



Council of ACT Motor Clubs Inc.

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Council Communique

January 2024

Shannons Wheels – Sunday 18th February 2024.

Celebrating the Hot Hatch

The Council of ACT Motor Clubs' annual **Shannons Wheels** car & bike show will be held on Sunday 18th February 2024 at the Queanbeyan Showgrounds.

This year Shannons Wheels is being run in collaboration with the Queanbeyan Market. Wheels will be in the Showgrounds Arena, as usual, while the Market will be located in the western section of the Showgrounds complex – to the west of the Grandstand. The Market offers a wide array of food vendors as well as art, craft, fashion, jewellery etc.

This year Shannons Wheels will focus on automotive exhibits and automotive trade stalls, while being run in conjunction with the **Queanbeyan Market** providing access to craft, jewellery, fashion, homewares, food & drink stalls, thereby benefiting all attendees. Be sure to bring the whole family for a great day out.

The Wheels organisers are looking for automotive trades to set up displays at the event. \$150 buys a premium display space, with power if required. If you can assist, or know of a business that might be interested, please contact Greg: President@CACTMC.org.au

The layout will be a little different to previous years, so Clubs should not expect to be in the same location as in previous years. The preliminary layout for the Arena is [here](#).

NOTE: this is not the final version!

All Clubs need to advise how many vehicles their Club expects will be attending Wheels and whether the Club needs space for a marquee or tent. Clubs are also asked to supply names of Club members who can act as marshals for the Club on the day. If you are with a large Club that is expecting a large turnout of Club members, then you should be providing a number of members to act as marshals.

A Marshalls' Briefing will be held at the **Showgrounds** at **3:00pm on Saturday 17th**.

It is important that clubs, intending to put vehicles on display, advise the Wheels Committee of the likely Club attendance. Provide: number of cars/bikes, if you will be bringing a marquee & size, and the names and contact details for your Club's marshals.

Email the info to: info@CACTMC.org.au as soon as possible, otherwise your Club may not have sufficient space available for all of your vehicles.

[Download the Shannons Wheels 2024 poster here.](#)



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Shannons Wheels 2024 Charity

The charity being supported by Shannons Wheels 2024 is [Respite Care for QBN](#) building "Yvonne Cuscheri's Dream".

"The 'founding mother' of Queanbeyan's Cancer Support Group, Yvonne Cuscheri OAM, provided financial support and friendship to more than 30,000 cancer sufferers and their families.

[In memory of Yvonne Cuscheri](#) by Tim Gavel, Riotact.

Please give generously to continue Yvonne's work.

Farewell Shannons Insurance

Shannons Insurance has closed its Fyshwick Office and Stephanie Shaw, Shannons' Business Development Manager is moving back to Queensland. Stephanie is remaining with Shannons Insurance.

Stephanie has been in the ACT for three years, the past twelve months as Business Development Manager.

Shannons is still very committed to maintaining a strong presence and supporting events in the ACT and a new Regional Business Development Officer will be supporting events in the ACT.

As a result of the decision to close the Fyshwick office, the Shannons Clubroom will no longer be accessible.

Clubs affected by the closure may wish to contact the Spanish Australian Club in Narrabundah as a possible alternative facility in which to hold their meetings.

For all Shannons policy & claims related enquiries, contact Shannons on 13 46 46.
For all event or sponsorship enquiries contact Sheena Watkins.



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Council of ACT Motor Clubs Certificate of Appreciation

As a token of the esteem in which Stephanie Shaw, Shannons Business Development Manager, was held by the Council of ACT Motor Clubs and its Affiliated clubs, Greg Francis, President of CACTMC presented Stephanie with a Certificate of Appreciation at the January General Meeting.

The presentation was roundly applauded by the Delegates present.

The Council of ACT Motor Clubs wishes Stephanie all the best back in Queensland.

Shannons Business Development Manager, Stephanie Shaw receiving the Certificate of Appreciation, presented to her by the President, Greg Francis.



Queanbeyan Park no longer available for car displays.

Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council have advised that Queanbeyan Park, will not be available for car shows in future.

The decision has been made to stop further deterioration of the trees in the park.

Car show events that are already booked in the park, will be honoured by the Council.

The **Spanish Australian Club** in Narrabundah, has modern Club facilities and a large outdoor space that is amenable to car shows and Club displays. The Club welcomes car clubs and their members to come and have a look at the facilities that it can offer.

This venue is becoming very popular for events like: Annual Skyline Day, Battle of Waterloo and German Cars & Coffee among others.

The Spanish Australian Club is also the regular venue for CACTMC's meetings.



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Vale Graeme Rossiter



Tennis was Graeme Rossiter's underlying passion – but he also had a great interest in classic cars and classic motoring.

Graeme often spoke about a Holden Torana of his youth, and that he would swap anything that came after that – for his first Torana. At car shows Graeme would gravitate to the Torana display, dragging his many friends over. Graeme was sure that the Torana was where motoring in Australia began.

With the boys largely grown up, and unable to find or afford an XU1 Torana, Graeme purchased a red MG B and joined the MG Car Club Canberra. One Easter Graeme drove his MGB to Brisbane for an MG National meeting and had the misfortune of hitting a locust plague around Coonabarabran. With a radiator completely clogged and the roads inches deep in locusts, he was held up for days. Graeme had to be very innovative just to make it there. But he did, Graeme was still finding dead grasshoppers in that car for many years. In that red MGB Graeme epitomised one of the MG mottos: *'...drive em till the road wears out'*

The red MGB was used extensively before being upgraded to a green MG RV8. The RV8 was the car that the MGB never was. Graeme imported one from Japan on the basis of its un-molested originality. It was an exceptional example of the car and with it Graeme won its class at an MG National Meeting concours d 'elegance. The best of the best.

Graeme served on the MG Car Club Committee for six years. He organised or assisted at numerous car club events. He loved car displays, and he loved Sunday afternoon drives. Both the MG Car Club and later the Mercedes Car Club enjoyed outings to his property at Mongarlowe. Graeme was the go-to for a large annual display event called



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Terribly British Day, for an event that he called 'Big Boys Toys'; and he was always a willing helper at Club motorkhanas Graeme was instrumental in a review of our Club's approach to display days – much preferring a show and shine or pride of ownership approach to a stuffy rules-driven concours d 'elegance

Always a little restless for something a bit faster than an MG, Graeme moved on to a black Porsche Boxter that he used to raise the standard in the car park at the Department of Health in Woden. Graeme loved to drive it.

Then, maybe not faster, but certainly more unique and classier, came the Mercedes Benz S Class with a V8 considerably bigger than the V8 of his MG. And so, Graeme also joined the Mercedes Benz Club of Canberra.

Graeme served on the Committee of the Council of ACT Motor Clubs for over 5 years – both as Vice President and as Events Director. The Council is the representative body of over 75 car clubs in the ACT, and like everything else, Graeme approached the task with passion and professionalism.

Graeme was the Council's organiser and fixer – and was often seen at Club and Council events in what became his trademark white overalls.

As the Events Director for the Council, Graeme was the principal organiser of the Council's major annual event – the Wheels Display Day. He organised this annual event involving around 600 cars from 70 Clubs for two years at Kings Park and then another 3-4 years at the Treasury car park by the Lake. Graeme extended himself even further by being an organiser (in those white overalls) of the German Auto Display Days.

Graeme was invited to be a display judge at many prestige car displays. You are only invited to be a judge if you really know something about classic cars. One event that Graeme regularly judged was Auto Italia- Think Alfa Romeo, Lancia, Ferrari, Maserati, and Lamborghini.



At one Auto Italia, Graeme carefully arranged a line-up of some extraordinarily rare and expensive Lamborghinis. One particularly valuable model on display was the Lamborghini Countach, and Graeme positioned an outstanding example, a black beauty, right at the end as a statement of '... this is as good as it gets'.

After the display was underway, a very tired and scruffy Lamborghini arrived from Melbourne, and simply parked itself right in front of the 'showroom' Countach. Having



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parked, the owner did not want to move, and so unperturbed Graeme continued with his very precise judging of originality and condition – in those white overalls. Until the owner of the scruffy car, with no invitation, started his car and gave it some extreme revs. Graeme was standing right behind the car and copped most of the exhaust and muck; and the once gleaming black Countach copped the rest. Graeme's white overalls were never as white again.

While with the Council, Graeme became involved in the preservation of Canberra's motoring heritage through the van that is known as Wilkie's Pie Cart. Operated by Tom Wilkinson, the beige Chevrolet van was a very familiar sight around Canberra between 1940 and 1970.

With a reputation for the quality of the pies, it was not unusual to see a number of parliamentarians standing in line to buy a pie or sausage roll for morning tea or lunch when the pie cart came to various workplaces including Parliament House. According to folklore a switch board operator used to call around Parliament House advising the arrival of the Pie Cart.

The Pie Cart was found at Murrumbateman around 1990 in a dilapidated condition and was restored by the Council. Keeping it roadworthy and displaying it was just as big a task – and this is where Graeme came in. And he did a fabulous job. So, if you see Wilkie's Pie Cart at a special Canberra event or car display, check it for Graeme's fingerprints – they are all over it – just as the energy and good humour of Graeme's life is all over the Classic car movement in Canberra.

Thank you, Graeme, for everything you did for the classic car movement in Canberra.

Thanks to Brian Calder, MG Car Club, for the above tribute to Graeme Rossiter.

Event information

Send event notifications to info@CACTMC.org.au for inclusion in CACTMC's calendar & FaceBook. If your event is promoted on Facebook, make sure that it is PUBLIC so that we are able to share the notification!

Event Venue:

If your club is looking for a suitable venue for a forthcoming event/display, then look no further than the Spanish - Australian Club in Narrabundah. It has all the necessary amenities to make your event a success. For further information and bookings contact Chris, Club Manager, on 6295 6506

Next General Meeting

The next General Meeting of CACTMC will be held at the Spanish Australian Club in Narrabundah on Thursday 15th February 2024, commencing at 7.30pm



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The Council of ACT Motor Clubs inc. presents

Shannons Wheels 2024

An Autumn Show & Shine for all marques

Celebrating the Hot Hatch

in aid of : Respite Care for QBN



Queanbeyan Showgrounds

Sunday 18th February

Exhibitor entry from 8:00am to 9:30am

Public entry from 10:00am to 1:30pm

Sponsored by Shannons Insurance

& held in conjunction with the *Queanbeyan Markets*

enquiries: info@cactmc.org.au

web: www.cactmc.org.au