economic crisis. His last major engineering coup took place in 1932 when he developed a 10-cylinder star engine. Chevrolet applied for a patent for the engine, but by the time the patent registration came through in 1935, Louis Chevrolet no longer had the strength to build up another company. Instead, he again worked as a mechanic, just as he did at the beginning of his career, in the Chevrolet production plant in Detroit.


He died on June 6, 1941, at the age of 63 at his home in Lakewood, east of Detroit – years after he had fallen seriously ill with a brain hemorrhage.



Louis Chevrolet

***** **To be continued.**





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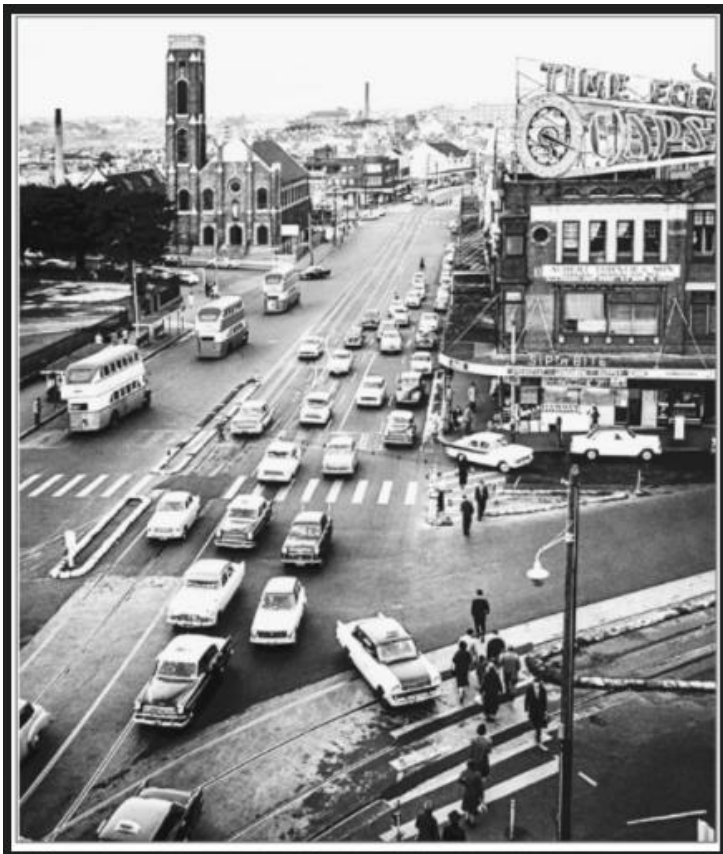
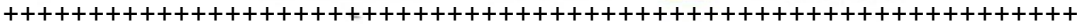
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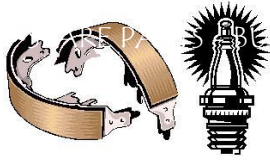
The Lost City-

The Test Question:

Can Anyone identify the city in this photo? It's gotta be in Australia, as the cars are driving on the left, and the two cars turning left look very much like Holdens. We did have double-decker busses too, didn't we?

The answer is on page..... Well, there is no answer, 'cause I have no idea which city is guilty.

Bring your answer or best guess to the March Club meeting, wherever that may be. As you know by now, we look like trying a new way and place to conduct our monthly meetings.



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Parts Wanted: Nil this month

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A wife was making a breakfast of fried eggs for her husband. Suddenly, her husband burst into the kitchen. 'Careful,' he said, 'CAREFUL! Put in some more butter! Oh my gosh! You're cooking too many at once. TOO MANY! Turn them! TURN THEM NOW! We need more butter. Oh my gosh! WHERE are we going to get MORE BUTTER? They're going to STICK! Careful. CAREFUL! I said be CAREFUL! You NEVER listen to me when you're cooking! Never! Turn them! Hurry up! Are you CRAZY? Have you LOST your mind? Don't forget to salt them. You know you always forget to salt them. Use the salt. USE THE SALT! THE SALT!'

The wife stared at him. 'What in the world is wrong with you? You think I don't know how to fry a couple of eggs?' The husband calmly replied, 'I just wanted to show you what it feels like when I'm driving.'

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