



HISTORIC TORQUE

The Official Journal of the Historic Racing Car Club (Queensland) Inc.

May 2020

HRCC Founder Retires After 37 Years of Racing

Read about racing
around the world
with Don Thallon

See page 4



HISTORIC QUEENSLAND 2020 Race Meeting

There is hope it will be allowed to run. See page 3

Contributions for upcoming issues of HISTORIC TORQUE are welcomed.

Please email MS Word & digital photo contributions to torque@hrcc.org.au
Alternatively, post articles to The Editor - Historic Torque, POBox 353, Red Hill Qld. 4059

Deadline - Last day of the month.

Disclaimer:

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**Contact
HRCC**



0424 321072

Phone

Call for all general enquiries. You may be redirected to the appropriate club officer.



Email

info@hrcc.org.au

Your email will be responded to by the appropriate club officer.



Mail Correspondence

**PO Box 353,
Red Hill,
Queensland. 4059**

HRCC welcomes these new members Members



Trent Lummis

Membership

Full, Senior, Social, Honorary, Life 375
Associates 100

HRCC Total Membership 475

(As at 5/5/2020)

Editorial

With no Autumn Historics race meeting to report on in this month's edition, I had concerns that the pages here might be a bit empty. Each month, I look for a main story and then fit other bits and pieces around it. Don Thallon played a significant role in the establishment of HRCC and with his recent announcement of racing retirement I was doing some background research to work up a story to pay tribute. The universe is a strange thing because no sooner than I had started, Don's partner Jeanette emailed me an article she wrote about Don's racing life which is included in this edition. Thank you and nice work Jeanette.

The recent Objectives Survey gave members the opportunity to speak to the club's committee in a simple way. The majority of members failed to reply. Those who did were passionate about the club. A brief report is in this issue. Hope reigns supreme with the Historic Queensland race being held in July. With restrictions being slowly lifted, it may just squeeze in.

Take a look at the Shannons Club competition. Win yourself and the club some \$\$\$'s

Follow the Covid guidelines, stay safe, be healthy. **Ian Welsh**

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Licence Update

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Motorsport Australia Board has approved changes to the expiration of certain licence types. These changes were the result of a month long consultation by Motorsport Australia with members and other stakeholders.

Motorsport Australia President Andrew Papadopoulos said with State and Federal Government restrictions still in place across the country, there was a need to ensure licence holders were supported.

"We are certainly very keen for motorsport to return, but we are currently in somewhat of a holding pattern as we wait for things to improve," Papadopoulos said.

"As such, over recent weeks, our administration has been working out the best solution for our licence holders, in consultation with State Councils and clubs, and have determined that those with national and clubman licences will automatically have their licences extended as outlined.

[Click here to read full statement](#)



National and Clubman Licences

CURRENT EXPIRY	NEW EXPIRY
1 January - 31 March 2020 (Currently expired)	30 June 2020
1 April - 30 June 2020	30 September 2020
1 July - 30 September 2020	31 December 2020
1 October - 31 December 2020	31 March 2021
1 January - 31 March 2021	30 June 2021
All Expiry Dates	Buy one get one free ticket to one 2020 or 2021 round of the Shannons Motorsport Australia Championships

Junior and Speed Licences

LICENCE	NEW CONDITION
All Junior and Speed Licences	Price freeze until 31 December 2021
All Junior and Speed Licences	Buy one get one free ticket to one 2020 or 2021 round of the Shannons Motorsport Australia Championships
Speed Licence Renew before 30 June 2020	\$25 voucher for use in the Motorsport Australia estore (valid for 12 months)

HISTORIC QUEENSLAND

STILL ON THE CALENDAR.

Covid-19 has crippled motorsport during the lockdowns implemented by federal and state governments.

of the traditional historic race meetings in all states have been cancelled, even out to September 2020. Of course, this included the cancellation of HRCC's own Autumn Historic Warwick race meeting.

Motorsport Australia is working with all state governments to get motorsport running again as soon as possible and has issued a statement on the

situation. The recent news of relaxation of the restrictions is a positive sign.

The HRCC race committee has held fast on the hope that it will be able to proceed with running of the Historic Queensland event. The meeting would probably need to be run with restrictive conditions but still offer historic racers the opportunity to enjoy their sport of motor racing.

Preparations to organise a race meeting takes time and is dependent on availability of volunteer race official willing to participate. The race committee has set a decision deadline of 31st May by which time it is hopeful that the state government will have decided if sporting events such as Historic Queensland can be held. Opening of the NSW border is critical. Inclusion of interstate entrants contributes greatly in making the event a possibility.

Watch the HRCC website and your email inbox for further

37 Years of Historic Racing

Don Thallon's Story

Don Thallon's passion for motorsport led to the formation of HRCC. His drive and a desire to race historically significant cars on historically significant race circuits resulted in many adventures around the world. Don's partner Jeanette has provided us with a brief rundown of his 37 year racing career.



Don came from a family of motor car enthusiasts. His great grandparents had several cars in the early 1900s, his grandfather was an Area Representative for E G Eager & Son (now AP

Eagers) and his father raced in the 1949 Australian Grand Prix, was President of the Qld Motor Sporting Club (QMSC) in 1948, and competed in all the Redex and Ampol Trials in the 50s. He also loved long range driving across Australia.

Don started racing a Mini Cooper in the mid 60s when he lived in Toowoomba - Toowoomba Auto Club at Echo Valley and sprints and hill climbs with MGCC. He then got married and had kids and the racing stopped and the racing budget expired.

He started racing in Historics in 1982 at Lakeside in a Mk II Jag (Appendix J - now Group N) and won his first race. This was joined by a Jag XK150 in Group La (now Sa) in which he won many races at Lakeside, Amaroo, Oran Park, Sandown, etc.

In search of more power, the Mk II was replaced by a Chevy Nova (Group Nb) and the XK150 was replaced by a 1961 Chev Corvette (Group Sa) which held the overall Group S records for several years.



The 61 Corvette was then replaced by a 1967 Corvette Stingray (Group Sb) which also brought lots of racing success. There was also a very fast 1984 Corvette which raced on slicks and competed successfully in the Marque Sports Racing Group and included support races twice at the Gold Coast Indy. This class was included at historic race meetings some years ago.





Image by Ian Welsh

In 1993 Don bought a 1959 Lister Jaguar from Paul Samuels (Group Lb Sports). The car had raced at the 1959 Le Mans 24 Hour Race and was a Lister Works Car, BHL3, Registered VPP9. This car started our overseas excursions, spending 9 months in the UK racing there and Europe in 1997, including



With Win Percy at Snetterton 1997



Sir Jack Brabham & Roy Salvadori



Image by John Shingleton

Spa and Monza. We repeated this in 2002 with the Lister, getting a start at the Goodwood Revival Meeting and finishing 5th. Brian & Jose Lister became friends and would often come to watch our races. They were excited to see their old car back on the track in the UK.

In the meantime Don had bought a 1961 Cooper Climax T53 F1 ex Yeoman Credit Racing, which had been driven by Roy Salvadori during the 1961 F1 season, and then it came out to Australia for the Tasman Series and was owned and driven by Lex Davison. This car had its last race in period when it crashed into the Longford Pub in Tasmania, driven by Lex.

We took this car to the UK and Europe in 2003 for 6 months and best success was winning the European Historic Grand Prix at Zolder in Belgium.

Don's Formula Junior debut started after he decided that we needed 2 Coopers in our team. In 2001 he restored a Cooper T56 Formula Junior with BMC engine which had been driven by Tim Mayer (USA FJ Champion) in period. This car was then raced extensively in Australia. While in Europe in 2003 Don met up with the Formula Junior family who were racing at Pau at the time, and made connections for the future. In 2006 Don raced the car in the FIA Lurani Championship throughout Europe and the UK, competing in 13 race meetings in 6 months, (including the Historique Grand Prix of Monaco), and achieving 2nd place in the Lurani Series in Class D for rear engine cars with drum brakes. In 2007, he raced the car to win the Australian FJ Championship. In 2008, he intended doing the full Tasman Revival Series during the 50th anniversary of Formula Junior events in the T56. After the Pukekohe and Taupo meetings and leading the Rear Engine Drum Brake Class, Kiwi FJ racer, Len May was so impressed he insisted the car remain in New Zealand. Unfortunately, Len had a heart attack and died in the car at a race meeting in NZ in 2014. The car has been fully restored to original livery by Len's widow Stephanie, and the car is now racing in the UK.



We then had to quickly find a replacement vehicle to continue in the 50th anniversary events in Australia. Don bought the MRC 22 FJ from Murray Bryden and the rush was on to get the car restored and race ready to compete in the Australian part of the series. The MRC (Motor Racing Components) is an Australian FJ, copied from the Lotus 22, built and raced by Lionel Ayers in period. Lionel was a very good friend and helped with his keen knowledge of the MRC construction. Lionel built 4 MRCs – 1 racing car (ours) and 3 sports cars. Don then raced the car in the US and South Africa events for the 50th anniversary. The MRC and Don went on to win the AFJA Championship in 2009, 2011 and 2014.



2012 and 2013 saw the MRC racing throughout the UK and Europe, again in the FIA Lurani Championship. To make the trip more challenging the Cooper Climax T53 F1 tagged along and was also raced during 2013 in the UK and Europe, including the Goodwood Revival.

In 2016, Don was given the honour of becoming the first Life Member of the Historic Racing Car Club of Qld for his work and involvement with the initial formation and financial success of the Club. Don was instrumental in guiding the Club through those early years including stints as President, and has devoted much time and effort to the Club's ongoing welfare. Group N (Historic Touring Cars) competitors now have the challenge of competing for the Don Thallon Cup, a series based on the Group N Class structure. The Cup will be awarded to the HRCC Member driver with the highest pointscore achieved across all HRCC Events during a Calendar Year.



The last overseas jaunt for the driver and the MRC was to the US in 2017 to compete in the 60th FJ Anniversary celebrations in Laguna Seca (twice), Lime Rock, Watkins Glen and Road America. Don's last Australian race was at Morgan Park, Warwick in July 2019.

All good things must come to an end (11 overseas racing tours in 20 years) and 37 years of historic racing. At 75, Don decided to retire while he is still ahead! The enthusiasm for all the hard work needed to prepare, transport and race cars from one end of the world to the other, and from one end of Australia to the other, has gone. Racing to win is hard work. Touring/cruising around is easy, but not Don's modus operandi.

Jeanette Linnett



Images by Ian Welsh



facebook

Stay Connected with your historic racing mates

HRCC and Facebook

In the recent member survey, some members commented that previous requests for HRCC to have a Facebook page had fallen on deaf ears.

Well, to put things straight, the request was actioned and HRCC has had a Facebook page for quite a number of years with members and guests accessing it. Initially, it did not have a big following and postings were few and far between. That has changed since Mark Stockwell was appointed as administrator and he is doing a fine job of engaging with HRCC members as well as the online motorsport community in general.

The Facebook page is also being used to drive public interest in HRCC race events during the year.

Recently, Mark set up a new HRCC Facebook Groups page with the aim of reaching and engaging more people. Connections are growing and there are a number of past competitors who contribute to various Facebook pages

While you may think that Facebook is not for you, there are many good stories that arise from it's use. Connections made between current historic car owners with previous owners for instance. Advice about the car is freely given. People are posting photos of the cars racing in their day is quite common too.

If you don't have Facebook, to get you started, click on the help boxes below.

Facebook Help
and Sign Up

Facebook
Tutorial

Click on the box below to take you to the HRCC Facebook Groups page.

HRCC Groups
Page



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This meeting was conducted via online video conference

- ▶ **Membership** - One new member in April. Renewal of membership continues to roll through bring the total ficial members up to 475.
- ▶ **Treasurer** - Income/expenses report for April tabled. All within expectations. Track licence fee for Autumn Historic Warwick will be refunded.
- ▶ **Noosa Hillclimb** - No current communication with NBCCC. The summer hillclimb remains a possibility.
- ▶ **Historic Commission & Motorsport Australia State Council** - MA licences will be extended
- ▶ **Group Leaders** - Group Leaders Conference postponed until Covid restrictions permit meetings.
- ▶ **Events** - Historic Queensland still a possibility. Border closure a major obstacle. Cutoff date for decision to run is set at 31st May. Race committee meets on 25th May to discuss further. Race Secretary can provide info on how to run Covid-safe event after Wakefield Park meeting was run under restrictions.
- ▶ **HRCC Clubroom/Facility** - Objective Survey shows support from members. Previously inspected building no longer available. Alternatives to be explored.
- ▶ **Competition/Regulation changes** - Nothing reported
- ▶ **HRCC 2020 Objectives** - Survey completed, results compiled and circulated to committee for further comment and action. Initial response to members will be made in newsletter.
- ▶ **Motorsport Australia Event Entry** - Problems with new MA MEE online system - nothing further to report
- ▶ **Social Nights** - arrange when restrictions lifted
- ▶ **Management code of conduct** - Objectives Survey showed support. Implementation requires constitution update.
- ▶ **AHTCA** - HRCC is suportive of the organisation. Paying an affiliation fee is ok providing they are a MA affiliated organisation.
- ▶ **Groups J,K,L** - Concern with low entry numbers, discusion with group leader took place. Potentially the group may be included in a super sprint type of event on the race programme. Further discussion needed.
- ▶ **Committee Meeting minutes are available for members to view on request. Please contact the club secretary.**

HRCC Management Committee Objectives Survey

The results are in

Congratulations HRCC members, we asked you what you thought of the proposed club objectives and you did not disappoint with your answers. We even had great offers of help to achieve them. Thank you for those who offered. Everyone saw a great future for the HRCC and recognised the hard work that had been done by past and present committee members and Presidents.

In a snapshot all objectives were supported in some form or other. However, in particular the following objectives stood out as being wanted (as numbered in the list provided):

4. Management Code of Conduct
6. Financial Security
7. Event promotion/Government Funding
8. Clubrooms
9. Events and Competitor Numbers
10. Develop new and expand stakeholder partnerships

As many of the objectives are both short and long term plans of action, they will need to be developed to ensure success. Remember the committee members are volunteers and their time is limited, but even with difficulties imposed by Covid-19 hovering, we will endeavour to put an effort into getting things moving.

For those members that did not respond we can presume you are happy with the way things are going.

Now the committee will need time to digest other comments and suggestions that were made. And we will get back to members with responses in the future.

However, at any time feel free to raise suggestions, comments and objectives when ever you fee like it. Contact details of committee members are shown on page 2 of this newsletter.

Regards

HRCC Committee



HRCC Members Invitation



SHOW & Shine

2020

A HUGE \$37,500 IN
CASH PRIZES UP
FOR GRABS!

2020 SHANNONS CLUB SHOW & SHINE COMPETITION

The annual Shannons Club Online Show and Shine Competition is here, and it's bigger than ever, with a huge \$37,500 in cash prizes up for grabs!

This year, when you win, your motoring club wins too! Just nominate your motoring club when you enter. And if you win, you will take home a cash prize and so will your club*.

With hundreds of our favourite motoring events cancelled and while we're all staying at home, it's the perfect time to get out the polish and get your car or motorbike gleaming.

The competition gives you the opportunity to show-off your pride and joy by entering the best photos of your vehicle for your chance to win. Plus, see some of Australia's best classic cars and bikes, all without leaving home!

Weekly Winner Prize - \$1,000 Cash for you and \$500 Cash for your nominated Club

'Best in Show' Prize - \$5,000 Cash for you and \$2,500 Cash for your nominated Club

The Shannons judges will be looking at the entries appearance (including cleanliness, shine, condition and presentation) of the exterior, interior, engine and wheels of your vehicle along with the creativity, effort and pride displayed in the photos of your vehicle submitted.

Category Winner Prize - \$2,000 Cash for you and \$1,000 Cash for your nominated Club

Club Members will decide who takes home the 'Category' prizes, so make sure you check out all the 2020 entries and vote on your favourite vehicles. Importantly make sure you share your entry with friends and make sure they vote for your vehicle. Category winners will be the entries with the most votes.

To enter, join the Shannons Club, it's FREE. Then upload your best photos of your car or bike. So, grab your camera and enter now for your chance to win.

ENTER HERE

Or go to - shannons.com.au/club/win

Competition Terms & Conditions

Competition conducted by Shannons Pty Limited, of Level 28, Brisbane Square, 266 George Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000. Competition commences at 9am on 1/5/20 and closes at 5pm on 25/6/20 (Melbourne time). Entry only open to eligible Australian residents aged 18 years or older. Eligible Entrants must be opted in to receive Shannons marketing communications. *To be eligible for the Motoring Club element of the prizes the Eligible Entrant must nominate an official registered club. Total prize pool valued at up to \$37,500 AUD (dependent on if prize winners nominated a Motoring Club in their entry). View full terms and conditions at shannons.com.au/club/show-n-shine-2019/terms_

Check out the HRCC website for more cars and parts for sale

www.hrcc.org.au/classifieds.htm

Ads will be listed here in the newsletter for a maximum of 3 issues but can remain on the website for up to 12 months.



Club Merchandise

Available by mail order or at events



HRCC Stickers	From \$1
Club Cloth Patch	\$5
Thermal Coffee Mugs	\$9
Bucket Hats	\$20
Caps	\$20
Tee Shirts	\$20
Polo Shirts	\$30
Umbrella	\$35
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Ford 105E engine, with steel crank, VW transmission, Triumph drum brakes.

Includes enclosed trailer transporter and spares.

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Au \$29,800 ONO

Contact Rob Buckley on 0418782075



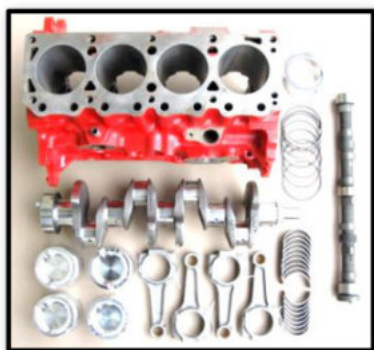
1963 Ford CONSUL DELUXE GT CORTINA Group Nb

This is the first time this car has been offered for sale, was raced at Sprints and Hill Climbs from 1980 and Logged Booked in 1985.

It is one of a few Appendix J cars left in Queensland. This car is ready to race with current Targeted Scrutineering and comes with 40 Years of spare parts including the original chrome strips, will not separate.

Price \$30,000.

Contact Peter Gilbert on 0408 742 737



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Call Michael on **0412 480744**
(Day and Evening)



2020 Historic Motorsport Event Calendar

Date	HRCC Events	Other Qld Events	Interstate Events	Venue
July 11 - 12	Historic Queensland			Morgan Park Raceway
Cancelled			VHRR Festival of Speed	Winton Raceway
Aug 22 - 23		Leyburn Sprints		Leyburn, Qld
Aug 28 - 30		Motorsport Aust State Champ. Rd 3		Morgan Park Raceway
Aug 29 - 30			HSRCA Spring Festival	Wakefield Park
Sept 5 - 6			Sydney Masterblast	Sydney Motorsport Park
Cancelled			Baskerville Historics	Baskerville Raceway
Oct 31 - Nov 1		Ipswich Classic		Queensland Raceway
Nov 6 - 8			VHRR Historic Sandown	Sandown Raceway
Nov 14 - 15	Noosa Hillclimb			Tewantin, Qld
Nov 28 - 29			HSRCA Summer Festival	Sydney Motorsport Park
Nov 20 - 22		Motorsport Aust State Champ. Rd 4		Morgan Park Raceway

HRCC 2020 Social Nights

Social nights are a good occasion to catch up with fellow HRCC members, friends and guests.

Held at Carina Leagues Club in Carina, Brisbane. A great venue with plenty of parking and a good bistro where you can enjoy a nice meal prior to the meeting which commences at 7.30pm.

Guest speakers provide interesting talks to entertain and inform you.

Come and have a chat about all things historic racing with like minded people.



Carina Leagues Club
1390 Creek Road, Carina

TBA

TBA

23rd November (AGM)

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