

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CAR CLUB

## "The Thirties"

*Recorded as competing at Bob Rossy Cup Day 1933?*

- There is evidence that a car or motoring club existed at Melbourne University in the late 1930's. No further details are available at the time of writing.

## "1955-1995: The First Forty Years"

1955-56

- In October, the present Melbourne University Car Club was founded. Approximately 25 persons attended the 'Foundation Meeting'
- The first club publication, a single foolscap sheet called "UNBALANCED NOTES" [Vol.1 No.0], was distributed, dated 30 October 1955.
- The "Post Exam Run" which included a concurrent 'Novelty Gymkhana' was the club's first competition. It started from "Simpson & the Donkey near the Shrine" attracting at least 16 cars for an entry fee of five shillings (50¢). *Won by Ron Collis F.S Holden*

*Keith Nicholls?*

1956-57

President: *A*, Secretary: BRUCE ACKLAND, Treasurer: TIM KENDALL, BRIAN FLEMING (Competition), SHEILA BRADLEY (Social), DARIEN CASSIDY (Publicity)

- The Club became increasingly active as the year progressed, and membership steadily rose, reaching 50 by June.
- Application was made for recognition as a 'Motor Sporting Club' by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS; itself only three years old).
- Club membership fee was five shillings (50¢) pa, claimed to be the second cheapest in Australia.
- Another three foolscap page edition of 'UNBALANCED NOTES' [Vol.1 No.1] was published in June, co-edited by BRIAN FLEMING & TIM KENDALL
- Metal radiator badges ordered: nickel plated inlaid with royal & 'Geelong Grammar' blue with University crest surmounting a sports car of indeterminate origin - expected price 15/- (\$1.50).

### CLUB COMPETITION

Two events held attracting eight and six competitors respectively, no further details available.

Peninsula Trial (MUCC/A7CV), 13 May

started in Dandenong Rd, Dingley and finished in Wells Rd, Frankston.

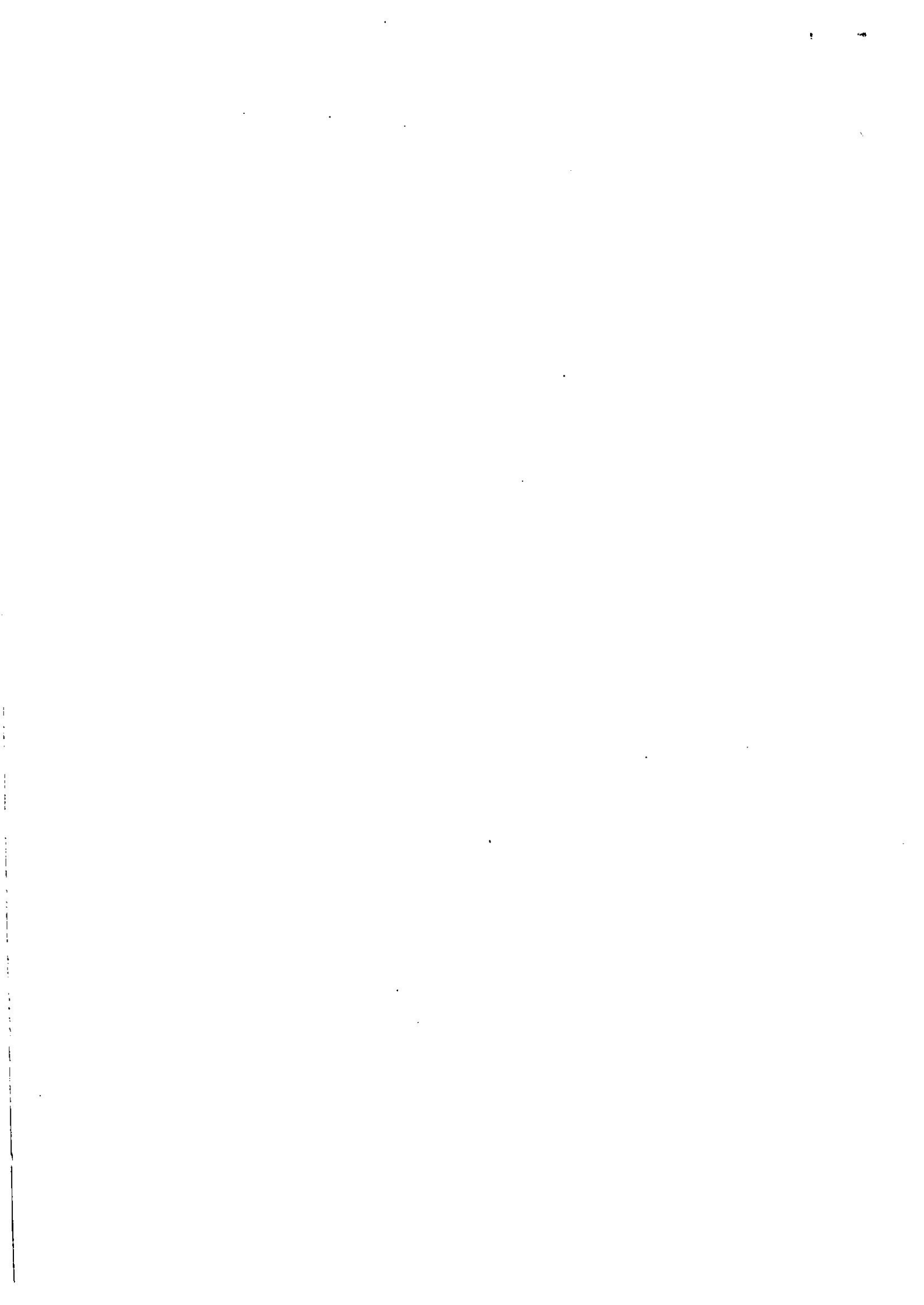
S:15 (6 MUCC).

1. Roger Abraham & others	Morris Minor	0 pts
2. Bill King	Volkswagen	
3. Ron Collis	Standard Spacemaster	

Night Navigation Trial, 23 June - organised by Brian Fleming

*results not reported*

*\* This is the badge produced for the original club. The existence of the badge was known, but investigation enquiries at the major badge makers proved unsuccessful until Bruce Ackland found one on a car, contacted the owner and borrowed it. Stokes? said "We've got one in the display cabinet, we still have the die".*



1957-58

President: BRUCE ACKLAND, Secretary: KEITH NICHOLLS  
DEIDRE RYAN (Minutes)

- Not yet two years old and the club recorded its first member obituary:  
*"It is with regret that the Club records its tribute to PHIL ROTHFIELD, who died following an accident at P.I.A.R.C. Opening Meeting. Although one of our younger members, Phil was also one of the most enthusiastic, and his absence will be keenly felt, all the more so as in the short time after his co-option to the Committee, he had proved himself a most valued member."*
- Annual award, 'The Aggregate Trophy' introduced - determined by points for all MUCC event results and for directing/officiating at events.
- Club radiator badges were available for 12/6 (\$1.25), membership remained at 5/- (50¢).
- Five 'editions' of Unbalanced Notes were produced, plus 3 circulars to members.
- An important year for student motorists at 'the shop' - it was the final year of unrestricted car parking on the main campus.
- Membership 85.
- Bruce Ackland got to work on and drive a Porsche prepared for the Mobilgas Trial.

MEMBERS IN COMPETITION

- Joe Moharich, with Brian Fleming as navigator, rolled his Sunbeam Alpine in the 'Melbourne Tech Car Club' Night Trial. Daryl Grant/Bruce Ackland (MG TC) believed to have finished in first three.
- Roger Abraham 9th o/r & Class 1st Begonia Rally.
- Bruce Ackland 2nd VADC (Victorian Amateur Drivers Club) Trial - navigating his MG TC.
- Brian Fleming/Malcolm McLeod 1st VSCC (Victorian Sporting Car Club) Treasure Hunt.
- Frank Kilfoyle/Bruce Clarkson 1st Apex Wonthaggi Midnight Trial - 400 miles of "navigation and mud" between 8pm and 10am.
- Ron Collis (Chevrolet) started in the Mobilgas Round Australia Rally.
- Club members filled first three places of RMTCCC 'President's Trophy' Trial on 15 September
  1. Dennis Corr/Bruce Ackland/Daryl Grant
  2. Bruce Clarkson/Frank Kilfoyle
  3. David Abbot/A. Abbot

CLUB COMPETITION

**Novice Trial**, 7 April - organised by Brian Fleming  
from College Cres., Parkville/Doncaster/Templestowe/Black Springs/The Basin/Donvale/The Boulevard, Kew (finish).  
S:7

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Dave Abbott  | Morris Minor   |
| 2. Terry Elkins | Vauxhall Velox |
| 3. John Taylor  | Volkswagen     |

**Mountain Trial**, 28 April  
Burwood Hwy start/Mt.Evelyn/Monbulk/Narre Warren Nth/Harkaway/Grays Hill/Pakenham/Emerald/Warramate/Macclesfield/Wonga Park/The Boulevard (finish).  
S:12,F:11

- |                  |                |          |
|------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. Jim Houghton  | Volkswagen     | 1730 pts |
| 2. Bruce Ackland | MG TC          | 1670 pts |
| =3. John Taylor  | Volkswagen     | 1480 pts |
| =3. Terry Elkins | Vauxhall Velox | 1480 pts |

**Night Trial**, 18 May - organised (directed) by Keith Nicholls  
Ringwood Nth/Cottles Bridge/Hoddle's Creek/Yarra Glen/Watson's Creek/Wattle Glen/Rosanna Railway station (finish).  
E:10,S:9,F:4

- |                    |            |          |
|--------------------|------------|----------|
| 1. Bruce Clarkson  | Volkswagen | 130 pts. |
| 2. John Taylor     | Volkswagen | 131 pts  |
| 3. Kevin Carrabott | Peugeot    | 384 pts  |

**Gymkhana, 23 June**

Campbellfield - "14/15 cars"

1. Frank Kilfoyle	Volkswagen	34½
2. Ian McDonald	Austin 7	12½
3. Bruce Ackland	MG TC	10

**Peninsular Trial, 21 July - organised by Bruce Ackland**

1. Frank Kilfoyle	Volkswagen
2. Jim Houghton	Volkswagen
3. Roger Abraham	Morris Minor

**Trial, 22 September - organisers: Frank Kilfoyle & Bruce Clarkson**

Royal Melbourne Technical College Car Club and Volkswagen Club invited.

Broadmeadows Rlwy Stn/Diggers Rest/Waterloo Flat/Trentham East/Kyneton/Whans/Kerrie/Whittlesea/  
Diamond Creek (finish).

E:22 (10 MUCC)

1. (1) Daryl Grant/Bruce Ackland
2. (4) Dennis Corr/T.Davies Simca
3. (5) C.Clancy/R.Powell

**Treasure Hunt (inc. gymkhana at finish), 15 December**  
University to Mt.Martha.

*results not reported*

**Aggregate Trophy: FRANK KILFOYLE**

## 1958-59

President: KEITH NICHOLS, Secretary: BRIAN FLEMING, Treasurer: TIM KENDALL  
DEIDRE RYAN (Minutes), BRUCE ACKLAND\* (Competition), DAVE ABBOTT (Social), STEVEN COFFEY  
(Publicity), IAN McDONALD (Editor).

\* Bruce Ackland resigned September [employment in Sydney] replaced by DIANE HANCOCK (co-opted).

- Constitution amended to substitute "shall be undergraduate students, if available" for "shall be either first or second year students" in relation to at least two members of the Committee.
- 'Unbalanced Notes' renamed 'UNICAR' from August following a member competition won by Bruce Ackland [Other suggestions included: 'Torque', 'A Complete MUCCup', 'On The Move', 'What's On Next', 'MUCC Pocket Book' and 'The De-Generator']. Printed by the SRC, it was published monthly in the same foolscap format.
- Application for Association with the CAMS granted, fee £5.5.0 (\$10.50), enables club to send non-voting observers to State Council meetings.
- Club membership maintained at 5/- (50¢).
- Twilight Trial & barbecue raised money for club entrant, Miss Bev Gerrard, in WUS Miss University Quest - £9.9.0 (\$18.90) could not compete with Womens College who raised £180.0.0 (\$360.00).
- Competitors in the Mountain Trial encountered 3/4" snow on the Black Spur. There were also incidents with bystanders throwing snowballs at the cars.
- The Club provided crowd marshals for LCCA's Melbourne Grand Prix meeting at Albert Park.
- An 'armchair rally' was conducted by Tim Kendall, claimed to be an Australian first. Won by Brian Fleming/Andrew Burston.

### MEMBERS IN COMPETITION

- Members competed at closed invitation hillclimbs at Mt.Martha and Hepburn Springs  
Mt.Martha 15 December: Geoff Putnam (VW), Dave Wallis (Austin A30),  
Mt.Martha 31 January 1959: John Tandy (Holden s/w) Class 1st, David Corr (Fiat 1100),  
Hepburn Springs 8 February 1959: Mike & Terry Bellair (Austin 7)
- Club invited to Templestowe Inter-Club Hillclimb/Gymkhana, 11 May - fielded a team of 16  
Hillclimb times:

Basil Rice (Austin Healey)	68.74s
Rob Imison (TR3)	68.82s
Tom Hayes (MG TC s/c)	70.09s

### CLUB COMPETITION

**Commencement Rally, 30 March** - director Brian Fleming, asst. Tim Kendall

1. John Brine	Volkswagen	8139 pts
2. ? Coffey	Ford Zephyr	7760 pts
3. John Grant	Morris Minor	7349 pts

**Gymkhana, 20 April**

S:4

1. Brian Fleming	Renault
2. Dave Abbott	Simca Aronde
3. Ron Collis	Vanguard Spacemaster

**Twilight Trial, 18 May**

*results not reported*

**'Jinx' Mountain Trial, 13 July**

S/F:10

University/Heidelberg/Ringwood/Lilydale/Healesville/Marysville/Old Warburton/Mt.Evelyn/Box Hill.

1. John Tandy	Holden s/w	460 pts.
2. R.F Bullen		1050 pts.
3. Dave Wallis	Simca Aronde	1080 pts.

**August Fools Night Trial, 1 August**

S:20

Rosanna/St.Helena/McSweeney's Cnr/Wallan East/No.1 Camp/Strath Ck/Glenburn/.....

1. Brian Fleming	Renault	840 pts
2. John Tandy	Holden s/w	1060 pts
=3. John Plowwright (SMCV)		1740 pts
=3. Dave Wallis	Simca Aronde	1740 pts

**Farrago Trial, 14 September - director Steven Coffey**

S:29,F:25

University/Bundoora/St.Helena/Diamond Creek/Wattle Glen/Kangaroo Ground/Yering/Wonga Park/  
Montrose/Olinda/Scoresby/Dandenong Rd.

1. Geoff Putnam	Volkswagen	10 pts
2. J.Smith	Lorraine Dietrich	23 pts
3. G.Embelton	Holden	24 pts

**Peninsular Treasure Hunt & Gymkhana, 28 September - director Peter Hansen**

1. Dave Wallis	Simca Aronde
=2. David Asprey	
=2. John Tandy	Holden s/w

**"Editor's Birthday Rally", 6-7 December - directors Brian Fleming & Tim Kendall**

Melbourne-Jamieson-Melbourne: treasure hunt & gymkhana

Treasure Hunt

1. Dave Wallis	Austin A30	620
2. John Tandy	Holden s/w	560
3. Geoff Putnam	Volkswagen	530

Gymkhana

1. John Tandy	Holden s/w	459.8
2. John White	Hillman Minx	456.3
3. Dave Packham	Singer sports	450.3

**Aggregate Trophy: BRIAN FLEMING**

## 1959-60

President: KEITH NICHOLLS, Secretary: BRIAN FLEMING\*, Treasurer: TIM KENDALL  
JAN CULLEN (Minutes), DAVE WALLIS (Competition), STEVEN COFFEY (Membership), JOHN WHITE (Publicity/Asst.Editor), IAN McDONALD (Editor).

\* Brian Fleming stepped down from January 1960 (work transfer to Club Terrace, east of Orbost, for 6 months), GREG SCOTT co-opted.

- Constitution amendments were passed to:
  - a. permit the club to conduct competitions for other university clubs or organisations with the sanction of CAMS by addition of a membership category: 'Special Members' allowing such registered members to be eligible for one event declared a 'special' event by the Committee.
  - b. re-define club membership to satisfy the SRC requirements for a University 'A' Class Society.
- 'Commerce Car Trial' for the Commerce Students Society and 'Farrago Trial' organised under the provisions of 'a' above.
- Farrago Trial raised £3.9.3 (\$6.93) for the Alfred Hospital & £9.10.0 (\$19) for Farrago charity donation. The event won by Greg Scott (Rover).
- The CAMS placed restrictions on the number of events organised by a club. MUCC agreed to share events with Melbourne Technical College Car Club.
- The Commencement Rally was marred by numerous errors in instructions.
- Ian McDonald continued to campaign for the use of 'safety belts' in cars - special discount prices arranged for members.
- Dave Wallis destroyed his fifth A30 sump for the year before finishing the last 700 yards of the 'Espresso' Trial on the end of John Tandy's tow rope.
- Letterhead paper introduced for UNICAR page 1 from July (Vol.1, No.11).
- Membership reached 105 by 30 July.
- Gales destroyed the pits at the Phillip Island circuit, but the timing box survived.
- MUCC affiliated with the CAMS from 1 January 1960.

### TIMING

- Club commenced timekeeping activities at Phillip Island 28-30 March (Easter) with makeshift equipment and little or no experience. Success of this meeting led us to offer the services of the team to PIARC for all future meetings which was accepted.
- By the second meeting on 15 June (Queen's Birthday) a team structure of 13-15 members had been decided and 6 swiss 'Excelsior Park' split-hand stopwatches and 6 clipboards purchased, funded by an SRC loan of £75 (\$150). Everything being carried in a donated worn out leather attache case, despite which the team was the best equipped of any in Australia.
- Much of the Timing Team's activities at these meetings at Phillip Island centred on building the timing box and clearing gorse from camp site/s.
- The team lead by Tim Kendall.
- It was noted in October that the club was approached by Albury & District Car Club (ADCC) for timing services at Hume Weir circuit on 1 November - no further report.
- In the first club year (to March 1960) of this activity the team successfully serviced 5 meetings at Phillip Island for the PIARC.

### MEMBERS IN COMPETITION

- Hillclimbs    Hepburn Springs: George Spanos (Morris Major), Brian Fleming (Renault) 49.14s, Dave Wallis (Austin A30) 49.49s  
                  Templestowe: Dave Wallis (Austin A30) 84.15, Brian Fleming (Renault).
- Circuit        Shann Turnbull ran his Hillman California at Fishermans Bend, Longford (Tas) and Tarrawingee for some fourth places and class wins. Best lap at Tarrawingee 1m 23s.  
                  John Tandy (Holden) and George Spanos (Morris Major) competed at Fishermans Bend.

Templestowe Inter-Club hillclimb/gymkhana (VSCC) 3 August  
club team of 15

Hillclimb	1. Lloyd Bryant	Austin Healey 100	69.70s (overall 3: 160.51)
	2. Bruce McPhail	MG TF	76.12s
	3. J.Dyas	MG TC	76.37s
Gymkhana	1. Rob Imison	Volkswagen	76.62s (overall 1: 154.29)
	2. Brian Fleming	Volkswagen	79.99s (overall 2: 157.74)
	3. Bruce Clarkson	Volkswagen	85.44s

Club finished 3rd behind Victorian Sporting Car Club (VSCC) and Australian Motor Sports Club (AMSC)

VSCC Midnight Trial: Geoff Putnam/Bill Bates (VW), Col Laity/Dave Wallis (Simca Aronde)

VSCC Easter Trial : Col Laity/Dave Wallis (Simca Aronde)

#### CLUB COMPETITION

**Commencement Rally, 5 April** Director Brian Fleming

1. John White	Hillman	1887 pts.
2. Mick Castle	MG TF	1886 pts.
3. Rob Imison	TR3	1884 pts.

**Gymkhana, 3 May**

1. John White	Hillman	837 pts.
2. Brian Fleming	Renault	831.5 pts.
3. John Tandy	Holden s/w	788.5 pts.

**Treasure Hunt, 23 May**

Mornington Peninsular

1. Geoff Putnam	Volkswagen	73.307 pts.
2. Dave Wallis	Austin A30	72.950 pts.
3. Tim Kendall		64.950 pts.

**Night Trial, 27 June** Director Keith Nicholls

Invited clubs: SMCV & VSCCA S:16, F:14

1. Brian Fleming/Frank Kilfoyle	Renault	156 pts.
2. Geoff Putnam/Geoff Webb	Volkswagen	144 pts.
3. John Plowright/John Duke (SMCV)		134 pts.

**'Espresso' Trial, 12 July** Director: Steven Coffey

Kew/Croydon/Gruyere/Yarra Glen/Rob Roy

1. Brian Fleming	Renault
2. Dave Wallis	Austin A30
3. Geoff Putnam	Volkswagen

**Phillip Island 'Club Day' 4 October** MUCC invitee

3 gymkhana events on various parts of the circuit.

1. John Taws	Volkswagen	295.9 pts.
2. Brian Fleming	Volkswagen	295.2 pts.
3. John Tandy	Holden s/w	291.4 pts.

**Commemoration Rally 5/6 December**

Treasure Hunts & gymkhana

Treasure Hunt (long)

=1. Brian Fleming	Renault	310 pts.
=1. John Tandy & others	Holden s/w	310 pts.
3. Ian McDonald		270 pts.

Treasure Hunt (short)

1. Tom Swanson		220 pts.
----------------	--	----------

Gymkhana

1. Brian Fleming	Renault	374 pts.
2. John Tandy	Holden s/w	356.5 pts.
3. Dave Packham		350.5 pts.



## 1960-61

President: KEITH NICHOLLS, Secretary: TIM KENDALL, Treasurer: STEPHEN COFFEY, GREG SCOTT (Asst. Secretary), DAVE WALLIS (Competition), GEOFF WEBB (Membership), JOHN TANDY (General), ANDREW BURSTON (Editor).

- Further amendments were made to the Constitution to comply with SRC 'Reference Manual of Club & Societies Administration'- memberships and fees redefined:
  - (a) Member of Student Union is a club member, without further fee,
  - (b) Student Union member may be a competition member for a fee of 5/- (50¢) for club licence required by the CAMS,
  - (c) Non Student Union members may join club for fee of 5/- and become competition member as in (b) above: total fee 10/- (\$1).

- Accounting period became 1 January to 31 December.

- The Club conducted its first 'Open' trial on 24 April, attracting 14 competitors [8 finishers] and 7 inches of rain, in north eastern hills and Murrumbidgee's.

1. Tony Theiler/Martin Hartigan	Volkswagen	222 pts.
2. Peter Coffey/Doug Rutherford	Ford Anglia	249 pts.
3. Frank Kilfoyle/	Volkswagen	290 pts.

*overbook car 0  
(G Scott/BF)*

- SRC routine grant reduced by 50%
- Andrew Burston 'took on' the Commonwealth Government on the subject of the removal of sales tax on seat belts, and kept the Club informed through the pages of UNICAR.
- Membership 100
- UNICAR produced by a secretarial service from the Christmas edition.
- Sadly a further member obituary was recorded; for John Morlit - club competitor and timing team member who joined the club in 1960 - killed in a road accident at Kyneton.

### TIMING

- The Club receives a fee for the services of the team. Used to repay SRC loan for watches.
- Team numbers at Phillip Island limited to 20 at request of PIARC.
- The efforts of members reduced the result checking procedures from 1 week to ONE evening.
- The team were official timekeepers at 7 Phillip Island meetings (6 for PIARC & 1 for VSCC) for the 60/61 club year. In addition we assisted the LCCA with the Armstrong 500 Touring Car race at Phillip Island and the 'International' meeting at Hume Weir.
- The team discovered that the system that worked well for short races did not cope with a 500 mile 'marathon'. The lap chart took 4 days to sort out (LCCA timekeepers spent almost a fortnight preparing the race results) and no recognition was made of our efforts, which left some bitterness! It must be noted that the timekeeping fee had been waived for this meeting.
- All told 31 members have done some timing, excluding those engaged on 'continuity' and other support duties.
- The highlight of the Queens Birthday (12/13 June) did not occur on the track but rather in 'the copse' (near Lanes MG corner) as the timing team celebrated the demise of Tim Kendall's bachelor status. Activities as reported in UNICAR defy description.

### MEMBERS IN COMPETITION

- Peter Coffey became a 'regular' at Phillip Island meetings and also entered the Anglia at the inaugural Warwick Farm (NSW) meeting for 8th o/r and class 1st. His most recent acquisition, the ex Reg Hunt Cooper Aston Martin, was not raced during the year.
- Also appearing on the track at Phillip Island were John Tandy (Holden FJ) and Mike Shatin (Austin A70 spl).
- Frank Kilfoyle navigated Kevin Lott to first place in the BP Rally in a VW. Other MUCC competitors were Peter Coffey and Roger Abraham
- The Club entered the Templestowe Inter-Club for the third year. Team of 15 comprised 12 members and three from the Tech car club.

Hillclimb	1. Peter Coffey	Ford Anglia	71.91s (overall 1. 157.60 - 4th o/r)
	2. D. Smith (Tech)	MG A	74.24s (overall 2. 166.67)
	3. John Taws	Volkswagen	76.96s

Gymkhana	1. Peter Coffey	Ford Anglia	85.69s
	2. Brian Fleming	Hillman Minx	91.46s (overall 3. 170.88)
	3. D.Noble	Volkswagen	91.82s

1. VSCC, 2. LCCA, 3. AMSC, 4. MUCC, 5. A7CV, 6. VADC

- Seven members entered the MTCCC ¼ Mile Sprint at Fishermans Bend. Brian Fleming's Minx "lost its bonnet and was generally torn to pieces" to run as a '1000-1500cc sports' car

1. Peter Wainwright	Holden	19.0s
2. Brian Fleming	Hillman Minx	20.8s
3. John Taws	Volkswagen	21.2s

- The AMSC Inter-Club Motorkhana on 27 november attracted 10 entries from MUCC - unfortunately individual results are not known: Dave Collier (VW) 1st driver, 1st club was Goggomobile Club.

#### CLUB COMPETITION

**Commencement Rally (inc. Farrago Trial), 27 March** Directors: Brian Fleming, Greg Scott.

S:40,F:34

1. K.Zinner/Eril Setford		701.9 pts.
2. John Tandy	Holden s/w	701.4 pts.
3. Don Humphries	Simca Aronde	694 pts.

Farrago Trial 1st: David Wilson Inter-Faculty team 1st: Medicine

**Treasure Hunt, 21 May** Directors: Jan Cullen, Ian McDonald.

Mt.Martha S:3

1. David Wallis	Simca Aronde
2. John Tandy	Holden s/w
3. John Grant	

**President's Night Trial, 11 June** director: Keith Nicholls

S:22,F:17

1. David Wallis/Col Laity	Simca Aronde	31 pts.
2. John Tandy/Doug Rutherford	Holden s/w	54 pts.
3. Rob Imison/Tony Imison	Volkswagen	61 pts.

**Winter Trial, 9 July** directors: John Tandy, Doug Rutherford

*results not reported*

**Gymkhana - Oaklands Junction**

S:6

1. John Doncaster	Volkswagen
2. John McMillan	Fiat 500
3. John Taws	Volkswagen

**Recovery Trial, 10 December** directors: Geoff Sproat, Geoff Webb

Invited; A7CV, AMSC, VADC

Phillip island-Inverloch S/F:6

1. Neil Johannesen/M.Press (A7CV)	Holden	28 pts.
2. Tim Kendall/Brian Fleming	Hillman	35 pts.
3. Bill Denvil/S.Rintoul	Simca Aronde	49 pts.

**'Midsummer Nightmare' Treasure Hunt, 22 January 1961**

S/F:9

1. John Tandy/A.Lawrie	Holden	205 pts.
2. Tim Kendall/Geoff Sproat	Morris Minor	207 pts.
3. Bill Denvil/Dick Denvil/Mrs Denvil	Simca Aronde	228 pts.

**Hillclimb - Mt.Martha (SMCV); 19 February 1961** MUCC invitee

S:12

1. John Tandy	Holden	24.2s
2. John Taws	Volkswagen	25.0s
3. Greg Scott	Volkswagen	25.4s

**-Aggregate Trophy: JOHN TANDY**