

**LAST
FALCON V8**



Newsletter

August 2023







Falcon GT Club of SA Inc

Web: <http://www.gtclubsau.com.au>

Email: admin@gtclubsau.com.au

fb: Falcon GT Club of South Australia Inc

Post: PO Box 289, KentTown South Australia, 5071

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Vice Presidents	Karl Brown Joe Pinneri	0408351391
Secretary	Michael Stavrides	0411473354
Treasurer	Tony Parente	0417844986
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FHMC Delegate	Ron Tebby (shaker9@outlook.com.au)	0413678021, 83870268
Merchandise	Vacant	
Life Members	Roger Haysman Alan Tenraa Sean Johnson Karl Brown Gary Watson (dec.)	Hugh Westphalen Kevin May Ray (Ben) Hall John Walters

The Falcon GT Club of SA Inc, the Committee and Members accept no responsibility for the authenticity or validity of any items or articles appearing in this newsletter.

All photos and imagery is sourced from fb: Falcon GT Club of South Australia Inc
and open source sites from the www.



CLUB EVENTS

for 2023

<i>Month</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Event</i>
Feb-23	Tuesday 21 Feb	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
	Saturday 25 Feb	Cruise Route 31 - Aldinga
Mar-23	Sunday 05 Mar	Jim Giovinazzo Memorial Cruise
	Tuesday 21 Mar	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
Apr-23	Tuesday 18 Apr	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
	Saturday 29 Apr	Mount Compass Hotel
May-23	Tuesday 16 May	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
	Sunday 21 May	
Jun-23	Sunday 11 Jun	The Hotel central in Riverton.
	Tuesday 20 Jun	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
Jul-23	Sunday 2 Jul	Yankalilla Run
	Tuesday 18 Jul	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
Aug-23	Sunday 13 Aug	Greenock Run
	Tuesday 15 Aug	Annual General Meeting Alberton Hotel, 7.30 pm
Sep-23	Tuesday 19 Aug	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
	22-24 Sep	Renmark Weekend
Oct-23	Tuesday 21 Oct	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
	Sunday 29 Oct	All Ford Day
Nov-23	Sat 04 Nov	Palmer Hotel
	Tuesday 21 Nov	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
Dec-23	Saturday 16 Dec	Mount Compass Hotel Xmas lunch
	Tuesday 19 Dec	Club Meeting – Alberton Hotel 7.30 pm
Jan-24	26-Jan	Falcon GT & Monaro Cruise

Event details released within Newsletter.
Club meetings are currently held on the THIRD
Tuesday of each month

at ALBERTON HOTEL
124 Port Road ALBERTON



President's Report

Welcome to All Falcon GT Enthusiasts

Order of Business: With Secretary emails Still down at the moment due to a server problem This is still being sorted out please bare with us during this time.

PLEASE send all emails to admin@gtclubsa.com.au care off the secretary and we will do our best to get back to you ASAP.

At the previous July Meeting Nominations for Committee positions were received for the current committee to remain as they are. At the August Club meeting the AGM was held with Hugh Westphalen as the Returning officer conducted the AGM with no new Nominations the current committee members were reinstate to their current portfolios within the Falcon GT Club of SA Inc committee.

The 19th Bathurst GT Nationals are still receiving a fair amount of inquiries please address them to the official email and facebook, additional Anyone wishing to receive official photos of their cars in front of the 19th GT nationals banner by Paul Tilley, his contact details are on the facebook page.

There are Award winning Results of all entrants their and frequently asked question pages for you to check out that will answer 99% of your questions, So "Please" look there first before calling the GT Owners of NSW Club Nationals committee for you questions.

The Release of the Motels/Accommodation list for the 20th GT Nationals on March 13th – 16th 2025 has been released. Time is flying past very quickly with less than 18 short months left to go to get our beloved beasts ready before the 20th Falcon GT Nationals are upon us, at Shepperton Victoria check the link out below, I have already booked my accommodation early bird gets the worm, already eager for a little warmer weather for the Nationals

https://www.20thfalcongtnationals2025.com/?fbclid=IwAR1d0iwe5_O5jqOkAbZBgThqFGakglP8wocU6pe7NXyzd7-oNSqwI8PivTw

If you would like to have a country Victorian Holiday in Shepperton Victoria Start planning now, I am hoping to encourage as many Falcon GT Club of SA members to make a joint journey to Shepperton with a huge contingent of South Australian Members making the Journey together, as time fly's by very quickly before you know it, it will be upon us, so don't be caught thinking, I won't rush it there's plenty of time to plan for the next nationals.....Or is there! 18 months and counting

Check out The Falcon GT Club of SA Facebook page for upcoming runs from the events committee, Bryan & Karren McMillian regularly post updates of future events and members post great photos showing the great friendship a great turnouts with a on previous runs, if you have not been on a run lately please feel free to join in for a family filled day that caters for everyone, so join in you might be pleasantly surprised. With the events committee putting forward a great event schedule over the next 5-6 months, Please plan ahead if you can make the time and feel free to join in on the runs, I realise with life these days our schedules are jamb packed with work & family commitments, with more than 6 runs to choose from see if we can fit at least 1 into your schedule and take the family out with some like-minded Family of Falcon GT Enthusiasts.

Check the run flyers as you may want to secure your bookings in one of these great events.

- September 22-23-24 Renmark long weekend
- October 29th All Ford Day Oakbank
- November 4th Palmer Hotel
- December 16th Mount Compass End of year Lunch
- January 26th Australia Day Falcon Gt & Monaro Joint Cruise
- With a few others thrown in as contingencies for inclement weather

Keep your eye on the events pages for the dates on Roll racing as a club event, being held shortly after the Falcon GT Nationals at Bathurst, It will be it was around Later in 2023 or early 2024, which for one I am looking forward too immensely, cruising up to Tailem Bend and getting to open up the Mighty Falcon GT's roar up under full noise down the main straight at The Bend Raceway as a club, those that do not wish to participate, there is a terrific balcony area for viewing the mighty GT's rip up the bitumen and wonderful restaurant there to dine and relax and watch in style.

Get your orders in for your Newly Designed and personalised to your model specific Falcon GT, these Shirts are High quality Cotton Dress shirt with embroidered Model Specific GT logos of your Falcon GT with as little or as much details as you wish, you may even want a Polo shirt if you choose too.

Proudly wear them on Club runs/Cruise's, car shows-events and display your model on your shirt letting all in sundry know you Drive a Mighty Falcon GT. Contact Tim Crowther to take your orders Personalised with grille & guard badges on the sleeves and large Guard Badge on your back of the shirt and club logo over your heart, please check the newsletter for styles to order. Have them ready wear fgor this summers cruises and shows

Stay Safe and we will see you soon

Peter Polson

President

Falcon GT Club of SA.Inc



Mr Ed!

Greetings Team

As I slowly loose faith in today's youth, as a result of the constant saturation of the sanctity (*lunacy!*) of EV ownership and of the belief, one is on a crusade to save the planet from the perils of fossil fuels (and of it's products: plastics and rubber), by submitting to narrow minded, fool opinion, to advocate for a vehicle that: limits your ability to cover distance in a reasonable time and creates trip hazards across foot paths as a result of selfless morons filling up their appliance, that is parked on the street from the home power box, via an extension cord attached to a perpetual spinning fan, or a 24hr solar panel! Recently, I witnessed something that gave me satisfaction and pride in owning an Australian built V8 and I redeemed some hope, that all is not lost with our youth today.

Now, my daily is a bright red (Venom Red) BA Falcon XLS Ute with the Barra 220 V8 (three valve, single over head cam with VCT) equipped with Herrod pipes and sports exhaust! This makes for a glorious rumble on turn of the key (*much to my neighbours morning delight!*) and a substantial roar with healthy application of right foot!

Traveling to and from work, I pass several private schools around the time of school drop off and pick up. During these periods, I generally am immersed in a traffic sea of white or grey SUVs of Germanic decent, Japanese pick ups and (Ehhh!) Teslas. Not too many Chinese brands in these areas, through I do observe a few MGs with a kid feeling great shame, slumped low in the passenger seat.

It was one time, during a school drop off period whilst in traffic, I glimpsed a passenger door window crack open on a white Audi SUV and a young face peer back over his shoulder, glancing a yearning look at the Ute, as I rumbled by. As I got passed the Audi, I notice the window close. This action was repeated at the next set of traffic lights, as the same white Audi SUV approached the Ute, the passenger window cracked open again when level with the Utes exhaust. To reward the young boys interest, I quickly dabbed the right pedal, waking up the other drivers around me from there fixation with the rear of the bland appliance in front of them. The window closed as the parent veered away, to drop off the young petrol head, no doubt day dreaming of the time he gains his licence and spends his parent's inheritance on a Venom Red, BA Falcon V8 Ute!

There have been other instances of when I have caught glimpses of admiring looks of lust and appreciation towards the Ute, GT and Fairmont by school boys, as I pass by on my journey either to work or home. Each time, I try to turn the car up to 11, to further arose the youth that are taking in the delights of witnessing an Aussie V8 in a sea of white and grey SUVs.

One day, the youth of today will be shopping for their first car, hopefully, an Aussie V8 instead of the EV 'Playstation'! This is how we today, ignite that passion in youths which we all have enjoyed, that motivated us to want, and then own Falcon GTs. To hide them in the shed deprives the youth today of visually seeing these 'beasts' rumbling on the road amongst all the silent mediocrity. To let them imagine what could be (*if I may quote some old (gasp!) GM slogans*) 'their driving future'. It is fitting that the article in this issue is of when Ford dropped the ball, a lesson learnt.....'Gotta love,..... a V8!'

Keep on **Grand Touring**.

ED.



Meeting Minutes

GT Club of SA

Tuesday 15th August 2023

Venue: Alberton Hotel

Item	Title	Respon	Attach
1.0	BACKGROUND		
	Welcome	P Polson	
1.1	Chairperson: P Polson Secretary: M Stavrides Treasurer: T Parente Present: Peter Polson, Micheal Stavrides, Marylyn Harvey, Joseph Wegiel, Gabby Hayes, Hugh Westphalen, Jaime McNeil, Jeff Gilbert, Kerry Xenophou, Karl & Leanne Brown, Andy Read(new member) Brian & Karen McMillian, Joe Pinnieri, Tony Parenti, Murray Blight, Gary Bails		
1.2	Apologies: Adam May, Alan Tenraa, Ron Tebby, Sean Johnson, Tony Jordan, Chris O'Carroll , Lisa Polson, Julie Westphalen, John & Di Waters, Robyn Hayes, Ben & Pat Hall, Micheal & Alex Stivhataris, Kevin May, Kathleen Mincham		
1.3	Meeting Opened: 7:25pm		
1.4	Minutes of previous meeting - Accepted as a true & accurate record Moved: Hugh Westphalen Seconded: Karl Brown	P Polson	
1.5	Business Arising previous Minutes: None	P Polson	
2.0	STANDING ITEMS		
2.1	New Members: Andy Read owns a Ford Mercury looking forward to seeing you on some runs in the future	P Polson	



Meeting Minutes **GT Club of SA** **Tuesday 15th August 2023** **Venue: Alberton Hotel**

2.2	Correspondence: Small number of membership renewals, and Shannons upcoming Auction catalogue	M Stavrides	
2.3	Letters/Emails:	M Stavrides	
2.4	Inter Club Newsletters:	M Stavrides	
2.5	Treasurers Report: Moved:Leeanne Brown Seconded: Hugh Westphalen	T Parente	
2.6	Merchandise: quite a few shirts have been ordered by members and picked up over last 2 months from members. Keep it up we would love to see Members wearing them on club runs don't forget that these shirts can be customised to your model specific Falcon GT. If ordering send a copy of your receipt and bank account details to the Club Secretary and treasurer to get your Offset Rebate on your GT club Shirt.		
2.7	Historian/Property: N/A	John Waters	
2.8	Website: N/A	S Johnson	



Meeting Minutes

GT Club of SA

Tuesday 15th August 2023

Venue: Alberton Hotel

	We are still sorting out a few of the difficulties with the clubs secretary emails, please send all correspondence to admin@gtclubsa.com		
2.9	<p>Events: . Riveland customs and classic Rodders club</p> <p>All ford show n shine Taillem bend TBA sometime later this year</p> <p>September 22-23-24 Renmark long weekend</p> <p>October 29th All Ford Day Oakbank</p> <p>There is also a Taillem Bend All Ford Day which seems to be a better proposition for many of our club members who are not available for the traditional Oakbank event. That being said, if members do wish to enter under our club banner, there will not be a tent or stall available</p> <p>November 4th Palmer Hotel</p> <p>Keep your eye on the events pages for the dates on Roll racing as a club event, later this year 2023 or early next year</p> <p>December 16th Mount Compass End of year Lunch</p> <p>Janurary 26th Australia Day Falcon Gt & Monaro Joint Cruise With a few others thrown in as contingencies for inclement weather</p>	B & K McMillan	
3.0	NEW BUSINESS (GENERAL)		
3.1	Leanne Brown raised the donation from our club to the entrants of the AMCR and the amount to be split amongst all the entrants car numbers. Amount to be disclosed at the next meeting.	P Polson	
3.2	Reminder of the fund raiser being held on 2 nd sept for Leanne and Karl Brown for the AMCR		
3.3	Falcon GT Club of SA Inc Meeting Closed 8:17pm		
3.4	AGM Metting: Opened 8:18		
3.5	AGM: Returning officer: Hugh Westphalen	Hugh Westphalen	
	AGM: Hugh informed the Club of the proceedings The AGM was held with Nominations for the current Committee, with no other nominations, It was announced that the current Committee will remain and hold their respective positions as previously held for the following year 2023 - 2024	Hugh Westphalen	



Meeting Minutes GT Club of SA Tuesday 15th August 2023 Venue: Alberton Hotel

	<p>So our committee for the upcoming year for te Falcon GT club of SA will read:</p> <p>President Peter Polson</p> <p>Vice presidents Karl Brown and Joe Pinnieri</p> <p>Treasurer Tony Parente</p> <p>Secretary Michael Stavrides</p> <p>Karl wished to thank all the executive for their efforts over the last 12 months</p> <p>PS is there a record for the SHORTEST AGM EVER CONDUCTED!?</p>		
	AGM Meeting Closed: 8:17pm		
4.0	AGM Meeting Closed: 8:20	Hugh Westphalen	
	Next Meeting – 19-09-2023		
	Venue – Alberton Pub		

Falcon GT Club Shirts

Polo tops and shirts have the Club logo and your name(*optional*) on the chest and Super Roo logo on sleeve.

You have the option to add “your” falcon GT badges to the r/h sleeve and back.

Example shows XBGT badges







Club Shirt Order Form

PERSONAL DETAILS

NAME.....MEMBERSHIP No:

ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN..... POSTCODE.....

PHONE:.....EMAIL:.....

Falcon GT Club shirts are available as a **Polo** shirt or **Dress** shirt in both ladies and mens sizing.

Basic shirts are black and blue with club logo on the front lhs and personalised with your name/nickname on the front rhs and Super Roo logo on the left sleeve.

Optional addition to your shirt is Falcon GT badge decals, your choice of model on rhs sleeve and rear of shirt.

Ladies Basic Polo - Size.....**Name on front of shirt**..... \$55ea x Qty.....=.....

Add Falcon GT Decals on sleeve and back **MODEL** additional \$35 x Qty.....=.....

Mens Basic Polo - Size.....**Name on front of shirt**..... \$55ea x Qty.....=.....

Add Falcon GT Decals on sleeve and back **MODEL** additional \$35 x Qty.....=.....

Ladies Basic Shirt - Size.....**Name on front of shirt**..... \$70ea x Qty.....=.....

Add Falcon GT Decals on sleeve and back **MODEL** additional \$35 x Qty.....=.....

Mens Basic Shirt - Size.....**Name on front of shirt**..... \$70ea x Qty.....=.....

Add Falcon GT Decals on sleeve and back **MODEL** additional \$35 x Qty.....=.....

Total

Ladies Polo

P10122 MODERN FIT	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Garment 1/2 Chest (cm)	46.5	49	51.5	54	56.5	59	62	65	68

Mens polo

P10112 MODERN FIT	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
Garment 1/2 Chest (cm)	52	55	58	62	65	71	79

Ladies Shirt

S10122 SEMI FITTED	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Garment 1/2 Chest (cm)	48	50	52.5	54.5	57	60	63	66	68

Mens Shirt

S10112 CLASSIC FIT	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
Garment 1/2 Chest (cm)	54.5	57.5	61	64.5	68	72.5	80.5

Direct Deposit to – T&C Custom Clothing, BSB: 015220, Acc: 281855864, Description: Falcon GT Club of SA, your Surname and or Club Mbr number. Email form to secretary@gtclubsaustralia.com.au

Signed Date

OFFICE USE ONLY: Amount Paid \$

Receipt No:

FALCON GT CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

PO Box 289 Kent Town SA 5071

www.gtclubsaustralia.com.au



New Membership Application OR Existing Member Renewal Form

PERSONAL DETAILS (Tick appropriate box) ☐ **NEW MEMBER** ☐ **MEMBER RENEWAL**

(Single Member) SURNAME FIRST NAME (S)

(Joint Member) SURNAME FIRST NAME (S)

DATE OF BIRTH OCCUPATION

ADDRESS

SUBURB/TOWN..... POSTCODE.....

PHONE AH: WK: MOB:

FAX:..... EMAIL:

VEHICLE DETAILS

Genuine GT Owners **MUST** complete **EVERY** section of their application (new member OR renewal)

The Falcon GT Club of SA Inc reserves the right to inspect genuine GT's for authenticity before granting membership.

Tribute, Replica and other vehicle owners only required to provide general vehicle details as indicated by asterisk *

VEHICLE MAKE/MODEL * MONTH/YEAR BUILT *

REG NO: * COLOUR * PAINT CODE

PREFIX NO: MODEL NO: ENGINE NO:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Tick appropriate box) **Note:** Only Full Members have voting rights

☐ **FULL MEMBER** (Genuine GT/South African GT owners only)

☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** (Any other Ford manufactured vehicle)

JOINING FEE

\$20

\$.....

Applies to all **new** members for **first year only** and previous members re-applying after membership lapse.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

Single

\$65 (OR)

Joint

\$85

\$.....

Annual payment due by 1st July each year or no later than 30 days after Annual General Meeting or membership will lapse.

HISTORIC REGISTRATION *Membership must be maintained during the duration of vehicles conditional registration. Log book will not be renewed if there is any lapse in FGTCSA membership.*

FGTCSA member less than one year

\$75

\$.....

FGTCSA member one year or more (\$20 per vehicle)

\$20 X

..... \$.....

All vehicle owners must be current financial members.

Joint owners must also be current financial members.

TOTAL

\$

Direct Deposit to BSB **325185** Account **03227159** Falcon GT Club of SA. Enter your Member Number in description if an existing Member or Surname for New Members. Then mail signed form to address below, or email to secretary@gtclubsaustralia.com.au

Please make Cheques/Money Orders (no cash) payable to: **Falcon GT Club of SA Inc**

Post this form with appropriate fees to: The Secretary Falcon GT Club of SA Inc. PO Box 289 Kent Town SA 5071

INDEMNITY

I agree to abide by the constitution of the Falcon GT Club of South Australia Inc. and release the FGTCSA Inc. from any liability, either personal or property.

Signed Date Membership No

OFFICE USE ONLY: Amount Paid \$

Receipt No:

Membership No:

Ben (22/23) V2



CLUB REGISTRATION



Club rego logbooks with correctly filled out membership renewal forms can be posted, with a stamped self addressed return envelope for restamping/replacing.

Logbook processing can also be done at club meetings or posted to our club mailbox:

P O Box 289, Kent Town, SA, 5071.

All club rego renewals and logbooks must be processed before
June 30.

In accordance with: SA Gov Gazette, Motor Vehicles (Conditional Registration)
Amendment Regulations 2022

Motor vehicles need to be 25 years old to qualify, effective from 01 Jul 22.



EVENTS



August cruise to The Greenock Hotel

Great little drive out through the Barossa area to the what we thought was going to be a quaint little country pub.

It was actually quiet deceiving and very large on the inside.

Great turn out for what even the new attendees are calling Bryan's mystery tour.

Pretty sure everyone enjoyed their meals, so why not give it a try on a Sunday when you have nothing to do.

Keep supporting where you can the tiny towns around this great state of ours by getting out your cars and letting the throttle out (legally of course).





COMING EVENTS

Car 351 & Car 15c Quiz Night 2nd September 2023

6.30pm at West Adelaide Football Club
A night of fun, laughter, quiz, games and PRIZES
Food and drinks available for purchases, no BYO.
Come dress as your favourite Pop Star or Musician!

September Riverland weekend away

Friday 22, 23rd and 24th of Sept are the dates.
We will have two groups setting off, one from the south and one from the north on the Friday.
Please contact Bryan or I for details Bryan 0417082098 or Karen 0400691069
The weekend is pretty full on and we are hoping to see any new or old faces of the club.
Friday night dinner at the Paringa Hotel
Saturday breaky at the caravan park, lunch at 23rd street distillery, Dinner BBQ at the caravan park
Sunday morning we will be joining in with The Riverland Customs & Classics/ Riverside Rodders clubs for
Relay for Life charity cruise.
Then driving on through to The Overland Corner for lunch, those leaving for home will depart from there.

October is All Ford Day

still to be decided.
Date is Sunday 29th October.
Backup cruise TBA.

November Cruise is to The Palmer Hotel

Saturday 4th
Also The Bend is introducing their own take on a All Ford Day
Proposed date is the 18th November.
They are still finalising interest. Details to follow.

December Saturday 16th is The clubs Christmas lunch.

This year it was decided to go back to a lunch to try get more interest in attendance.
So this year we will be going to The Mount Compass Tavern
Details will follow.

Thanks Karen & Bryan McMillan



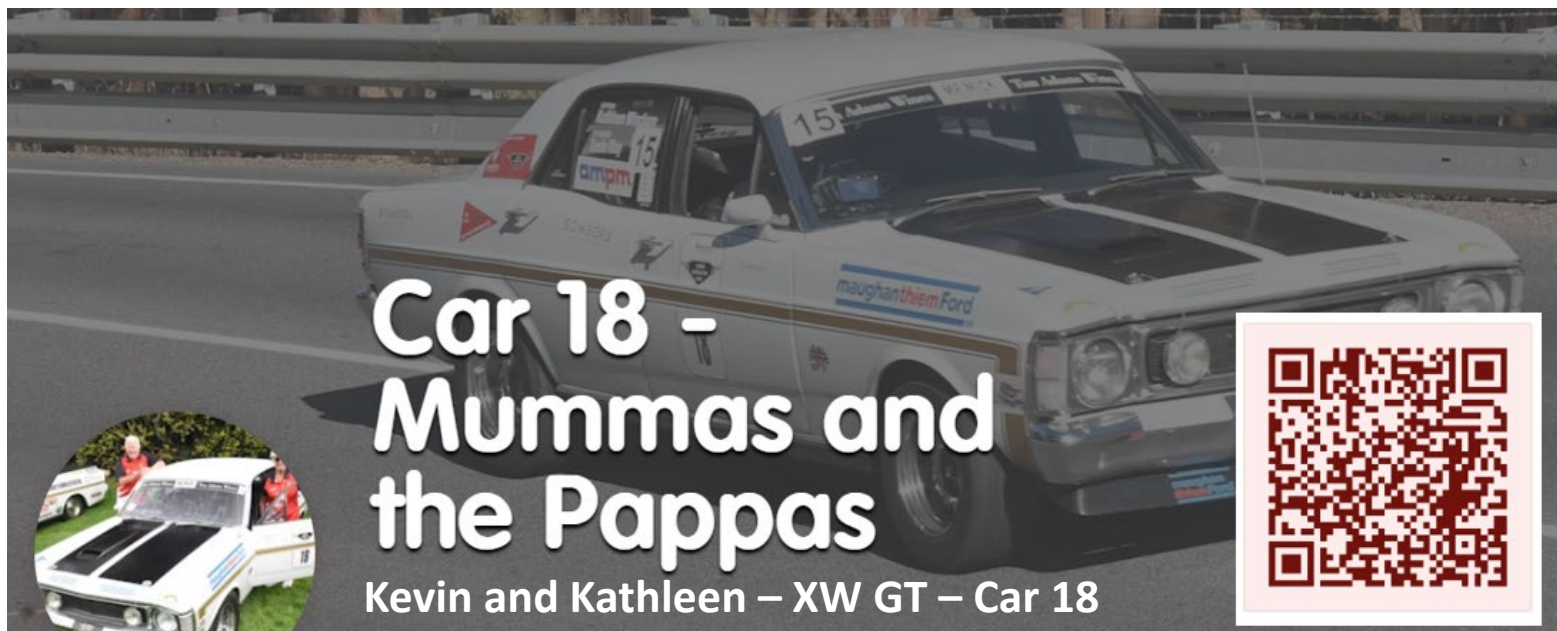
Club Members raising funds for Variety Children's Charities



The Club is fortunate to have seven of it's financial members participating in this year's AMCR.

It's now 10 years since Kevin May created the concept of a week long motorsport touring event, and this year, the AMCR will conclude with some track time at our 'Mecca', Mount Panorama, Bathurst!

Please, take the time to review each team profile and consider supporting them in their efforts to raise funds towards children that are disadvantaged, and in need.



Car 18 - Mummas and the Pappas

Kevin and Kathleen – XW GT – Car 18

<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/18mummasandthepappas>



Car 351 - Cruzeaiders

Karl and Leanne – XB GT – Car 351

<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/car351cruzeaiders>



Car 70 - RUF70 Racing

Jeff Mckerlie- XW- Car 70



<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/ruf70racing>



Car 79 - Fox On The Run

Jeff and Anna - Capri GT - Car 79



<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/car79foxontherun>

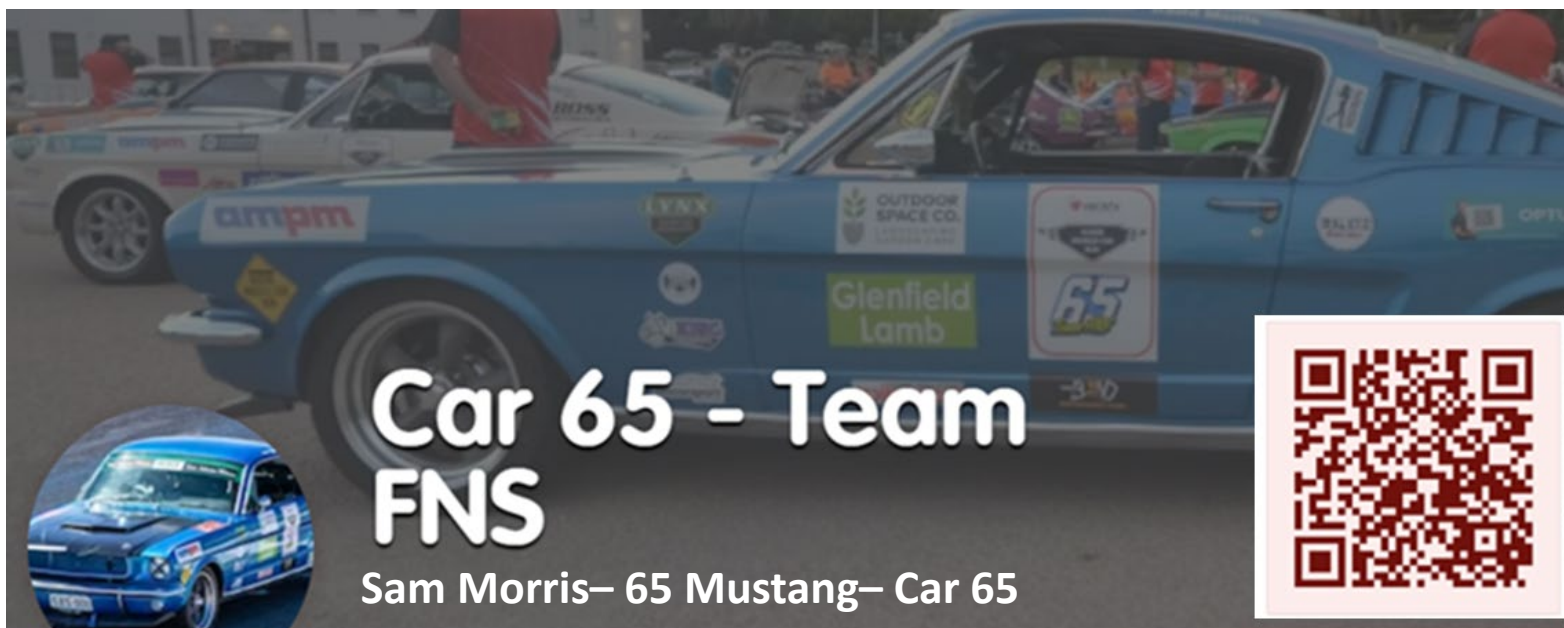


Car 22 - Cruising for Cancer

Jeff Gilbert - XT GT - Car 22




<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/car22cruisingforcancer>



Car 65 - Team FNS

Sam Morris— 65 Mustang— Car 65



<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/car65teamfns>



Car 17 - Happily Ever After

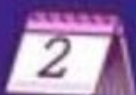
Carol and Kari— EB — Car 17



<https://varietyaamcr23.com.au/car17happilyeverafter>

Car 351 and Car 15c

QUIZ night



2nd September 2023



6.30pm for a 7.00pm start



West Adelaide Football Club

Hisense Stadium, 57 Milner Rd, Richmond SA



Tickets \$20 pp tables of 10

A night of fun, laughter, quiz, games and PRIZES.
Food and drink available for purchase, no BYO.
Come dressed as your favourite Pop Star or Musician!

Contact

Karl 0408 351 391 | Leanne 0400 256 317 | Nigel 0418 423 813



Prossy Supporting





Ford launched an all-new Falcon model in March 1979 with the XD/XE/XF range becoming hugely successfully throughout the 1980s, ultimately eclipsing Holden's Commodore as Australia's most popular family car.

The XD was sold in both sedan and station wagon versions, plus the usual commercials, while the model line-up consisted of the base Falcon GL, mid-range Fairmont and upmarket Fairmont Ghia, later joined by the stretched luxury Fairlane and LTD models. There was no GT, having been discontinued during the transition from XB to XC. Ford, in an effort to add some 'sizzle' to the line up, wanted to move away from the GT badge and attain a more sophisticated, European style of Grand Tourer.

Ford announced a high-performance model to spice up the XD range called the ESP (which stood for European Sports Pack), to evoke the spirit of the earlier GTs. Offering a unique colour palette, colour-coded grille, Marshal fog lamps, front spoiler and 15-inch Globe Bathurst alloy rims (developed for the XA GT-HO Phase IV and standard issue on the limited build XC Cobra) shod with low profile tyres. The list of features was more than just skin deep. Bilstein gas shock absorbers, heavy-duty anti-roll bars and stiffer springs improved the Falcon's handling, and the ESP came with four-wheel disc brakes, a limited-slip diff and quick ratio steering as standard. Under the bonnet, the ESP was equipped with Ford's 4.1-litre six, equipped with the much publicised cross flow alloy head, and a four-speed manual gearbox as standard. The V8 remained optional and could be had as either the 4.9 litre, or 5.8 litre Geelong cast Cleveland engines. Interior changes included Scheel front seats with cloth trim and full instrumentation. The ESP could be had as a GL, Fairmont or Fairmont Ghia; however, this was to change with XE.







Fairmont Ghia ESP
Engine No JG 32AR33633 Serial No 469100

This vehicle produced at the Broadmeadows Plant, November 1982, was the last Falcon produced in Australia fitted with a V8 engine. It concludes 50 years of history during which Ford has led the world in V8 engine development for motor vehicles.

Ford Motor Company of Australia Limited



When Ford unveiled its revised XE Falcon range in March 1982 the ESP was now based exclusively on the more upmarket Fairmont Ghia, which meant more standard equipment. The appearance was improved with new pattern 15-inch alloys and more integrated body enhancements complemented by two-tone paintwork. With its new Watts link rear suspension set-up, the XE Falcon was a much nicer car to drive and compared favourably with the best European saloons of the day in contemporary road tests. The XE ESP was also available in 4.1, 4.9 or 5.8-litre versions, although the locally made Ford V8 was doomed, the final Australian V8-powered Falcon emerging from the Broadmeadows plant in November 1982, a silver Fairmont Ghia ESP with the 4.9 litre and 4 speed manual combination, complete with a gold plaque to signify that sad day.

A sad day indeed (despite the smiles in the above photo), a time when Ford (with the benefit of hindsight) dropped the performance market ball and gave it all to GM. It is rumoured, the Silver 4.9 litre ESP was not the final V8 built by Ford Australia, as Fairlanes, LTDs and even some special Fairmont Ghias left the factory after November 1982. Not to mention, Falcon GLs with the 5.8 litre V8 made specifically for Interceptor duty with state Police. At the very least, Ford lost a generation of motoring enthusiasts to GM, and did not gain traction till the arrival of the EB and the reintroduction of the now 5.0 litre Windsor in 1991.

In this photo we have a true marvel of modern engineering and an icon of the 20th century.

There is also a plane.





CLUB SUPPORTER



JRM transmissions

5 Boulder Court, Morphett Vale 8322 7044

OVER 28 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Gearboxes
Differentials
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