Kempsey Macleay Auto Restorers Club Inc

Celebrating 25 years since foundation 1995



























Kempsey Macleay Auto Restorers Inc 25 years of History 1995 to 2020

KMARC was formed by a number of Kempsey residents who were members of the Hastings Auto Restorers Club (HARS) located in Port Macquarie.

From HARS records we know some of the original KMARC members were members of HARS for approx. 10 years including:

Earle & Betty Schmidt
John & Shirley Whalen
David Hayes
Rex & Kath Harris
All attended HARS Carrawatha day in Jan 1991 other members followed
Joan & Les Booth – May 1991
Mike & Jill Dean – May 1992
Michael & Dianne Whalen – Sept 1991
Norm & Gretta Bannerman – Jan 1994.

Early in Feb 1995 at a HARS meeting held at the Hibbard Public School Rex Harris advised the meeting of the possibility of forming a new Club.

Extract from Meeting Minutes page 2 – (HARS Monthly Grind February 1995)

"Kempsey Club" Rex Harris advised the meeting that some Kempsey members had held an informal meeting and are now desirous of forming a Macleay Vintage Car Club and wish to leave our Club on a friendly note. Rex advised that another meeting was scheduled at 2:00PM on 12 Feb 1995 at Rex's home.

Throughout the establishment of KMARC much contact remained with HARS and is continuing today.

KMARC foundation meeting was held at Rex & Kath Harris's family home on Summerland Rd Smithtown on 12 Feb 1995. It was here the first Office bearers were elected.

Les Booth, Ron Lewis with Sylvia on pillion & Kevin Bennett attended the meeting after first taking a bike ride to Repton. Les's bike can be seen in the bottom right of following photo and Ron's bike (wheel) in bottom left

Can you recognize any of the initial members in this photograph?

Gary & Elizabeth Bishop Wayne Leahy Les Booth Ron & Sylvia Lewis Kevin & Jill Bennett John & Shirley Whalen

KMARC Foundation Meeting 12 Feb 1995



Celebrating 25 Years

Following foundation, KMARC members attended the HARS mid year dinner at Lou's Café Kempsey – July 1995

This was followed by an open invitation to attend HARS monthly events.

Following is a reprint of the Secretary's report from the 1995 AGM giving a summary of the activity involved in forming the Club

Republished from Wheels of Time Dec 1995: - Secretary's Report.

The inception of the Kempsey Macleay Auto Restorers Club occurred on 12 February 1995 with the foundation meeting being held at Rex Harris's home. There the committee were nominated and elected, myself as Secretary, Mike Dean as President and Rex Harris as Treasurer.

Well, with the committee the next step was to become incorporated, this involved completing the necessary forms, cover for Public Liability and hashing out a Constitution. Mike Dean then worked on the Constitution and after a couple of rehashes and typing a Constitution was then decided on incorporating the RTA rules.

Once the Constitution was then adopted Mike Dean and myself went to the Department of Consumer Affairs, in Port Macquarie, whereby we were able to give them a copy of the Clubs Insurance policy issued by the Council of Country Antique Motor Vehicles Inc, and a copy of our Constitution and complete the necessary paperwork.

We then received notification that our Club was incorporated on the 18th of May 1995. After incorporation we were then able to organize Club Runs, because incorporation basically takes the responsibility of Public Liability from the committee to the Insurance policy cover, this policy covered all members for a five million dollar indemnity in the event of death or injury, to another party, now we could participate in our own events as well as join in with other Clubs. We all enjoyed runs to Bellbrook, Taylors Arm, Trial Bay, Hat Head & Middle Brother.

The next step was to order Club registration plates under the Clubs chosen colours "Green on Gold". With the plates being received it was decided to have Club registrations fall due when the subscriptions fall due, that way only Financial Members would have Club registered vehicles and permits.

Next came our name badges and Club shirts in green & gold, well after all of the above the Club was now in full swing.

As Secretary for February to November, I am pleased to have been part of the Club and have prospered with the help of all of the members; I personally take this opportunity to thank the other members of the committee and the members of the Club for their support, contribution and backup given to me during my term as Secretary.

I have to admit I thoroughly enjoyed being a small part of the foundation Club and the challenges that came my way

Elise Richards

Secretary Kempsey - Macleay Auto Restorers Club Incorporated and founded 1995

Following the foundation meeting the second Club meeting was held at the Salvation Army Hall in Leith St West Kempsey - March 1995 with 31 members in attendance.

Celebrating 25 Years

KMARC Members Meeting Salvation Army Hall Leith St West Kempsey March 95 Front row; Eleanor Brain & Shorty Ranger, Do you know any of the others present?





Rex Harris **Treasurer**, Mike Dean **President**, Elise Richards **Secretar**y

Notable activities during first year following formation:

- The Club held its first run in April 1995 to Scotts Head.
- The first edition of Wheels of Time (WOT) was published in April 1995;
 the second in June 1995 then monthly from July.
- The name of our newsletter was suggested by foundation member Bob Haberfield also known as Shorty Granger "Wheels of Time" being the title from one of the songs Shorty had written.
- WOT November 1995 Newsletter included proxy voting forms for the AGM elections.
- Wives and partners were included as members from the beginning and remain so today.
- The first Inspection Day was on 18 November 1995 at Cavanagh's Bus Depot
- Ron "Squeaker" Lewis is renowned for introducing activities to our regular runs these include:
 - Tyre Roll Chalk mark placed on front wheel at the ground, driver rolls forward stopping when he thinks he has completed 1 full revolution. Driver who brings car to rest with chalk mark closest to ground is the winner
 - Height Judgment. Driver sets the height above ground of a ball on a string at where he thinks the top of his vehicle would come when parked in this position. Driver who judges height closest to actual vehicle height when parked is the winner.
 - Parking test Driver is blindfolded and with the aid of instructions from his passenger reverse parks into a marked parking area. Car that is judged as being best parked and central in the parking area is the winner

Historic "Spin Offs" as recorded in Wheels of Time

Selected items & trivia republished from WOT publications

1995

April: WOT first published, second edition June 95, then monthly from July

1996

January: Letters to CCAMA re Insurance cut off dates for under 16 and over seventy year old members.

Also letter declaring we are not a break away group from HARS but a brand new Club

February: Commenced publishing "Letters to the Editor"

March: Notice of participation in Rusty Iron Rally at Wauchope in May **April:** Notice of possible Club Rally (forerunner to Hat Head rally)

December: Christmas Dinner at Gladstone Hotel this included the first presentation of the Club Spirit Award – to Ron and Sylvia Lewis. This was to become a perpetual trophy however over time the actual trophy has been mislaid

Acknowledgement given to a few special guests at Christmas Dinner they were Noel & George Perdrisat & Richard & June Watt

Shorty Granger entertained the gathering with a bracket of his famous songs.

1997

January: Poker run to Scotts Head first outing for the year.

What is a Poker Run?

Each participant contributes nominally \$0.50 to take part, this forms the jackpot. The Poker run begins with each participant at the start of the run drawing a playing card from a standard deck of cards. During the run at defined locations (four along the way) participants are dealt more cards from the same pack so that when they reach the end destination each participant is holding a full poker hand of five cards. The best hand takes the jackpot.

Interesting Local History: In 1870 Darkwater became known as Gladstone and Darkwater Creek as Belmore River to commemorate the visit to the District by the Governor of NSW the Earl of Belmore. Gladstone was the maiden name of the Govenors's wife (from Valley of the Macleay by Marie Neil)

March 1997: Club had metal car badges created - 50 were produced and all sold very quickly at \$15.00 each. The badge pictured is proudly mounted on Les Booth's 1928 A Model Ford Roadster



KMARC Original Car Badge fitted to Les Booth's A Model Ford see photo on right



1997 cont.

April: Camp at Schmidts Nulla Nulla family property.

The camping site had been nicely prepared by Earl who had moved the stock out of the paddock well before the weekend, this meant not having to mind where you stepped. The grass was mown and firewood stacked Earl even gave a demo on Woodchopping.

It was great to see how Club Members tackled the problems of packing and moving camping gear in small vehicles although when John & Shirley Whalen unloaded the Morris Minor you could imagine it heaving a sigh of relief. Ron and Sylvia Lewis arrived towing a motor bike trailer behind the Vauxhall. In typical camp traditions a damper was prepared and cooked in the camp oven. When it was ready to be taken out and shared around Kath had taken a sheet off her bed and the ladies in the group were horrorified that she was proposing to wrap the damper in the sheet. Needless to say Kath was restrained in her endeavours



July: Kempsey Music Festival Parade

Stan Bales' Jaguar followed the Kempsey Silver Band which led the parade. Stan's passengers were the Mayor & Mayoress of Kempsey. A few floats further back were Kath & Rex Harris in their Chev. Alan Robinson in his Austin then Ron Lewis' Vauxhall (driven by a friend) and Ron himself on one of his motor bikes.

October: Ron Lewis proposed a KMARC Rally, suggested name being the Macleay River Rally **December:** Newly elected President Ron Lewis outlined plans for New "Macleay River Rally to be run in May 1998

1998

April: Australian cars built prior to 1948

June: A formal welcome to new members Charles & Christina deBono and Graeme Smith

July: The first recording of advertisements in the WOT they were allocated a section called "Nuts & Bolts" Classified Advertisement Space

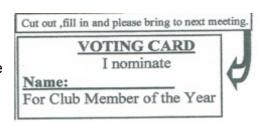
The first advertisers

Mannings Service Centre Preen Engineering Pty Ltd Coastline Credit Union Atkins & Holdt Vales Colour Copying Centre Kempsey Carpet Court

August: The Rusty Iron Rally in Wauchope very wet day and a poor attendance

1999

September: President Ron would like each member to nominate a person they think is worthy of being Club Member of the year.



An amusing story. The coach load of Aussie footballers was travelling through Dublin when the guide announced, "We are now passing the largest Pub in Ireland." A voice called from the back of the bus WHY?

November: Events Officer Bob Gray reported on the trip to Ross Glen the attendance was poor however the event was good with a special thanks to Hilton & Graeme and others for the Joy flights over the Camden Haven. Our next run will be to the Comboyne – meet at the boat ramp at 9:00 AM, Sunday 14 November, a good road all the way is promised.

December: List of Full Club membership and their vehicles published, this was continued in future editions

2000

February: Breakfast outing disrupted by a Bag snatcher

WOT - First edition of story of Francis Birtles who drove a Ford Model T 5600km alone from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Port Phillip Bay over period Aug 12 to Dec 24 1913. Story continued in two more editions in April and May.

April: WOT changes from monthly to bi-monthly publication Editor – Bill White – this plan did not last we returned to monthly editions

May: Les Booth recounts his story of trip to Wodonga via Wagga Wagga travelling 1700 miles to participate in a Ford A Model Rally.

2001

WOT featured an article each month on a classic vehicle including:

- July Delahaye from France
- August Wolsleys
- September **Fuldamobil** Germany

The Fuldamobil was a three-wheeler car produced during the 1950s and 1960s. The vehicle's innovative design and functionality made it popular among consumers all over the world



- October Rolls Royce 1924 Piccadilly Roadster & Daimler
- November Ford Taunus Germany UK France Photo Ford Taunus G73A Special 1949 Manufacurer - Ford Germany Class - Mid size car Production 1939 to 1994 Successor Ford Sierra



November: First Life Members Ron & Sylvia Lewis and Rex and Kath Harris appointed. Change of venue for inspections to Mavin's Ampol depot

2002

January: President Ron Lewis requests any member who has not paid current membership fees and are on Club plates – **Please return them !!!!!!**

March April, May, June, July, August & September: WOT Ford history continues



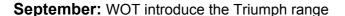
Ford Thunderbird Two Seater 1955 to 1957 **Ford Thunderbird** (colloquially called the **T-Bird**) is a nameplate that was used by **Ford** from model years 1955 to 1997 and 2002 to 2005 for a personal luxury car during which there were eleven distinct generations

April: Members conduct a pre-run around proposed 2002 rally course

July: WOT story on Alfa Romeo

Alfa Romeo 1900 Berlina 1950

The **Alfa Romeo 1900** was a sports sedan designed by Orazio Satta. The car was introduced first time for bigger audience for the **1950** Paris Motor Show



The **Triumph Herald** 1959 to 1971 – 525,767 manufactured The **Triumph Herald** is a small two-door car introduced by Standard-**Triumph** of Coventry in 1959 and made through to 1971. The body design was by the Italian stylist Giovanni Michelotti, and the car was offered in saloon, convertible, coupé, estate and van models.





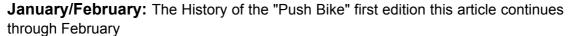
October: WOT – The Singer car – first launched in 1905 as a tri-car The Singer company had a checkered history being taken over in 1956 by Rootes and then Chrysler in 1967. The name had vanished completely by 1970.



November: WOT – The **Peugeot**, the last pre war and first post war Peugeot was the 202.

Production of the car ran between 1938 and 1942 and then, after a brief production run of 20 in early 1945, restarted in mid-1946. It was sold until 1949, by when it had been replaced by the 203.

December: Plans to hold a New Year breakfast in January at Riverside Park. This tradition has continued each year since.







The Full story of the E type Jaguar: The Jaguar E-Type, is a British sports car that was manufactured by Jaguar Cars Ltd between 1961 and 1975. Its combination of beauty, high performance, and competitive pricing established the model as an icon of the motoring world

2003

August: Club welcomes new members Kevin & Glenda Wilson

September: Nominations called for Club Member of the year all previous award winners are declared ineligible.

October: Report of Sept Club outing organized by Les Booth to Macnuts Macadamia nut processing factory and the Fencing Wire factory in the Macksville Industrial Estate. These visits were followed by a BBQ lunch generously provided by Ron & Maree Newman at their old Macksville Bus depot.

December: The new President Mike Morgan expresses a thank you to the Newman's for donating a Presidents Brief Case.

2004

January: WOT proposed change in size to A5 size as published in 2003 edition – not well accepted and proposal dropped magazine reverted to A4.

KMARC make a donation for Medical Chair at the ICU at the Kempsey District Hospital.

March: Petrol rationing was introduced in Australia in late 1940 and early 1941, but was not strictly enforced until 1942. The first ration tickets had a currency of six months. After that, issues were made every two months, to avoid forgeries and black market hoarding



5 gallon rationing ticket

November: Invitation to Macksville Gift and Parade, & report on monthly run to Gumma

2005

January: Club members make decision to hold every second Club meeting at the Official Club run. The Jan run to Stuarts Point is a washout everybody retreats to Yarrahapinni Homestead

June: Series "Early Days of Motoring" first of 8 editions continues each month

July: Kempsey Street parade to recognise the homecoming of Amy Winters following her winning a gold medal in the Paralympic Games. Joining Les in his 1929 A Model Ford were Margaret Giddy and Kempsey Mayor John Bowell & wife Faye.



2006

Meetings throughout the year were held at varying locations including, Kempsey Heights Bowling Club, Hat Head Bowling Club, Willawarrin Hotel, Little Bay, The club Car of the Month was introduced in February



March: Start of new series – Cars built in Oz

The **Goggomobil Dart** was a microcar which was developed in Australia by Sydney company Buckle Motors Pty Ltd. and produced from 1959 to 1961. The car featured an Australian-designed fiberglass two-seater open sports car body without doors, the whole package weighing in at only 345 kg

April: John & Pam Wilson represent KMARC at GHMC Annual General Meeting at Goulbourn

July: Club makes decision to move banking from Coastline Credit Union to Holiday Coast Credit Union.

July cont:

George Perdrisats' Morris Minor awarded car of the month. A 1953 series 2. this car was purchased new by a Sydney Gentleman who subsequently sold it to a lady who lived in Bathurst. The car developed an oil leak which the lady despite numerous efforts could not fix so she put the car on the market. George with an eye for a bargain was aware of the problem and knew exactly what to do to sovle it. George brings the car home and fixes the leak, the car had been lovingly looked after and polished until it was almost back to bare metal. George purchased the correct colour enamel and gave the car a paint job. Now looking as good as new.



September: A weekend away to Coffs Harbour for the "Koffs Kaper."

The group meet on Friday at the servo at Clybucca and depart together to travel to Yarrahapinni Homestead for morning tea. On arriving in Coffs they gather at the Fishermans Club for lunch. Saturday morning sees a trip to Belligen market returning to Coffs for dinner and a rock n roll night at Park Beach Bowling Club. Sunday was a big day out travelling to Grafton for the day returning to Coffs for a BBQ dinner in the grounds of the motel. The night was finshed off with a port in the Wilson's motel suite.

2007

During 2007 Club Meetings were held bi monthly at the Kempsey Heights Bowling Club and the alternative venue for other months was at Club outings.

In **December 2007** a meeting at Riverside Park determined that all future Club Meetings would be held at the Kempsey Salvation Army Hall Leith St West Kempsey.

May: KMARC celebrate the 10th Annual Rally, following the Rally Club President Ron resigned his position due to failing health. Vice President George Perdrisat took over the role until the December AGM. George was helped out on occasions by Howard Wood & Robert Senz.

June: The death of foundation member Shorty Granger (Bob Haberfield) is reported to KMARC members.

An Email address is established for KMARC

November: Bob & Mary Gray were presented with Life Memberships at the AGM

2008

February: Report on outing to Adrian Harveyson's home to see his collection of children's bikes and toys.

A series of articles on the Landrover in Australian Army Service begins. This is continued in the March edition of WOT.

June: Complaints received from entrants of the last Rally are consider and corrective actions determind for next years event.

October: John & Pam Wilson organise club run to Cowarra Dam near Wauchope, this was a great day out enjoyed by all.

Celebrating 25 Years

2008 cont

November: Who remembers the story on Petrol - Electric Hybrid Cars?

Bill Whitby provides a detailed article relating to the Woods Vehicle Co of Chicago producing a dual powered car in 1915.

A motion is passed to cease the "Member of the Year" award.

2009

January: Kempsey Council introduces bylaw preventing consumption of alcohol in public parks. this is the first annual BBQ without champange.





February: The first time Club Members' vehicles featured on the cover of WOT.

Rhonda Wilkinson takes over Editors role from Colin Trusler a role she carries for three years, signing off each edition as "The First Lady".

The cost of Postage for the distribution of our monthly WOT is donated to the Club by "Chapman Eye Care Plus" - a donation that continues for many years until the business closes in 2016.

April: Motion passed that Winter Meetings after cessation of daylight saving would start at 7:00PM.

October: KMARC Website established with Robert Guyer as Webmaster.

Discussion at Oct meeting on the future of Kempsey Airport.

November: Yet again the Club debates holding its meetings in conjunction with runs - the decision is made to conduct two runs per year at which we will conduct general meetings.

2010

February: General Meetings back to Salvation Army Hall Leith St West Kempsey.

June: Sunday run and combined meeting held at Yarrahapinni Homestead, combined with Morris Minor Club outing.

July: Decisions made for allocation of 2010 Rally Proceeds to the following charities, Riding for the disabled, FAWNA, Scotts Head Surf Club, Hat Head Surf Club and Gladstone SES.

October: Great combined outing with Great Lakes, HARS and Coffs Harbour to Little Bay - a struggle to find somewhere to park.

2011

February: We celebrate our 16th anniversary and Jack Brain generously brings a birthday cake.

May: Les Booth's Presidents Report reprinted:

"With the rally over, the weather staying fine, meeting old friends and new, it was a good weekend. I would like to thank the committee and all the helpers for all the great effort they put in to make the 2011 Hat Head Rally a success. Then we got the sad news about the death of our good mate Ron "Squeaker" Lewis who was a great Director and organiser of the Rally for the first ten years and also a past President of the car club.

Over the past 20 years that I have known him, I never heard him say a bad word about anybody! We had great weekends away with Squeak and Sylvia. Our thoughts are with Sylvia and her family.

Happy riding and driving Ron! (Ron passed away on 20 May 2011 - 73 years of age).

Les Booth

June: Run and General Meeting cancelled due to floods in Kempsey and surrounding areas.



April: Combined Meeting and outing at Mesopotamia Lodge. Began trial of Buddy system as developed by Colin Trusler.

June: Big day out to Coffs Harbour including visits to Butterfly Farm and Sealy Lookout with lunch at Park Beach Bowling Club.

2013

March: Opening of Kempsey Bypass Bridge. The club was invited to join a parade to celerbrate the opening on 27 March. Eight cars participated. The parade was headed by Les Booth in his A Model Ford carrying the NSW State Roads Minister Duncan Gay and the Federal Minister for Infrastructure Anthony Albanese. Les was followed by Murray Capararo in his XB Falcoln carrying the Mayor of Kempsey Liz Campbell. Other vehicles participating include, The Sullivan's Hudson Super Wasp, Colin & Rhonda's Morrie, Charle's & Christina's Oldsmobile, Hilton's Valiant, Kevin Bennett's MG & Bob & Mary Gray's FX Holden.

Run to Perrys Lemon Myrtle Farm on Taylors Arm Rd including a tasting of a variety of samples one of which was a lemon myrtle flavoured icecream. We journeyed onto Valla then back for lunch at the Vee Wall Tavern at Nambucca Heads, and finally back to Macksville for an Icecream (maybe this was John Wilsons idea)

July: Weekend to Coffs Harbour - Station to Station run.

A leisurely drive on Friday afteroon to gather at the Park Beach Caravan Park for a pre dinner drink at the Perdristat's cabin then on to the Park Beach Bowling Club for dinner. Saturday morning a visit to the Showground to check out the cars on sale, then on to the Clog Barn for morning tea followed by a visit to Sealy Lookout. Lunch of fish and Chips at the jetty. During the afternoon it was off to the cartoon gallery then back to Noel & George's for yet more drinks and nibbles. Dinner was do your own thing. Sunday morning gathering and registration at the Jetty car park before leaving for a 36Km run to Lowanna Station. Lunch was available then judging of the vehicles. Jumbo Pereira visiting from the Morris Minor Club won the peoples choice with his Wolseley 4/44, Al Bunyans Tank Fairlane picked up the prize for the best post war and Peter Albretch picked up two awards.. After a wonderful weekend we all went our seperate ways to home. Maybe you can ask the Morgans about their eventful trip home !!!



2014

February: Les Booth takes on third stint as President (a glutton for punishment). The Buddy System is working well and receives much praise.

March: Yet another discussion regarding combining meetings with outings, the winter months of June July were nominated for these combined events.

May: Welcome to new members Neville & Anne Schmidt, Neville being the son of foundation members Earle & Betty Schmidt. They were soon followed into membership by their daughter Hannah and her partner Colin. Together this group represent three generations in Club membership.

June: Meeting and outing at Yarrahapinni Homestead with BBQ lunch.

July: We are indebited to Colin and Rhonda who open up their home for our meeting together with Christmas in July celebrations.

August: Our first encounter with Andrew Stewart. The club displays for the second time at Statues at the Gaol at Arakoon. During this event Colin spots a lovely Rover P6 V8 and has a chat with its owner encouraging him to join up with KMARC. None other than Andrew who goes on to be a dedicated member and an extremely capable Secretary.

2015

February: Introduction to the idea of log books with a scheme similar to that in operation in Victoria.

June: Welcome to new members Ron and Barbara Hicks, this has proved to be a great pick up with both taking on roles to organise and support club activities.

July: Introduction of Wednesday morning casual meeting with the Bike Club at Kempsey Macca's.

August: The Rapleys introduce the Club to "Bentley" at our outing to Bongil National Park. Bentley becomes the star attraction on the front page of WOT.

October: Yet more discussion on the possible introduction of Log Books, KMARC agrees to participate in a trial of this scheme.

2016

February: Operating costs are escalating, postage is going up by 42%. This coupled with Ian Chapman's advice he is being forced into retirement allowing for his treatment of cancer. With his business closing so will his company's greatly appreciated support of our postage costs. To reduce postage costs Colin advises he intends to trial electronic versions of WOT. Anyone without internet facilities will still be able to receive the WOT by snail mail,

Kathleen Capararo becomes a second generation member of this family to join the Club.

The Club announces the passing of Maree Newman from Macksville. Maree and husband Ron have been long standing and supportive members of KMARC.

21st birthday celebrations organised by John & Pam Wilson, run to Lake Cathie Bowling Club for lunch, stopping at Telegraph Point for morning tea with Les Booth cutting the celebratory birthday cake.

March: Joined the Morris Minor Club for a weekend away to Guyra tavelling via Belligen and Dorrigo.

Stopping off to inspect the collection of Steam Engines and Rolling Stock at the old Dorigo Railway Station.

The weekend highlight being a visit to Evan Miller's private property "Glenroy" where he had the most magnificent display of operating stationary engines. Evan and his family generously supplied us all with morning tea.

November: Outing to Little Bay Arakoon for a picnic lunch with HARS from Port Macquarie and the resident kangaroos.



2017

January: Customary January breakfast at Riverside Park followed by an outing to Vincent Court to show the residents our array of classic vehicles.

February: Outing to Bago Winery 51 in attendance. A wet day. The outing included a visit to Ricardos to pick strawberries and lunch at the Laurieton Fishermans Co-op. The hard luck story of the day went to Lindsay & Kerrie Rapley who had a bonnet blow up on their 1974 Cadillac. The Rapleys have gone on to feature in a number of our hard luck adventures.



April: Weekend at Inverall

Thanks to good organising by Paul & Lesley Cooney we headed off for a weekend of enjoyment at Inverell with the highlight being a visit to a privately owned Tractor Museum. We could not believe our eyes, two huge sheds each filled by row upon row of neatly arranged vintage and classic tractors. Not only a museum also a wrecking yard where the enthusiast could purchase items they were missing to restore their own machines. The weekend also included visits to the Heritage village and the Transport Museum.

June: Colin & Rhonda head off to the UK for several months leaving Paul Cooney and Tony Dowman to edit and publish the WOT, they did a great job.





September: The club attends the Rusty Iron Rally at Macksville Showground and John Dunn's 280E Mercedes is awarded the best car 1961 to 1988.

October: Our monthly meeting is moved downstairs at the West Kempsey Salvation Army Hall.

December: Linc & Vicki Hewson roll out their Bufori. The company

began building these

hand crafted cars with a carbon fibre and kevlar body in Sydney in 1986. In 1998 the company relocated to Malaysia where they have the capacity to build up to 300 cars per year. Each car is custom built to the customers requirements. Linc's car has an air cooled VW boxer engine. What started off as 3 brothers deciding to build sports cars for themselves in their garage in Ashfield has now turned into a Malaysian based specialty car business



2018

January: Customary "start the year breakfast" was preceded by a run to Crescent Head

March: Weekend trip to Aircraft, Motor Vehicle, and Rail museums in the Wollongong region.

June: Due to travelling commitments Tony Dowman passes Editors role to Acting Editors Mark Walker & Colin Trusler, they continue in the role until the November AGM and new elections.

Andrew Stewart relates the life story of "Tilly" a 1928 Propertsbodied Morris Minor Sportster. Tilly becomes a favourite with members when in attendance at Club events.



August: SMS messaging service begins to notify all members with a mobile phone of upcoming club activities.

Long time members Jean White (Life member) and Lyn Clarke pass away.

September: Rusty Iron Rally Macksville, Tilly wins best pre 1930 vehicle in show.

Neville and Anne Schmidt arranged outing to Nulla and we visited the old Slim Dusty Homestead and viewed the property previously owned by Neville's late father Earle. This was the site for several Club



camps in years gone by. Lunch was taken in the township of Bellbrook with some visiting the Pub and others having a picnic in the park. This was such a great day it was repeated 12 months later

December: A new and hopefully annual event the Shannon's Show and Shine parade and display In Kempsey - Smith St. The event included all of the local car clubs and was well attended by the public.

The December AGM recognised the special service given by Murray Capararo who took on the Presidents role in 2015 when no one else

would put up their hand. Murray continued to provide leadership until the 2018 elections. Murray was presented with a golden gavel by Colin Trusler on behalf of all Club members.

2019

January: Outing to Riverside Park Kempsey combined with Coffs CEX Sport & Touring Club and the MG Gold Coast Club for morning tea.

February: First report from newly elected President Lindsay Rapley. Bill White (Life Member) passes away.

March: Passing of long time and highly regarded member Jack Brain. KMARC Members joined with Coffs Club in a long funeral cortège that visited Jack's much loved Sawtell Ocean views on its way to his funeral service.

April: The introduction the "CHMC Traveller Pack" to assist visitors who experience classic vehicle problems while on their travels. George Lindsay & Colin appointed as KMARC contacts.

June: Club holds dinner to farewell Andrew Stewart who is leaving to take up residence near Launceston Tasmania. We will miss his loyal support and entertaining stories. Visit to Glenreagh Steam Railway Museum.

Amusing anecdote: Some members are reminded that the letter "E" on the fuel gauge does not mean **enough**!!

16 of 28

July: Nigel McNeil attends conference to discuss the extension of the Log Book Scheme and reports to club members.

The introduction of a new financial year from July to June changing from Nov to Oct (this had been in place since foundation.)

September: Long term and dedicated member Hilton McCleod passes away.

October: KMARC visits Port Macquarie to join HARS in celebration of their 40th Anniversary.

November: Change of venue for Inspection Day moving to Doc & Leanne Milligan's home with free BBQ catered by Ron & Barb Hicks.

December: Sunday 8 Dec Christmas Party at Kempsey Heights Bowling Club, good food fun and frivolity amongst like minded friends. Awards presented for most attendances to Lindsay Rapley, Mark Walker & George Perdrisat.



2020

January: Sunday 12 Jan The planned New Year breakfast moved from Riverside Park to Aero Club at last minute due to threatening rain. large rollup for free breaky



February: First meeting for the year held at the Pensioners Hall Kempsey, celebrates 25th anniversary of the Club with first meeting held on 12 Feb 1995. Outing to Nabiac Motor Bike Museum



that did not occur"

March: A very busy period for outings - Visit to residents at Cedar Place, Saturday lunch at Coffs Fisho's Club 10 vehicles attending, The Macleay Valley Auto Spectacular at Kempsey, Little Bay in company with HARS. Then came the President report. The threat of a pandemic in the form of the spreading Corona Virus results in tough Government lockdowns and brings the cancellation of all Club activities including the 2020 Hat Head Rally. Refunds were paid to all who had registered to participate in the Rally. The Rally Badge was offered for sale as a memorabilia item of "The Rally

Publication of WOT continues to keep members informed and prepared for the ultimate lifting of restrictions.

17 of 28

May: Valued members Les Booth and Dick Watt are both suffering serious health issues. President Lindsay rallies Club Members to show their support for Les and Dick with a drive-by to their respective homes - The Corona virus restrictions means social distancing is in place and limited numbers can participate - 13 cars and approx. 20 members attended. We assembled at Altavilla Public School. The kids on their morning break were delighted to see the cars - Toot the horn Mr !!! Off to Les & Joan Booth's home and a pass along their driveway before a quick stop and an arms distant chat.



Les was



in good spirits and very much appreciated the Clubs recognition by way of the drive-by.

We were all back in our cars then off to visit Dick Watt. Dick was sitting at the top of his driveway and greeted all the cars as we drove past did a turn at the end of the street then pulled up at the front of Dick's home. Richard and Larraine loaded Les & Joan into their car and they joined the group for the visit to June & Dick's. it was a touching moment when Les and Dick greeted each other.

June: The State Government start to ease some of the Covid restrictions meaning the Executive can meet at the Freddo Golf Club and begin to plan for the way out of the current crisis. Social distancing is required and observed.

July: The Club holds its first General Meeting since February at The Kempsey Pensioners Hall, around 20 members attend all careful to use the sanitiser provided and observe the social distancing regulations.

The meeting was followed on the next Sunday by a "BYO everything" outing at Telegraph Point on the Wilson River. It was a glorious day with the sun shining brightly. Members set up their tables and chairs again observing the social distancing regulations. This was the first time most of us had been able to get together socially for several months. It was great to catch up and share the news of each others activities whilst in lockdown.

Sadly on Wednesday 22 July dedicated and Founding Member, Les Booth passed away at Kempsey Hospital. Les has served the Club for



3 preriods as President, 2 periods as Vice President and also as Treasurer Les and Joan have been very active in all Club Meetings and events since the Club was formed in 1995. His love of the A model Fords showed through in the meticulous restorations he carried out on his vehicles. He will be sadly missed. Les's funeral on 24 July was



attended by a large number of KMARC members who formed

their vehicles into a guard of honour along the driveway leading into the Funeral Home

Executive Committee from foundation

		Executive Committee Hom Touridation	Idation		Dogietration/
	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Editor	Plate Officer
	Mike Dean	Elise Richards	Rex Harris	Alan McMillan	Wayne Leahy
_	es Booth	Kath Harris	Rex Harris	Mike Dean	Wayne Leahy
	Les Booth	Dudley Ramsay/Alan Robinson	Rex Harris	Brian Sorensen	Wayne Leahy
	Ron Lewis	Alan Robinson	Rex Harris	Brian Sorensen	John Whalen
	Ron Lewis	Alan Robinson	Margaret Hales	Bill White	John Whalen
	Ron Lewis	Alan Robinson	Margaret Hales	Bill White	John Whalen
	Ron Lewis	Elise Richards/Mike Morgan	Barry Hales	Bill White	Kevin Bennett
	Ron Lewis	Bill Hazelwood	George Perdrisat	Bill White	Kevin Bennett
	Ron Lewis	Mary Gray	George Perdrisat	Mike Morgan/Ron Lewis	Kevin Bennett
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n	dris ith ith	า	Kevin Wilson	Rhonda Wilkinson	Kevin Bennett
		Colin Trusler u	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler/Rhonda Wilkinson	Kevin Bennett
_	Les Booth	Colin Trusler/Robert Guyer	Kevin Wilson	Rhonda Wilkinson	Kevin Bennett
	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trulser	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Bennett
	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Bennett
	Les Booth	Steve & Annie Sullivan	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Bennett
2015 Mu	Murray Capararo	Andrew Stewart	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Bennett
_	Murray Capararo	Andrew Stewart	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Bennett
_	Murray Capararo	Andrew Stewart	Kevin Wilson	Colin Trusler	Kevin Bennett
	Murray Capararo	Andrew Stewart	Kevin Wilson	Tony Dowman	Kevin Bennett
_	indsay Rapley	Mark Walker/Andrew Stewart	Kevin Wilson	Mark Walker	Colin Trusler
2020 Lin	_indsay Rapley	Mark Walker/ Glenda Wilson	Kevin Wilson	Mark Walker	Colin Trusler

From 1995 to 2000 inclusive multiple persons were simultaneously engaged in the role of Plate/Registration Officer as follows:

- 1995 Wayne Leahy, John Whalen, Michael Whalen, Kevin Bennett
 - 1996 Wayne Leahy, John Whalen, Michael Whalen, Kevin Bennett
 1997 Wayne Leahy, John Whalen, Michael Whalen, Kevin Bennett
 - 1998 John Whalen, Michael Whalen, Kevin Bennett, Ron Lewis
 - 1999 John Whalen, Michael Whalen, Kevin Bennett, Ron Lewis
- 2000 John Whalen, Michael Whalen, Les Booth, Ron Lewis

<u>KMARC</u> <u>Life Members as appointed since Foundation</u>

Life (Honorary) membership has been granted to several KMARC members for outstanding service to the club over an extended period of time.

These awards have been made at Annual General Meetings and required both a nominator and seconder then the approval of a majority of the members present at the AGM.

At a Special General Meeting held in Feb 2019 the Constitution was amended to provide a clearer definition of eligibility for Life membership as follows.

Life membership. As nominated and approved by 70% of the members present at an Annual General Meeting, for outstanding services to the association. Criteria for nomination include, minimum 15 years of continuous membership, is a supporter and participant in club meetings & outings. Approved Life members and their significant partners shall have the same entitlements as full members, and other entitlements as may be decided by the Committee from time to time. No more than 2 nominations will be awarded in any one year.

Life memberships as awarded by KMARC members to:

Ron & Sylvia Lewis (Ron deceased) Rex & Kath Harris (now deceased)

Bob & Mary Gray
Bill & Jean White (now deceased)







Sylvia Lewis

Bob Gray

Mary Gray

KMARC Public Officers

1995 to 1996	Elise Richards
1996 to 1999	Kath Harris
1999 to 2002	Barry Hales
2002 to 2019	Mike Morgan
2019 to	Kevin Wilson

The Public Officer is an appointment by the Club Executive and is registered with the Department of Fair Trading NSW A **Public Officer** is both the official point of contact for an incorporated association and one of the authorised signatories.

KMARC The Hat Head Rally 1996 to 2020

The idea of a Rally event was first suggested in the WOT April 1996 for "Coming Events" this was the forerunner to the well know Hat Head Rally.

In October 1997 Ron Lewis suggested the Club run a Rally in March 1998 and for it to be called the "Macleay River Rally" the suggestion was made that a committee be formed to organize the event. Ron was elected as Rally Director with Rex Harrison as Treasurer and Kath Harrison as Secretary. By December 1997 the date was changed to May 1998.

Although Ron Lewis ably assisted by wife Sylvia wore the Directors hat Rex & Kath Harris managed all the paperwork for this first Rally. When the time came to pass the Administrative activities on to Ron and Sylvia for the second rally all the records had been destroyed meaning Ron and Sylvia began again from scratch.

This situation never arose again Sylvia has diligently kept all records since - and still has these !!!

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A newspaper article pronounced – Hat Head will be the venue for the inaugural KMARC Vintage Car Rally which will draw people from as far afield as Inverell, Gosford, Coffs Harbour, Taree, Port Macquarie and elsewhere. Included in the entourage will be car models ranging from 1911 to 1968 with at least 50 vehicles expected to take part.





The second Rally was held on 1 & 2 May 1999, The Saturday run was to Kempsey to explore the Museum and Visitor Information Centre followed by a lunch at the Smithtown RSL & Bowling Club. Trophies were awarded for each class of vehicle during a dinner held at the Hat Head Bowling Club on the Saturday evening, this tradition continues today

For 10 years Ron & Sylvia Lewis, Bob & Mary Gray with help from Maree & Ron Newman organised and ran this classic event attracting enthusiasts from around the State. Ron being the President of the Hat Head Bowling Club ensured we had the full support of this club year on year. The HHBC made significant financial donations in support of our event.



It is unbelievable the planning and records for the rally were all maintained in exercise books (no Excel spreadsheets and accounting software in those days) What an amazing Team of dedicated Club members !!!!

Notwithstanding the unquestionable success of the first two Rallies some Club members at the November 1999 Club meeting asked the question - Why is the Rally being conducted from Hat Head and not Kempsey? Club President Ron Lewis followed a democratic path and called for a vote on the venue for future events. The result was a resounding support for the venue to remain at Hat Head.

With the Rally now well established the tradition of holding the event on the first weekend in May was set, with one exception in 2005 the Rally commenced on Friday 29 April and ran through to Sunday 1 May.

Following ten very successful years with the Hat Head Rally becoming the must attend event on the Classic vehicle calendar.

The Committee who had worked tirelessly to ensure the events success year after year made a decision to pass the baton on. Colin Trusler was appointed Rally Director with Kevin Wilson as Treasurer. Ron Sylvia Bob & Mary left very big shoes to fill !!!!, The computer age was upon us and Colin set about developing a countdown calendar for the timely completion of lead up tasks for the 2008 Rally. Volunteers were solicited from Club members with tasks allocated for recording registrations, sourcing raffle prizes, soliciting donations, event promotion, run planning, marshalling, food purchases and meal





planning, cooking the BBQ & breakfast, etc.

Thankfully the original committee's good work ensured the new team had a strong base to build on and the Rally went on from strength to strength with some years attracting up to 100 vehicles. We reached a situation where the Saturday evening Dinner virtually took over the allocated dance floor at the Hat Head Club to accommodate all comers. As a result of this the committee placed a ceiling on the number of entrants to ensure the weekend could be an enjoyable and comfortable event for all participants.

Mith the change in leadership came a change to the eligibility criteria for cars to win awards. As voting for awards are carried out only by the Rally participants it was decided that all entrants should be eligible to win an award as determined by the voters. Meaning that for the first time KMARC members were included in the vehicle judging



Colin continued in the role of Rally Director for 10 years before he too decided it was time for a change and the role was taken over by Kevin Wilson in 2018. Kevin with a very dedicated team of Club volunteers

has continued the traditions as set down many years ago by Ron Lewis and his team.

The Hat Head Rally remains the KMARC feature event each year and is strongly supported by our own members and classic car devotees from around the State.

Each year our Saturday and Sunday runs have enabled us to explore much of the Kempsey Shire's back roads from Crescent head in the South to Grassy Head in the north and Sherwood in the west. Our lunch time and vehicle display destinations have included Smithtown RSL & Bowling Club, Seventh Day Adventist Camp at Grassy Head, The

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Pensioners Hall in Kempsey, South West Rocks Country Club, Kempsey Golf Club, The Slim Dusty Centre and the Kempsey Showground where participants were entertained by the Kempsey Silver Band.

Most years the weather has been kind to us however there have been a couple of occasions where things became a little damp. Not the least was in 2016 when we had the need to cancel the Saturday run. There was so much rain it became potentially dangerous to take to some of the roads on our planned route to the Slim Dusty Centre. This did not stop some of those hardened participants who ignored the official run cancellation and took the planned route anyway, thankfully all arrived safely and in the dryness and comfort of the SDC enjoyed a delightful luncheon. This day included a tour of the SDC prior to its official public opening.

Our 2007 Rally included a TV star being the four seater tourer that featured in the TV series the Sullivan's. The vehicle was entered by Jimmy & Joan Stewart. Jimmy and Joan also owned an Alldays & Onion vehicle. This car has featured in our 2006 Rally

The Rally of 2012 was celebrated with a poem from one of our Members Annie Sullivan (published WOT Oct 2012)

Last verse reprinted:

For this was the last chance for people to see.

What a wonderful rally Hat Head can be.
The concsensus says please do it again.
To participate you should not refrain.
The committee has made it a great success.
Time for them to go home and have a big rest.
We had a great weekend though pretty full on.
We would do it again, volunteers we'll be one.

From it beginnings there have been many traditions set - some had a limited life however many continue today.

Friday afternoon registration - collect your Rally Bag, Programme & Badge

Friday evening BBQ in outdoor area of Club (until recent years included lambs fry (black velvet.)

Saturday pre run morning cuppa

Approx. 100km run around the Kempsey region

Luncheon sometimes at a Club venue other times self catered by our volunteers.

Display and judging of participants vehicles by year groups or by class

Presentation Dinner at Hat Head Bowling Club trophies awarded to best vehicles in their class as voted by Rally participants.

Entertainment and dancing (Mark Ladkin for many years)

Raffle of donated articles (for years Roly Morgan from Tamworth would purchase a bird windmill at auction only to donate for a new auction which inevitably his wife Trish would buy)



Raffle of three major prizes

Sunday morning BBQ breakfast - in the early years this included a fish fry up

Sunday run short outing to Crescent Head, South West Rocks or similar destination

Return to Camp area Shelter Shed for elevensies, cakes as donated by club members and a welcome cuppa before winding up the weekend with a commitment to return again next year

In the early years Ron Lewis would build on the funds raised from the Rally by auctioning during elevensies a choice bottle of whisky wrapped in a \$10.00 note.

A more recent tradition with the event organisers is the selection of the car displayed on the Rally Badge being the privilege of the person ordering the badges. A rally badge has been produced for each year of the rally and is provided to each participant at registration.

KMARC can be proud that as a Club our Hat Head Rally has not only been enjoyed by hundreds of classic car fanatics we have also provided tangible benefits to many charitable organisations throughout the Kempsey/Nambucca/Hastings regions. Over the years donations have been made from Rally earnings to the following:

Kempsey Silver Band (Story of trumpet provided to young boy WOT June 2018)

- Kempsey Hospice
- Kempsey Hospital
- · Riding for the disabled
- FAWNA
- South West Rocks Surf Club
- Hat Head Surf Club
- Scotts Head Surf Club
- Lukemia Foundation
- Gladstone SES
- Kempsey Tank Radio
- Port Macquarie Cancer Clinic
- Kempsey Eisteddfod

2020 brings the Corona Virus Pandemic to Australia leading the Federal Government to place the Country into lockdown and for the first time in its 23 year history the Hat Head Rally is cancelled.

Rally supporters across the country lament the need to call off this celebrated event and comit to their full backing for the Rally's return 2021.

















Can you identy yourself or your car in the pictures above

















Can you identy your car in the pictures above

Celebrating 25 Years



KMARC recognises its 25th Anniversay with a celebratory cake at the February 2020 General meeting held at the Pensioners Hall Kempsey on Tuesday 11 February. This kicks off a year of celebration events!!



KMARC President Lindsay Rapley Secretary Mark Walker and Treasurer Kevin Wilson prepare to cut anniversary cake at Club General Meeting 11 Feb 2020



KMARC Members as at 1 July 2020

Naouae & Elizabeth Abou-Ghaida Neil & Megan Badger Glenn & Amber Bannerman Les & Joan Booth Ian Brack Clarry Briggs **Deborah Broughton** Glenn & Elaine Brown Terry & Anne Brown Bruce Caldwell & Sue Baughman Cole Campton & Hanna Schmidt Murray & Leonie Capararo Ian & Janelle Chapman **Noel Clarke Rod Clilverd** Paul & Lesley Cooney John Cooper Fred & Sharyn Coveny Terry & Anne Cox Jeffrey & Vicki Daniel. Charles & Christina de Bono Peter & Rhonda Dowd Tony & Elinor Dowman John & Ann Dunn (Vice President) Richard & Larraine Eakin Valerie Escott Rob & Lynne Fletcher Barry & Gloria Furness Darren & Michelle Gibson Neville Gibson Bob & Mary Gray (Life Members)

Robert Guver Bryson & Therese Hartley Lincoln & Vicki Hewson Ronald & Barbara Hicks Eddie & Karen James Sonny Johansson Raye Johnson Terry & Mary Jones Lyn & Diane Kingma Maureen Knight Callum & Helen Lawson Peter & Judy Laycock Daniel Lencz & kim Elsley Sylvia Lewis (Life Member) Robert & Lesley Lovell Russell & Jane Mann Alan & Didi Manning Dawn McKay Nigel McNeil & Bev Giddey Robert (Doc) & Leeane Milligan Mike & Margaret Morgan Russell & Maureen Murray Stewart Nichols & Nicol Kesby Benard Olde **Duncan Packington** Neil Parker & Kay Murphey George & Noel Perdrisat Richard & Benni Pittard Mark & Georgia Pryde Lindsay & Kerrie Rapley (President) Brian Riley

Grant Riley. Rodney & Kerry Robe Victor & Shirley Rudder Neville & Anne Schmidt Robert & Joy Senz Roger Shorter Graeme Smith Harvey Stanton **Andrew Stewart** Stephen & Annette Sullivan Lynden & Valerie Taafe Colin Trusler & Rhonda Wilkinson Walter & Debra Van Gelder Mark Walker (Secretary) Robert Walters & Lelien Chua Richard & June Watt John Whalen Michael & Dianne Whalen Jeremy & Pauline Whitaker Bill & Gayle Whitby Stephen Wilkinson & Maria Frazer Graham & Kathleen Willcocks Graham & Donna Willis Barry & Diane Wills Mathew Wills & Vanessa Wiggenra John & Pam Wilson Kevin & Glenda Wilson (Treasurer) Rick & Tammy Wilson Howard & Pauline Wood Peter & Christine Wood

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