



**Orange District Antique Motor Club Inc.**

# *Restoration Rambler*

## *January 2025*



**Steve Halls - 1956 Chevrolet Belair**

**Orange District Antique Motor Club Inc.**

Postal address P.O. Box 664, ORANGE N.S.W. 2800

# ORANGE DISTRICT ANTIQUE MOTOR CLUB INC

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WEBSITE	odamc.org.au	
WEBSITE CO- ORDINATOR	Andrew McDougall	63622942

**\*Key holders**

Meetings are held in the Lucknow school building, Lucknow

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month commencing at 7.30pm. All visitors are welcome.

## **Presidents Report**

Happy New Year to all and I hope you have had a relaxing time over the festive season. We had 30 members attend a most enjoyable Christmas Party, although some challenged the questions asked in the trivia competition. Trophies were presented to our hard- working Secretary Carol Ryan for Clubperson of the Year and Ray and Brenda Dwyer for the Pride of Ownership for their 1934 Ford Truck.

After reading the Service NSW list of historic vehicle clubs, I was surprised to see that there were 16 in Orange and District and there is a similar number in Bathurst. In the latest Just Cars listings there are over 400 vintage vehicles for sale with 175 being pre-1931 models. Some have been listed for quite some time, there just doesn't seem to be the interest in these vehicles as there used to be.

As there was no meeting in December, there are no minutes to be published this month. Our first event for the new year is the twilight run to Lake Canobolas on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of January commencing at 5pm. Please BYO everything and remember that there are barbeques available. The events committee will be able to get together and plan some new outings for the coming year at this event.

Start your engines and get your wheels rolling into 2025.

Peter

## **Editors Report**

Happy New Year to you all, apologies that this magazine is a bit late. As some of you may know my father Peter Stonestreet passed away on December 11, aged 93. He had a long and fruitful life, living on our family property "Springdale" Barry all his life, only moving into care at Bathurst reluctantly 2 years ago.

December was a bit of a write off for me as we visited him daily while he was declining, then we had his funeral to organise and eulogies to write, then a week later it was Christmas! Peter and I went away to Port Macquarie to our son's place for 8 days for Christmas. It was wonderful not to have to cook or plan anything during this time – I actually read a book! So now feeling refreshed and ready for 2025. Thank you to everyone who has sent their condolences, I really appreciate your comfort and support.

I am including an article about the Lake Canobolas Pumphouse, that might be of interest to you as our member Richard Bloomfield is part of the team that helped get an old stationary engine back to life. Liz Edwards from the Orange Historical Society is allowing me to publish a couple of articles from the "History Alive" magazine that she compiles. We plan to have an event soon to learn more about this historic pumping station at the lake.

Regards

Rosemarie

*Kevin Bowyer has shared this story with me from his bee keeping days in the early 1970's.*

Kevin was in a partnership with 2 other beekeepers from Orange. They traded as “Orange Bee Farms” and between them they had 1200 hives which had been placed amongst the Mugga Ironbark trees in the Pilliga State Forest. The forestry would allocate bee sites of 60 hives per site to beekeepers over a 1.5 square kilometre area. It was a good honey flow during that autumn so Kevin and his four mates went out to collect the full hives for extraction and exchange them with empty ones.

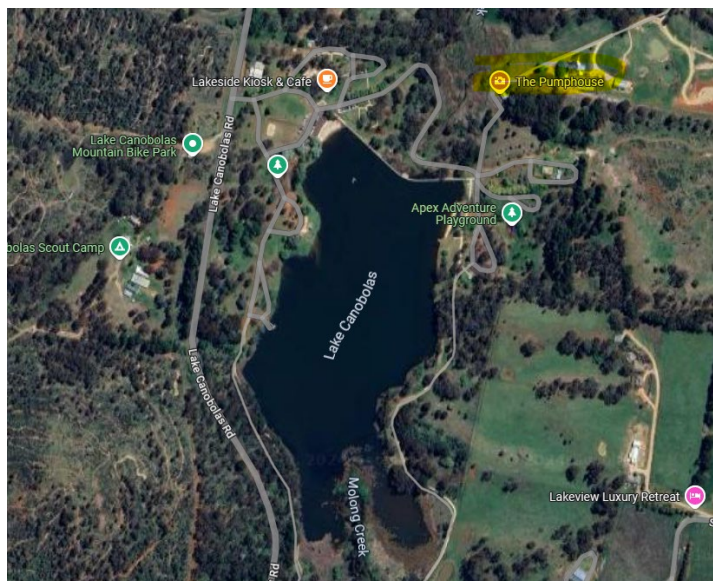
They had 2 trucks, a Hino and a Mercedes and camped out for 8 days collecting supplies from Coonabraban on the way in. They would set up camp in the scrub where there was no shortage of ironbark for the campfire. Kevin recalls feeling toasty warm by the fire and watching the satellites passing in the night sky. They returned with their 1200 hives to Borenore extracting plant, which was a large set up with the latest equipment from the US. The extracting plant could hold 72 frames at a time but it still would have taken a while to process 12,000 frames that had come in from the Pilliga.

About 3 or 4 days before they finished the job, Kevin picked up a tick in his back as they were sleeping on the ground. So when they arrived home on the 8<sup>th</sup> day at 11.30pm it was straight to the Orange Base Hospital to get the tick removed. Unfortunately, there was no one on duty at the hospital that knew how to remove a tick! They had to get out some medical reference books to work out how to remove it.

They finally removed it and Kevin says it was “a very painful few days indeed”!

*Thankyou Kevin for this story and he tells me there is more to come next time. Rosemarie*

## The Lake Canobolas Pumphouse



The Orange Historical Society and the Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors Club are trying to save the old Pumphouse and restore the equipment inside. Liz Edwards wrote this story in July 2024 about the current state of the Pumphouse and then provided us with an update, and the latest article with Richard in it.

## Lake Canobolas Pump House

### By Elisabeth Edwards

A rare vestige of Orange's early water supply is in desperate need of preservation and State Heritage listing. The Lake Canobolas Pump house was constructed between 1916 and 1918 when it was clear that the town's existing water supply at Gosling Creek could no longer service the growing centre.

As excavations started on the dam (then known as Meadow Creek Dam), a pump house was constructed to house the necessary machinery.

Two Warner pumps were imported from the United Kingdom, each capable of pumping 30,000 gallons per hour. They were driven by a 128-horsepower Hornsby engine. The engine ran on producer (suction) gas produced by running steam over incandescent coke or charcoal. There was also a 3-horsepower air compressor to start the engine. An engine driver took care of the running of the plant and lived in a cottage on site.

Water was pumped from the lake up to a tank on Cargo Road via a 12-inch main from where it was gravity-fed into town.

The pump house was used continuously until about 1930 but after the severe drought of 1929-30 it was decided to construct a new reservoir at the junction of Gosling and Spring creeks. This dam was officially opened on 29 March 1931.

Orange's precarious water supply system remained a problem over the years and during the late 1950s Orange City Council even looked at pumping water from flooded mines at Lucknow, but this never eventuated.

First discussions on building a new, much larger dam to supply the city started in the late 1940s and tenders were called for the construction of Suma Park Dam in January 1958. The dam was completed in 1962.

Meanwhile, the Lake Canobolas Pumphouse languished, and it was not until 1987 that a Bicentennial project was initiated to restore the building and its contents.

Orange TAFE College's head teacher of fitting and machinery Bob Copleston took pre-apprenticeship students to the pump house on weekly visits to work on the rusted and corroded machinery. He was assisted by Jim Squirrell, a member of Orange Society of Model Engineers.

After many hours of hard work, the revitalised pumphouse was officially opened on 27 March 1988.

But since then, the pump house has once again fallen into disrepair. Possums are a menace and until they are eliminated, the security system cannot be used.

The Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors Club, which is based in Molong, has been given permission by Orange City Council to restore the air compressor engine to full working order, but much more needs to be done.

Engineering enthusiast Peter Brown is frustrated at the lack of progress at the site.

"The Pump House is a rare and important historical asset, and I feel it should be included on the State Heritage Register," he said.

An urgent measure is to rid the building of possums, mice and other vermin so that the security system can be installed.

If anyone has any historical items or photographs relating to the Pump House, they can contact Peter at [pdhbrown18@gmail.com](mailto:pdhbrown18@gmail.com)



## **Pump House update – December “History Alive”**

By Elisabeth Edwards

We are closely monitoring the bid to upgrade the machinery at the Lake Canobolas Pumphouse and preserve the building.

As reported in the winter newsletter, considerable work was done as a bicentennial project in 1987, with machinery upgraded and the building revitalised. The renovated pumphouse was officially opened in March 1988. Since then, however, the building and its contents have once again fallen on hard times.

Engineer Peter Brown has worked tirelessly on advocating for more work to be done to this rare relic from 1918.

We understand that Orange City Council’s Director of Development Services Mark Hodges recently met Council’s heritage adviser David Scobie and is now awaiting his response on the best way forward.

Meanwhile, Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors’ Club secretary Julie Schoonderbeek says the club’s members are keen to start work on some of the machinery, particularly the big engine. “It runs on gas,” she explained. “We could use LPG but there would be a bit of work involved.”

Julie and her colleagues are impressed with the machinery, despite its age. “It was a marvel of engineering to get it to where it is,” she said, citing the long and difficult journey to take it from Sydney and the sheer weight of the items.

“The Pumphouse and its machinery marks the start of modern machinery to help the growth of an inland city for the residents,” she said. “It’s one of the few existing pumphouse engines in situ in the world.”

On a recent visit to the Pumphouse, Peter Brown was impressed with the results of a tidy-up in and around the building carried out by Council’s Natural Resources Team.

He said the next stage would be to install a security system so that the Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors’ Club members can commence work on the machinery in the knowledge that the machinery and their equipment will be kept safe.

## Red-letter day at Pumphouse

Friday 13 December 2024 was a red-letter day in the long saga of the Lake Canobolas Pumphouse. Members of the Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors Club, based in Molong, celebrated the restoration of a small air compressor engine with Peter Brown of Orange, who has long been advocating for more work to be done on the contents of the historic building. The 106-year-old engine was coaxed back to life and ran smoothly 67 years after it was last operated. The restoration marks a real milestone on the road to restoration and highlights the fact that the volunteers are outstanding tradesmen. The morning was rounded off with a morning tea at the Lake Canobolas Cafe hosted by appreciative Orange City Council staff.



Left: Members of the Central West Antique Machinery and Collectors Club - Richard Bloomfield, Justin Wentworth, Tim Bush and President Rob Schoonderbeek with Peter Brown, with the Hornsby air compressor engine at the Pumphouse.

## Christmas Party 2024

The Robin Hood was the venue this year for our Christmas Party. Thank you to Chris Bromley, Susan Toy and Anne Magill who all contributed photos. Both Peter and I both forgot to bring our phones!  
Congratulations to our prize winners, well deserved.



Pride of Ownership Trophy  
Ray & Brenda Dwyer



Clubperson of the year – Carol Ryan



David, Martin & Chris with large servings.



Bill & Peter with similar feeds!





Wilga & Euan Coutts with Greg Speers & Nick Shields



Ray Dwyer protecting his seafood basket



Lorna Penson & Barb Roach



Richard Bloomfield & Kevin Penson



Liz Schell winning the Gnoo Blas Ladies Day with the Morris 1000



## ODAMC Events 2025

Club events are generally organised on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Other events of interest are listed that members may wish to attend using your log books.

Date	Event	Contact/Organiser
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Twilight Run</b> – Lake Canobolas 5pm. Bring your own everything BBQ available.	
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Lucknow 7.30pm	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Australia Day Venue of your choice	
7-9 February	<b>Gnoo Blaas Classic Car Show</b> – 65 years of touring cars	
17 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> Lucknow 7.30pm	
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> -Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Trundle Vintage Rally and Tractor Pull see attached flyer	
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Blayney Show	
28 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March	CHMC Annual Rally- Celebrating 60 years of Dubbo Antique Automobile Club	<a href="mailto:daac.rally@gmail.com">daac.rally@gmail.com</a>
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Cumnock Show	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Pre 31 Autumn Tour - Armidale	<a href="mailto:pre31armidale@outlook.com">pre31armidale@outlook.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bathurst Show	
17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> May	Orange Show	

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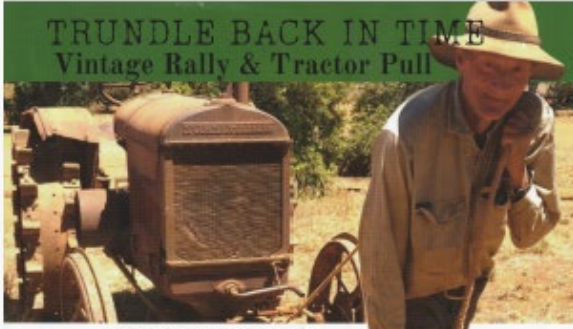
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- Saturday night
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- On-site Camping available

**SAT MAR 15 & SUN MAR 16 2025**  
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