



# BARTREAD



NEWSLETTER OF THE WARTIME VEHICLE  
CONSERVATION GROUP, South Australia.

## EDITORIAL



Kdf82  
Kübelwagen

This year is certainly rolling on by ! The Corowa Swim In has come and gone, and what a fantastic event it was, with many interesting and rare vehicles entered, like the Kübelwagen pictured above. Whilst the club itself has been a little quiet of late, members have participated in a couple of Anzac Day parades recently. Members are looking forward to our club registration day, to be held at the Stanley Bridge Hotel on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June, which promises to be another great day out ! Our club meetings have been going well at our new temporary venue, the Avoca Hotel, whilst the Tower's renovations are being completed. As always, please enjoy this edition of your club magazine, and feel free to send any articles in to your Editor !

## 2017 ANZAC DAY PARADE

More than 5,000 people took part in this year's Anzac Day March, which marked the centenary anniversary of the first Adelaide parade of remembrance in 1917. The weather held for a rain free event, and unlike The Australia Day Parade, there were no protests. All things considered, another successful event !



On a personal note however, your Editor was sad to learn of the passing of a special WWII veteran who had ridden in his Champ for the past five Anzac Day Parades – a sad and poignant reminder of the fact that these fine people are indeed becoming fewer with each passing year – we will remember them.

ISSUE 25, JUNE 2017

### IN THIS ISSUE



COVERAGE OF THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
COROWA SWIM IN AND MILITARY  
VEHICLE GATHERING



A LOOK AROUND THE  
FLYING BOAT MUSEUM AT  
LAKE BOGA IN VICTORIA

### ALSO FEATRUED



A FULL PHOTOGRAPHIC  
ROUNDUP OF THE ANZAC DAY  
PARADES IN THE CITY AND AT  
THE KILBURN RSL



ITEMS FOR SALE, including items  
wanted.  
PLEASE EMAIL DETAILS OF ITEMS  
FOR SALE TO THE NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS

"No newsletter editor is at all hours wise –  
perhaps only when at Corowa following a  
chilled white or two !!

## 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COROWA MILITARY VEHICLE GATHERING

*It hardly seemed* like twelve months had passed since Corowa 2016, but after the now familiar 900 odd- km - drive, your Editor arrived safely on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at the Ball Park Caravan Park, to be a part of the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Corowa Swim-In and Military Vehicle Gathering. (By the way, just a nice drive in a Perentie !) This year was your Editor's third visit to this event, (considered an old hand now) and it just keeps getting better. Visits to Tim Veber's "Empire Trading and Disposals", Toolles Disposals, and the Saturday racecourse swap meet saw your Editor come home considerably poorer, but in possession of many interesting bits and pieces. The casual and laid back atmosphere in "South Australian Corner" was again a pleasure to be a part of, renewing old acquaintances and meeting new people. Listening to the sounds of carriers roaring up and down the back road - music to the ears ! Another great "Curry Night" was held at Pedr's tent, and yes, the man can cook ! (And NO, your Editor can't sing - you had to be there !) The usual variety of "horse traders" were to be found dotted around the grounds of Ball Park, many good opportunities to stop and have a chat with like-minded people.

This year's event attracted some 300 pre-registered participants, but by the end of the week there were 223 vehicles and six bicycles actually entered. This year's theme was "The Year of the International and The Year of the Carrier 2." Themed vehicles totaled 14 carriers plus an FV432, as well as 17 International trucks, not a bad turn out ! There was also a wide range of interesting amphibious vehicles present, with 5 GPA's, a LARC 5, and an Alvis Stalwart. A DUKW was also going to attend, but due to a breakdown, it failed to arrive.





Various angles of a British FV432 armoured personnel carrier. This vehicle was brought back from the UK by its current owner and enjoys conditional registration as a tractor ! The vehicle had an operating crew of 2 and seating for 11 combat ready troops. It is powered by a supercharged Rolls Royce K60 2 stroke 6 cylinder multi fuel engine ( This is an interesting engine, having two pistons per cylinder, one at the top and one at the bottom and a crank shaft at each end !- It will run on anything from diesel to kerosene to petrol !) With a top speed of around 52 km/h and a total operational weight of around 15 tons, in anyone's language, an impressive vehicle !!



Bren Gun Carriers galore ! In total, there were 2xLP1, 2xLP2, 6xLP2A, 1xSentinel 3" mortar carrier, 1x LP (unknown mark), and 2x Strickland Bren Carriers, making 14 examples in all.



Horse traders a plenty, anything from vehicle parts (including complete vehicles) to uniforms, boots, and associated treasures.



(Above and left) A very impressive LARC -V (Lighter, Amphibious Resupply, Cargo, 5 Ton) This vehicle was developed in the US during the 1950's, and is still used to this day in a variety of roles. Approximately 968 of these massive vehicles were made, utilizing an aluminum hull, powered by a Cummins diesel V8 of 12.9 litres displacement, and weighing in at 8600 kg, they are quite a sight, on land and in the water.



(below) A VERY stuck Stalwart attempting to enter The Murray River was eventually winched to safety by a Dodge !



This Ferret scout car was driven from Adelaide to Corowa by a member of the MVPSSSA. Not a bad feat of endurance, however it was trucked home to save the return drive.



Perhaps the most unusual vehicle on display this year (And subsequently winner of the People's Choice Award) was a partially restored Fiat SPA TL37 Gun Tractor. This vehicle was used by the Italian Army in WW II, and is the only known example of its type in Australia. The vehicle is notable for having four wheel steering, that enables it to have a 4.5 metre turning circle. Its owner described it as being interesting to drive, especially when loading onto a trailer !



## LIST OF VEHICLES ENTERED : COROWA 2017



- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 2 x LP1 Carriers                   | 1 x Willys CJ3B jeep                   |
| 2 x LP2 Carriers                   | 3 x International S-line tractor units |
| 6 X LP2A Carriers                  | 1 x Chevrolet C15A                     |
| 1 x Sentinel 3" Mortar Carrier     | 6 x Ford GPA amphibians                |
| 1 x LP Carrier (unknown mark)      | 2 x Chevrolet C60                      |
| 2 x Strickland Bren Tractors       | 1 x Chevrolet C8AX                     |
| 1 x International ACCO Mk4 truck   | 1x AM-General HMMV H1                  |
| 1 x International F2 tipper truck  | 16 x Dodge WC model                    |
| 3 x International F1 trucks        | 1 x Datsun 200B station wagon          |
| 2 x International Farmall tractors | 1 x Steyr Puch Pinzgauer               |
| 1 x International F2 cargo truck   | 1 x FIAT SPA TL37 gun tractor          |
| 1 x International C-line truck     | 2 x GMC 353 CCKW trucks                |
| 1 x International AR160 truck      | 5 x Yamaha XT600 motorcycles           |
| 4 x International Mk3 trucks       | 5 x Studebaker US6 trucks              |
| 1 x International F5 wrecker       | 2 x Ford Falcons                       |
| 1 x International KB truck         | 3 x BSA WM20 motorcycles               |
| 21 x Land Rover 110 Perentie 4x4   | 1 x Mercedes 911 fire truck            |
| 7 x Land Rover Series 2A           | 2 x Austin Champs                      |
| 2 x Land Rover Series 3            | 1 x White M3A1 scout car               |
| 4 x Land Rover 101 trucks          | 1 x Mack R 6x6 tipper                  |
| 6 x Land Rover Perentie 6x6        | 2 x Ford F60L Blitz                    |
| 1 x Land Rover 1/2 ton Lightweight | 1 x Mitsubishi Canter 4x4              |
| 1 x GKN Sankey FV432 APC           | 1 x Leyland Moke                       |
| 1 x Alvis Stalwart amphibian       | 2 x Harley Davidson WLA m/cycles       |
| 1 x M274 Mule                      | 3 x Daimler Ferret scout cars          |
| 6 x Bicycles                       | 1 x LARC 5 amphibian                   |
| 2 x Toyota HJ47                    | 2 x Indian Chief 344 m/cycles          |
| 35 x Willys MB jeeps               | 1 x OKA                                |
| 2 x Willys CJ2A jeeps              | 1 x AMG M151A2 MUTT                    |
| 1x Welbike                         | 1 x Volkswagen Kdf82 Kubelwagen        |
| 2 x Willys M38 jeeps               | 2 x Blitz (unknown)                    |

On the way to Corowa, located on the banks of Lake Mulwala, the Yarrawonga RSL has some interesting items dotted around its grounds, including an ex-RAAF C-47 Dakota and a Centurion Mk 5 main battle tank.



A WWII 3.7 inch mobile anti aircraft gun. This gun could also fire anti tank shells, making it useable against land based vehicles and lightly armoured ships.



MK 82 500 pound bomb as dropped from RAAF F111 and F/A 18 Hornet fighters.



## ON THE WAY HOME FROM COROWA 2017 ....



On the way home from Corowa this year, your Editor decided to take a rest stop at Lake Boga, (situated between Swan Hill and Kerang) to have a look around their Flying Boat Aviation Museum. It turned out to be a worthwhile and interesting way to spend an hour and stretch those legs !

Lake Boga was an integral part of the allied defence during WW II, with a facility that helped keep Australia Safe – The No. 1 Flying Boat Repair and Service Depot.

Following the Japanese attacks on Broome in 1942, resulting in the loss of 16 flying boats, the establishment of a safe haven for flying boats and amphibians was deemed “Essential to the Defence of Australia” – “South and Inland” were the prerequisites. Following an inspection of Lake Boga it was deemed an ideal site as it was almost circular, and offered an unlimited choice of take off / landing direction, in addition to being free from any obstructions. The area was requisitioned on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1942, and so began an interesting chapter in history.

An RAAF base was established, which included eight large steel framed hangars, and a number of other buildings to house activities such as administration, signals and cypher, airframe repair, electroplating, engine / hydraulics repair, propeller testing, machining, photography, stores, crew accommodation, and control tower. During the Depot’s wartime life personnel undertook large volumes of work. Some 416 aircraft were serviced, repaired, restored, rebuilt or overhauled. These aircraft included Catalina, Dornier, Sikorsky Kingfisher, Sunderland, Walrus, and Martin Mariner.

In the five years of the Depot’s life, there were more than 1050 aircraft arrivals / departures and an estimated 800 test flights (plus associated “unofficial aerobatics”) In addition to RAAF aircraft, many allied flying boats used Lake Boga for repairs, including those of the United States and the Netherlands. At peak operation, 39 officers, 802 Airmen and 102 WAAAF’s staffed the Depot. The base at Lake Boga closed in November of 1947.

The Lions Club of Lake Boga have restored Catalina flying boat number A24-30, and the original secret underground communication bunker, and now operate the Flying Boat Museum on the shores of the lake. If you ever find yourself in the area, it is well worth a visit.

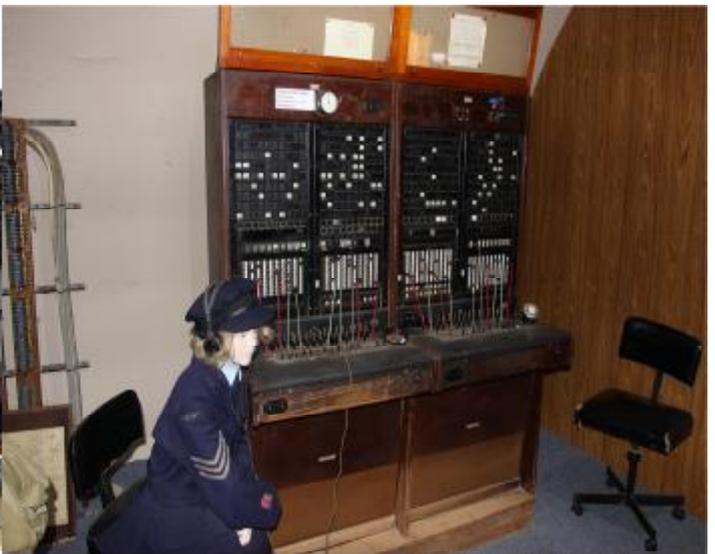




Interior of the Catalina on display, looking forward toward the cockpit. Public are not allowed to enter the interior of the aircraft, but may climb a step ladder to have a look inside.



Interior of the restored communications bunker. A local amateur radio club still use some of the communications equipment for interstate and international radio communications.



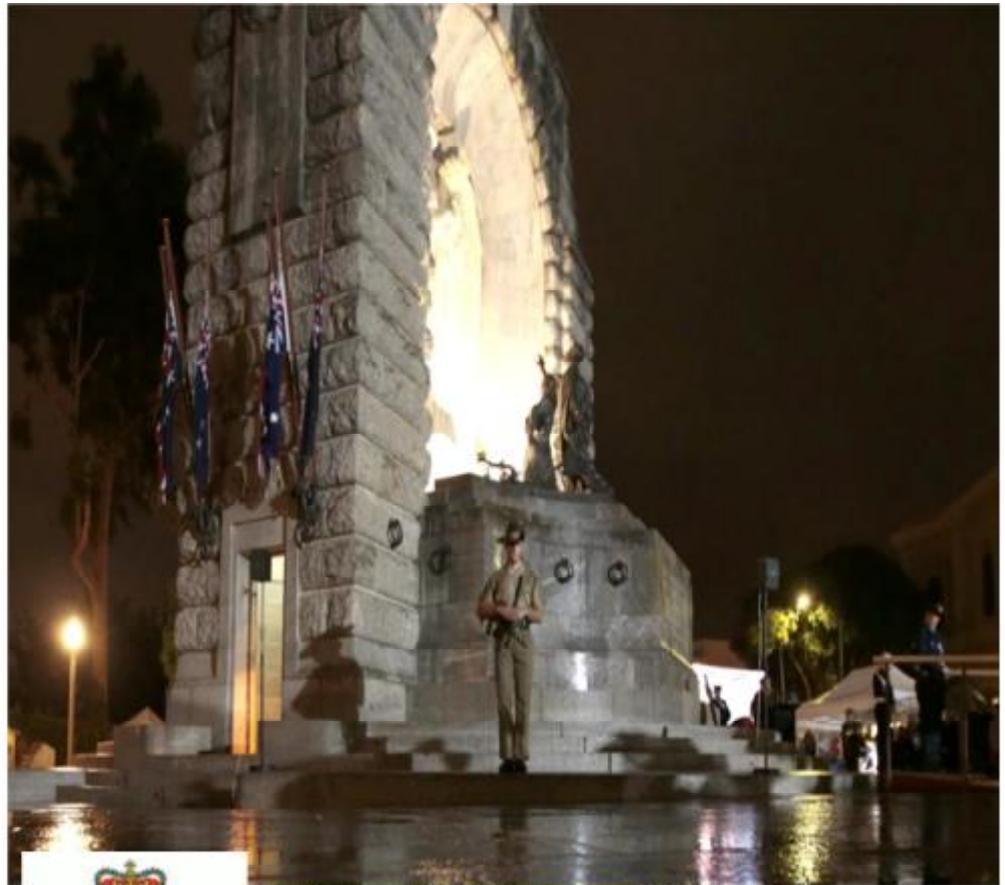
Yes, the Museum even had a couple of vehicles on display, something for everyone !

## 2017 ANZAC DAY PARADE IN ADELAIDE

Thousands of South Australians braved the wet and windy conditions to attend the Dawn Service in the city, followed by what turned out to be a sunny Anzac Day march through the CBD. It is worth noting that this year's march marked the centenary anniversary of the first Adelaide Parade of Remembrance in 1917.

A good showing of military vehicles participated in the Parade, all of which were well utilized by the veterans in attendance. (no visible empty vehicles this year, although some were only occupied just prior to the commencement of the parade. The lightweight Land Rover pictured below carried the oldest surviving Polish WWII veteran in Australia !

It would be fair to say that the 2017 Anzac Day March was a huge success, a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of.





## KILBURN RSL ANZAC DAY MARCH

The 2017 Kilburn RSL ANZAC Day March was held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April. WVCG members provided vehicular support for the formal march, which was conducted along a section of Churchill Road, culminating at the RSL clubrooms in Way Street, Kilburn. This local community event was well attended, with Air League Cadets, WW1 re-enactors, and a pipe and drum band all in attendance. Drivers in attendance were as follows :

- Dennis Mills - Jeep
- Adrian Nieckarz - Austin Champ
- Darian Carn - Marmon Herrington, with Bofors 40mm anti aircraft gun in tow
- Ray Carn - Land Rover Perentie FFR
- Tony Rech - Land Rover 101, with 25 pounder in tow

The Kilburn RSL remain keen to see this an ongoing annual event, that will take place just prior to the main ANZAC Day parade. They were extremely grateful to all vehicle owners and drivers who participated.





# HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ONE OF THESE IN YOUR SHED ?



## Supacat LRV 400

**\*\*Country of origin:\*\*** Britain

**\*\*Briefing:\*\*** The *Qt Wildcat* – formerly known as the Bowler Wildcat – is a Land Rover Defender-based cross-country rally runner. The new Supacat LRV 400 is the military version of the Wildcat, and it delivers the rally car's high-speed all-terrain capability in a somewhat more weaponised package. Perfect for special forces teams, border patrol agencies and the like, the LRV (which stows neatly aboard a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for easy transport) packs a 3.2-litre five-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine from Ford that's good for 236 horsepower, although buyers may opt for gasoline V8 engines producing as much as 640hp. Top speed with the standard diesel is 106mph, but the addition of a armour plates, winches and a roof-mounted .50-calibre machine gun may sap performance a bit.



## GAZ Tigr

**\*\*Country of origin:\*\*** Russia

**\*\*Briefing:\*\*** That the military Tigr bears a passing resemblance to the American Humvee is, to the Russian truck's vociferous fans, nothing more than coincidence. Beneath its expansive hood rumbles a 5.9-litre diesel engine, which meets a six-speed manual transmission and permanent four-wheel-drive. Production of the civilian Tigr – which can soften its brutality with the addition of such creature comforts as leather, air conditioning and a thumping audio system – is hardly a top priority for GAZ, and acquiring one is neither simple nor inexpensive, but a successful buyer is fairly guaranteed to be the only Tigr-tamer in his "okrestnosti".



## Paramount Marauder

**\*\*Country of origin:\*\*** South Africa

**\*\*Briefing:\*\*** Ten tonnes of South African stoutness, the Marauder is possessed of a double-skin monocoque that helps it resist virtually all forms of light-arms fire, as well as the occasional anti-tank mine. It also, as Top Gear's Richard Hammond **learned**, is rather good as a city runabout – provided the pilot steers clear of fast-food drive-throughs.



## Jeep Staff Car Concept

**\*\*Country of origin:\*\*** US

**\*\*Briefing:\*\*** The annual Easter Jeep Safari is the highlight of the year for thousands of off-road aficionados from across the US. Set amid the challenging terrain of Moab, Utah, the event offers a week of rock-hopping and camaraderie, and gives Jeep designers and engineers the opportunity to push the boundaries of the company's vehicles. The military-styled Staff Car is one of seven Jeep-derived concept vehicles unveiled in Utah this year, the Safari's 49th. Based on the Wrangler Unlimited, the concept is painted Sandstorm tan and topped with a stretched canvas roof. It features open fenders and low-back bench seats and, like the World War II four-by-four that inspired it, there are no B-pillar or doors (although there is an integrated roll hoop). The steel-beam front and rear bumpers were pulled from the Jeep J8 military truck. Power comes from the standard Wrangler's 3.6-litre gasoline V-6 engine, paired with a six-speed manual transmission and, of course, four-wheel drive and the Wrangler Rubicon's Dana 44 locking axles. A lift kit from Jeep Performance Parts raises the ride height by two inches. There's a fender-mounted blackout light, a vintage jerrycan, a flank-mounted shovel and axe, and steel wheels wrapped with 35in Firestone mil-spec tires. And because beverages are better than bullets, what appears to be an old ammo box is actually a cooler with space for 85 frosty cans.



# HAVE A LAUGH !



GUIDE TO LAND ROVER FUSE REPLACEMENT



## ***PAGES FROM THE PAST***

Within this section of our Club Magazine, the Editor would like to include photographs and articles of interest, specifically relating to club members or those we might know. Events past, places that have changed or anything of an interesting historical nature would also be fine. Articles do not need to relate to military vehicles, but if they do, that's just Jim-Dandy ! The Editor would sincerely welcome any contributions to this section from members. So dust off those old photo albums, and let's see what we can come up with ...

On the way to Corowa this year, your Editor just had to stop and take a few photographs of this old scrap yard , located on the outskirts of Murrayville, Victoria – fascinating stuff !!



\*\*\* FOR SALE \*\*\*

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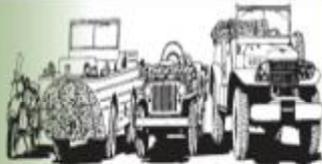
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CLASSIC MILITARY CLOTHING FOR SALE. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE WVCG ! BE QUICK, THE MOTHS ARE GETTING FAT !!



Items still remaining are as follows :

- Howard green jumper, size 95 - 105, in good used condition
- Service dress uniform, with trousers, size "39 portly", suit smaller person
- Battle dress trousers, size 82, in good condition
- Khaki service jumper, small men's size, well used
- Set of army greens, suit small man, well used, but still OK
- Black webbing parade belt (no brass)

\*\*\*\*\* WANTED \*\*\*\*\*



WANTED :

A 105mm Howitzer projectile, any type, to complete a display round. (already have a good unfired case) Contact your editor if you or anyone you know can help.

# THE BACK PAGE



Those of you who are regular readers of this newsletter will recall this “Four Million Euro Tea Making Facility” snippet appearing in the “Have a Laugh” section of the last edition. Well, in a remarkable twist of fate, your editor was visiting Empire Trading and Disposals whilst at Corowa, and guess what ? Tim Vibert was selling these (the boiling vessel, not the tank) for quite a reasonable price, so your Editor just had to buy one – it will never be used, but what an interesting talking point !!

\*\*\*\*\*

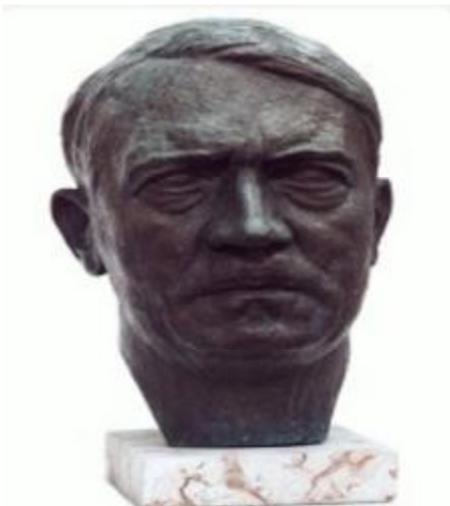


Tracked Kübelwagen

OK, Your Editor thought it was interesting !!!



We have all seen images of Mr Bean recklessly driving about in his Mini, occasionally doing battle with an unfortunate 3 wheeled Reliant Robin, always causing it to fall over. Hilarious stuff, but the Robin pictured above – defies description !!



During WWII, US General George S. Patton captured a statue of Hitler, which he not only used as a door stop, but taught his dog to urinate on !



When it comes to “The Back Page” masterpieces, this Moke must surely take the cake ! What had the designers been drinking and were they serious ???



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