



Orange District Antique Motor Club Inc.

Restoration Rambler

October 2025



George Tait – 1925 Studebaker Big 6

Orange District Antique Motor Club Inc.

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

ORANGE DISTRICT ANTIQUE MOTOR CLUB INC

Officer Bearers 2025

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VICE PRESIDENT	Chris Bromley	0428659224
SECRETARY	Carol Ryan	0448682211
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Susan Toy	0408414848
TREASURER	*Euan Coutts	63651274
ASSISTANT TREASURER	David Toy	0408226511
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PROPERTY OFFICER/LIBRARIAN	Richard Bloomfield	0427201824
PUBLIC OFFICER	Bill Nielsen	0468589270
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	Chris Bromley	0428659224
	Richard Bloomfield	0427201824
	Susan Toy	0408226511
	Wilga Coutts	63651274
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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

3rd Monday of each month commencing at 7.30pm. All visitors are welcome.

Presidents Report

Dear Members,

We were saddened this month with the sudden passing of Nick Shield, He has been a member of our club for a number of years and enjoyed our meetings and outings. Our condolences go out to Greg and their families. He will be missed.

It has been a busy month with club activities. On the weekend on the 20th & 21st September we had the Presidents run to Junee. Nine members and friends Darryl & Helen Wilson travelled down Saturday morning staying at the Junee Motor Inn. We visited the old Broadway Hotel Museum on arrival which we found most interesting. Deanne lived in the old building when her father was the publican. The hotel was turned into a Museum and every room had old furnishings and artifacts from the area. The Museum was having an open day and lots of tools and machinery were on display. Demonstrations included chaff cutting, rope making and blacksmithing. Also kerosine lanterns and stoves burning and stalls. After a sausage sizzle lunch it was onto the Roundhouse Museum, which is the largest working railway workshop in NSW. We enjoyed a tour of the locomotives, engines and carriages which were accessible and had informative guides to lead the way.

A delicious Chinese meal at the Red Cow Hotel topped the day off. Sunday morning saw us all having breakfast at the Brew Café before heading to the Licorice and Chocolate Factory. After filling our bags with goodies we headed home having a late lunch at the Cowra Rose Garden Café. It proved to be a most enjoyable weekend and a big thankyou to those who came along.

The annual Andrew Sharpe Memorial run Sunday 28th to the Newbridge Hotel for lunch was also enjoyed on a lovely sunny day. 11 members attended including Sue Sharpe, her son Graham and Grandson Jackson, pictured below.

Our next outing will be at the Carcoar Show on the 25th October which is always a good day.

Our AGM is coming up in November, so nomination form for position will be on the front desk and should be filled in at the next meeting. Please consider taking on a roll to help keep our club active and enjoyable.

Hit the starter

Peter



We had a very picturesque run to Junee, with good weather and canola crops in full bloom.



Deanne with a picture of her Dad, the bedroom she shared with her grandmother



The Roundhouse Museum



Andrew & Deanne



Don explaining how the mail train sorted letters on the go



MG's seem to have starter motor troubles when they leave home

ORANGE DISTRICT ANTIQUE MOTOR CLUBS INC.

AGENDA / MINUTES FOR MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: 15th September 2025

TIME: 7.30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: As per the attendance book

APOLOGIES

Des & Sally Green, Nigel Coutts, Rosemarie Amos, David & Sue Toy, Don Eisenhuth, George Tait, Greg Speers, Nick Shield.

VISITORS

Bryn Miller and Warren Ridge

President opened the meeting and welcomed all members and visitors.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Accepted as printed in magazine

Moved; Kevin Ryan

Seconded: Bob Roach

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING: None

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Notice of CHMC AGM & Delegates Meeting. Sat 25th October at Cowra Club.

Orange City Council- Community Guide Update

MAGAZINES FROM CLUB

Crankcase- Inverell Antique Motor Club

Crank Torque-Parkes Antique Motor Club

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

Moved: Carol Ryan

Seconded: Wilga Coutts

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Discussed the request from Orange City Council to update our details in the Community Guide. A fee of \$50 is payable. It was felt by members that the club would not benefit from being in the guide. Secretary will advise.

CHMC Annual General Meeting at Cowra will be attended by Bob McNeill on behalf of the Club.

TREASURERS REPORT: Euan presented the current financial report:

Accounts to Pay: Nil

Euan advised that Ann Magill has had the Honour Boards updated at no charge to the Club.

Moved: Euan Coutts Seconded Richard Bloomfield Carried

EDITORS REPORT:

Due to an already heavy work load and a trip overseas next year Rosemarie advised (via Peter) that she would not be able to continue as the Editor next year. Please give it some thought or if you know of anyone who may be able fill this role the AGM is coming up in November.

EVENTS REPORT:

Thurs 4th Sept. Coffee & Cars at The Old Mill Café Millthorpe was attended by a small group of members. Lovely morning tea and a beautiful sunny day.

Sun 7th Sept Woodstock Show. Terrific little show attended by a handful of members. Big crowd with lots of stalls, side shows and tractor pull.

Sun 7th Sept Blayney Coffee & Cars. Good roll up of cars. Great variety from Survivors to Immaculately restored vehicles. Another beautiful spring day.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sat 20th-Sun 21st Sept – Presidents Run to Junee. Meet at Cowra Rose Garden at 9am on the Saturday.

Sun 28th Sept – Andrew Sharpe Memorial Run. Meet at Redmond Oval Millthorpe then proceed to Newbridge Hotel for lunch. Numbers needed for lunch Contact Peter 0412699905

Thurs 2nd Oct- BBQ at Magill's. BYO Meat. Meet at Lucknow Home & Larder. 10.00am. Contact Ann 0415213677

Mon 20th Oct- Monthly Meeting Lucknow 7.30pm

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Euan suggested that in view of our healthy bank balance and our possible tax liability that we once again make a \$500 donation to Little Wings.

Moved: Euan Coutts Seconded: Richard Bloomfield.

Neville Show on the 8th November was made a club run

Moved: Kevin Ryan Seconded: Richard Bloomfield

Reminder that the AGM is coming up in November. Nomination forms will be available at the October meeting.

Application for Membership was accepted for our two Visitors Bryn Miller and Warren Ridge. Between them they have an array of vehicles including Bryns Mustang, Chevy ,Thunderbird & Falcon and Warrens Falcon and Moke to name a few.

Supper for next meeting: Oct Carol Ryan

MEETING CLOSED: 8.15pm

ODAMC Events 2025

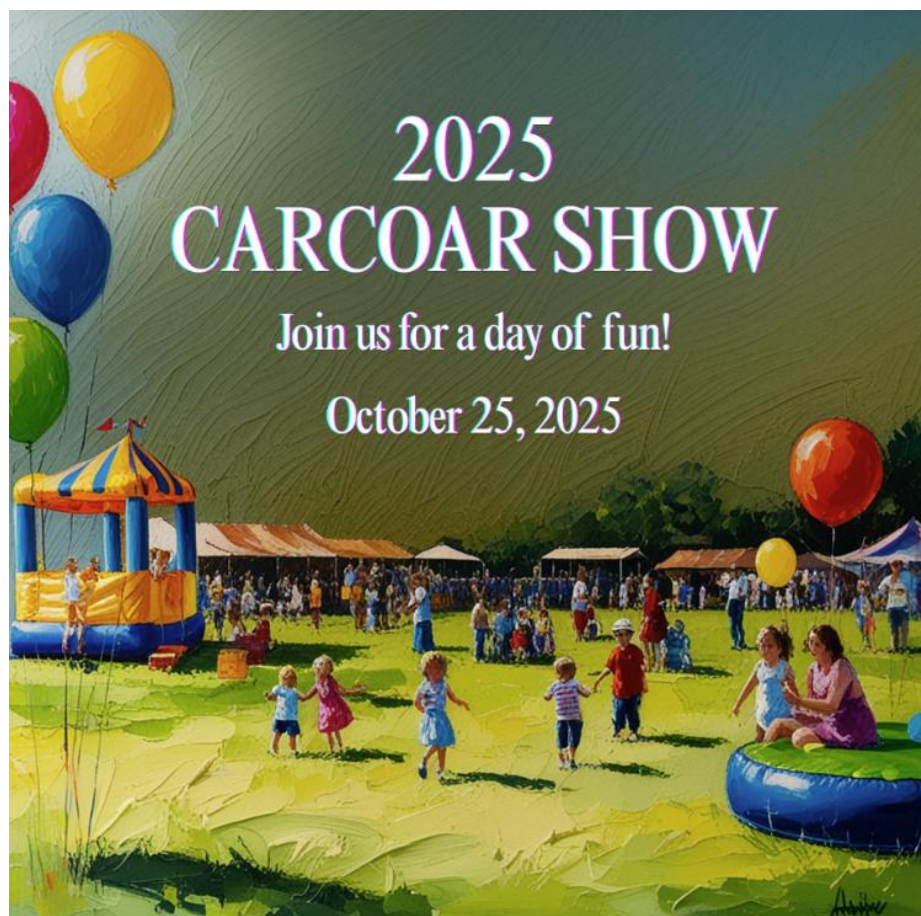
Club events are generally organised on the 1st Thursday and the 3rd Sunday of each month.

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

Date	Event	Contact/Organiser
Thurs 2 nd Oct	Lunch at Magill's	
Mon 20 th Oct	Monthly Meeting Lucknow 7.30	
Sat 25 th Oct	Carcoar Show	
Sat - Sun Nov 1 st & 2 nd	Millthorpe Garden Ramble	
Thur 6 th Nov	Mid week Run to Telegraph Hotel in Molong. Meet at Cook Park 10am	
Sat 8 th Nov	Neville Show	
Mon 17 th Nov	ODAMC AGM Lucknow 7.30	
Sun 30 th Nov	Registration Day at Lucknow	NB Only 1 Rego Day this year
Thurs 4 th Dec	Christmas Party – Wentworth Golf Club	An indication of numbers at the Nov. meeting please

Please note there will be NO meeting in December

Thurs 1 st Jan	Drinks and nibbles at the Toys from 4pm	
Thurs 8 th Jan	5pm Twilight run to Lake Canobolas for BBQ	



George Tait and his Studebaker

Our friend and member George Tait, is at the grand age of 95 this year and soon to be 96 in November. His 1925 Big Six Studebaker also has a significant birthday as it turns 100 years this year.

George purchased the Studebaker at a Ford Auction in Penrith in 1996. He left a bid with a mate who was interested in the Fords and went home, only to get a call later to say he was the proud owner of the Studebaker that was in a sad state in the corner of the auction room.

The restoration began in Penrith soon after from the bottom up. The body came off and parts were imported from America or restored back to original condition. This included the material which covered the hood similar to vinyl, complete internal rebuild, new gears, new clutch and bearings and the list goes on.

The windows couldn't be wound up or down due to the fact that the mechanical bits were made from sh*t metal, so the internal mechanism was replaced with HD holden parts but the handle on the door is original. The engine was rebuilt in Orange. This took over 12 months and George joined the ODAMC began participating in the Autumn Tours as soon as the Studebaker was roadworthy. He has also been a member of the Studebaker Car Club.

During this time of restoration, invoices and receipts were found belonging to the infamous Kate Leigh, who was a notorious figure in Sydney's underworld in the 20's. Previous owners of the car must have been unaware of this fact. Kate cleverly opened sly grog shops that catered for patrons after the hotels closed at 6pm. She also was a "madam" and sold cocaine. After researching her, I feel she was a bit of a Robin Hood looking after the poor and helping others in need. The Underbelly Razor gang mini-series featuring Kate and her opponent Tilly Devine was produced in 2011 and George was asked to drive the car in the series. He was instructed to screech the brakes and tyres while driving fast around corners. He refused to drive recklessly so they put in the sound effects later and probably sped up the footage. George also refused a short back and sides haircut, he certainly didn't look much like a scar faced mobster! One of these scenes was shot with Kate Leigh's daughter running late for her wedding in the Studebaker. George was driving at the time, but didn't screech the tyres. I wonder if Kate's daughter Ellen did actually go to her wedding in the car. George's Studebaker could tell some interesting tales.

In the 2000's the limousine has also been used as a bridal car in several weddings. These photos were taken in April 2009 at our daughter Merridy's wedding in Millthorpe. It was a freezing cold day, but the bride was warm and comfortable in the Studebaker. It has recently taken a bride to her wedding in its 100th year – how special. Rosemarie



STUDEBAKER
1925 BIG SIX EP SERIES LIMOUSINE
Chauffer Cabin, Occasional Seats, Velvet Interior
Owner: George Tait, Mandurama, purchased by Auction in 1996

This rare STUDEBAKER LIMOUSINE was delivered in 1925 to the notorious Brothel Madam, Cocaine Dealer, Sly Grog Operator and Razor Gang Boss, KATE LEIGH, during the infamous gang wars of the 1920's and early 30's. At the time it was one of the more expensive cars available

KATE LEIGH maintained a gang of ruthless mobsters who guarded her operations by slashing and killing with cut throat razors. One gang member would be assigned as Kate's chauffeur to drive the big Studebaker around her territory in the slums of Sydney while she sat in the back seat with blinds closed.

Her opponent was the equally notorious TILLY DEVINE, brothel madam, who also kept a gang of razor thugs to protect her working girls on the street. Tilly confined her operations to the Kings Cross – Woolloomooloo area while Kate ruled the Surry Hills – Darlinghurst districts.

Kate and Tilly were at constant war to dominate the Sydney crime scene. Whenever the gangs met, horrific violence took place using razors. Kate would order the razor slashing of Tilly's girls faces to prevent them from working. Tilly's gang would then ransack Kates's sly grog shops and attack her drug pedlars. Newspapers reported *"gutters flowing with blood"*.

Kate had many court appearances and newspapers regularly reported her *"flamboyant arrival at court in her large Studebaker Limousine, driven by a scar faced gangster"*.

When her gang leader was murdered in a razor brawl in 1929, the reporter wrote of the *"spectacular gangland funeral at which Kate Leigh arrived in her Studebaker, surrounded by razor gang guards"*.

Kate died of a stroke in 1953. Tilly Devine, now an old, stooped woman attended the funeral, as did the surviving mobsters from the earlier years.



FOR SALE

Alan Buckley from Spring Hill is selling his MGA which will need to be restored. Information follows.

Herewith some information re my 1960 MGA 1600 Roadster.

Pics taken Jan. 2023. Vehicle is complete and requires restoration. It was acquired mid 1994 and on full registration until being laid up end 2001. The engine was last running in Dec. 2015, an 1800 head is fitted to it (I do have the original 1600 head). Two years prior to being laid up it was fitted with a new set of 5 Dayton wire wheels (60 spoke 15 x 4.5 inch) and a new set of hubs, all from Healey Factory/ Melbourne. I recently fitted a n.o.s. rear bumper-bar assembly to the vehicle, this being occasioned by a rear-end shunt while parked in Sydney; Note that Brian Hawkes (Dataliner/Sydney) inspected the vehicle shortly after and assessed there to be no structural damage as a consequence of that shunt.

Sale price \$15,000 o.n.o.

Regards Allan Buckley, mobile 0419 478 244

