



Council of ACT Motor Clubs Inc.

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Council Communique

December 2020

Canberra Pie Cart on display

The Council of ACT Motor Clubs' (CACTMC), Canberra Pie Cart made a rare appearance in Civic Square in December to help promote the Canberra Museum and Gallery's *Sign of the Times* exhibition.



The Canberra Pie Cart resplendent in Civic Square

Some months of preparation were undertaken between the Council, mainly Secretary Peter Atkinson and Committee member Graham Gittins with CMAG Assistant Director Kay Whitney and Senior Curator - Social History, Sharon Bulkeley.

The 1939 Chevrolet spent some time at CACTMC President Richard Jackson's home getting spruced up for its outing: it was cleaned inside and out; had some rewiring done by Greg Tune; and a new battery donated by Century Batteries in Hume.

All media outlets in the ACT were alerted about the event with stories appearing in *the Canberra Times*, *RiotACT*, and interviews on ABC Radio and Radio 2CC.

Long-time supporter of the Council, Shannons Insurance, came to the party with funding for a new pie cart brochure.

The big day was to be on Wednesday 2nd December and arrangements had been made and permits were in place to drive the vehicle on to Civic Square via the ACT Legislative Assembly back road. However, when Richard arrived with the Pie Cart, he found a big



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hole and been dug in the road, thus preventing access to Civic Square. Undaunted, Richard chose another route and the Pie Cart duly arrived safe and sound.

During the morning, for a little over an hour, the vehicle attracted a lot of passer by attention. One man offering that "there was originally a window in the back door"!

Then disaster struck: An unclaimed bag had been found in the Civic Library building and set off a fire alarm in the Museum space. It followed from a bomb hoax, which locked down part of London Circuit and Civic Square. The evacuation continued until around three o'clock, thus preventing the public program planned for 1.00pm and 2.00pm where guest speakers were to describe to an invited audience, the story of the history and restoration of the vehicle.

Speakers were to be Richard Jackson, Graham Gittins and Brian Wells from the Council of ACT Motor Clubs and CMAG Senior Curator - Social History, Sharon Bulkeley.

A quick meeting decided that the event would be rescheduled for Friday 4 December.

CMAG contacted the authorities to extend the permits to use the Civic Square and to drive the Chevrolet over the kerb from London Circuit. Initially, permission was refused.

This then caused a problem as the big hole on the ACT Legislative Assembly building site was still there, the other entrance was blocked by cemented in the ground bollards.

However, after a number of telephone calls, wisdom prevailed and permission was granted for the Pie Cart to mount the kerb - under strict provisions.

Friday morning 4 December arrived and the Canberra Pie Cart took its place in Civic Square outside the CMAG entrance, assisted by Transport Canberra City Services.



The Canberra Pie Cart awaiting its audience at CMAG



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Harry Frost, from WIN television station by pre arrangement, came along to record a program featuring the Canberra Pie Cart for use during the holiday season, Richard Jackson and Graham Gittins were both interviewed for this feature.

An arrangement was made between the Council and the Tree Eighty 3 Café in Bailey Arcade to supply pies, free of charge to the audience. This was very successful as all of the pies were given away.

Due to another engagement, the Pie Cart Restoration Project Manager, Brian Wells, was unable to attend on Friday, but Gerry Walker, who had also been involved in the restoration, was able to fill in at very short notice.



Presentation by CACTMC of the Certificate of Appreciation to CMAG
L to R: Kay Whitney (CMAG), Richard Jackson (CACTMC), Sharon Bulkeley (CMAG),
Graham Gittins (CACTMC) & Gerry Walker (CACTMC).

The presentations were made under the entrance awning to CMAG with loud speakers to amplify speaker's voices. Over 30 members of the public attended, along with two members of the ACT Legislative Assembly – Canberra Liberals member Elizabeth Kikkert and ACT Greens member Rebecca Vassarotti. The audience were engaged and interested and asked numerous questions at the end of the presentation.



President Richard Jackson with Elizabeth Kikkert MLA and Peter Atkinson



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Then it was all over. Pack down took place and the Transport Canberra City Services team arrived to see the vehicle safely back across the kerb.

The Council would like to record its thanks to CMAG for giving it the opportunity to display a piece of Canberra's history. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to CMAG.

All those involved agreed that it was a very worthwhile event.



The Presenters (L to R):
Gerry Walker, Kay Whitney, Graham Gittins, Richard Jackson & Sharon Bulkeley

Words by Graham Gittins and Kay Whitney. Photos by Graham Gittins & Peter Atkinson



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Terribly British Day

More than 230 British made vehicles attended the Terribly British Day at Queanbeyan Park on Sunday 6 December.

See more photos like the one below on CACTMC's web site: [Gallery \(cactmc.org.au\)](https://cactmc.org.au)



Photo by: Graeme Jeffries

SEASON'S GREETINGS



THE PRESIDENT, RICHARD JACKSON, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF ACT MOTOR CLUBS WISH YOU THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON AND HOPE THAT 2021 IS A BETTER YEAR THAN 2020.