

CASTLEMAINE HOT ROD CENTRE

induction

The Voice of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre

Exciting News



Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre members meet with Bendigo Bank representatives to jointly approve the Referral Agreement. From left they are, local Bendigo Bank Branch Manager, Ern Freeman, Rod Hadfield (CHRC), Vicki Farrell (CHRC), Bendigo Bank Regional Manager, Phil Whiting and Larry O'Toole (CHRC).

A combination of horrendous events over the past couple of months resulted in a decision being taken to delay the publication of this newsletter into a combined Summer/Autumn edition to allow us to cope with many adjustments in our personal and business lives. Everything is now back on track and there is exciting news to headline our newsletter this time around.

On Tuesday April 7, 2009 the Board signed our Referral Agreement with the Bendigo Bank to complete a prolonged exercise in gaining community support for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre project. Over 500 people have signed pledge forms during the past 12 months to indicate their intention to have their bank accounts linked to the project through the Mt Alexander Community Enterprise Scheme, which is supported by the Bendigo Bank. The signing of our Referral Agreement means that financial support for our project will now start to flow into the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre account and the board can now seriously follow up all aspects of the project that hinge on this financial support.

CHRC members and community members who have signed pledge forms will be contacted in the very near future

to finalise your account referral arrangements with the bank. None of your banking details are disclosed to the CHRC, it is entirely between you and the bank. The CHRC simply become the recipients of a trickle of funding from the bank that is apportioned from the normal banking fees you pay.

The realisation of this Referral Agreement is a big load off the shoulders of the board members who have worked hard to bring it to fruition. Many other aspects of the project have been held in abeyance until we could get the Referral Agreement finalised and now work can begin in earnest on these other aspects of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre.

Thank you to all supporters who have been so patient over the past several months, another major step forward has now been made, we look forward to bringing you more exciting news as the Hot Rod Centre project develops.

Included in this issue is a pledge form for the Referral Agreement with the Bendigo Bank. If you have already filled out a form there is no need to do it again, but we have included it here so that anyone yet to pledge can take advantage of the opportunity, or you can use it to have friends and family members sign up to support the Hot Rod Centre.

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Exciting News (cont.)

While on the subject of funding for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre we would like to invite members to suggest any other sources of funding or services that might be available to the project. The board are constantly on the lookout for sources of government grants etc., that could be directed to our project, but we are happy to hear from anyone with other alternative sources in mind.

Late news received just as this edition of Induction was going to print – the education program being established between the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre and the Castlemaine Secondary College has been funded to the tune of \$65,000.00 which will provide for automotive equipment and facilities to be established at the college for student training, but will also be available for Hot Rod Centre use for vehicle inspection and certification purposes. More in-depth news on this in the next edition. Further education CHRC partnerships are also in the pipeline.

Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre members, Vicki Farrell (Secretary) and Larry O'Toole (Chairman) sign the Bendigo Bank Referral Agreement on April 7, 2009.



Foundation Members

At the 2009 AGM we will be required to fill three vacancies in the Foundation Membership Group. There have been two deaths and one resignation from the Foundation membership group in the past 12 months and these vacancies need to be filled. Only members of the Foundation Group are eligible to elect or become Board Members of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited, so it is important that we maintain the full membership of our Foundation Group. Potential members need to be nominated by other Foundation Group members and the election, if necessary will take place at the AGM on June 26, 2009. Nominations will be announced with the AGM agenda that will go out to members two weeks prior to the AGM and the election will be by secret ballot at the AGM. Anyone wishing to fill out a nomination form should contact one of the board members well ahead of the AGM. Phone Larry (03) 5472 3653, Vicki (03) 5472 4116 or Rod (03) 5472 3868.

Property Negotiations

Board members have had two meetings with a local property owner with a view to establishing a permanent home for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre. Those negotiations have been on hold for the past couple of months as we awaited the finalisation of the Bendigo Bank Referral Agreement and now that the Agreement has been signed away we can restart proceedings with the property owner.

The 75 acre property is within three kilometres of Castlemaine and eminently suitable for the Hot Rod Centre with all services nearby and three road access points. The board is very grateful to the owner for being patient with us as we concentrated on the Referral Agreement. Now that it is finalised we can continue our negotiations and hopefully reach agreement in the near future.



Above: A '34 Ford coupe entirely made from hollow reeds by artist Noah Grosz. It won the major art award at the Festival.

Below: Ron Covell giving an artist's talk during the Festival. Report next page.





Helping the Public Understand

Every two years Castlemaine hosts the State Arts Festival and for a number of years now the local Rodders have contributed to its success in some way. One Festival we held an Automotive Art Display inviting artists to submit their automotive related work with an auction to sell off some of the entrants exhibits. Another year we worked with an orchestra, driving our Rods onto the area in front of the audience and starting the engines on selected occasions to the music.

This year the local Rod club appointed a committee to work with the Festival Visual Arts Coordinator and they decided on an installation style visual display to show off some of the components that go into a Street Rod.

Starting with a new '34 Ford Tourer body from Waddington's Street Rods which was bolted onto a wall of the old Ford dealers, after it was draped in black plastic, then the various components of a street rod were hung or placed around the body finishing at Peter Swift's early Dodge powered T Bucket on the floor. The effect was as if the parts were all floating in the air and it was visually quite stunning with the whole area lit in red. The display was a huge success with over 700 people viewing it over the 10 day period of the Festival.

Another car orientated display that was included in the main Festival Visual Arts Exhibition was a '34 Ford Coupe approximately 1/3rd scale built from hollow reeds resembling bamboo. It was an absolutely brilliant job created by Noah Grosz and it took out the major art award for the Festival, helping to really bring street rodding into focus for all Festival patrons.

Continuing the automotive theme was well known U.S. Metal Worker, Seminar Conductor and columnist for Australian Street Rodding magazine, Ron Covell, who gave an artist's talk at the Art Gallery and officially opened the 'Hot Rod as Art' exhibition.

I feel the benefits of the effort were well worthwhile judging from some of the feedback we received. Our display was also an opportunity to advertise the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of the 1934 model vehicles to be held in Castlemaine on September the 11th to 13th this year.

Report by Rod Hadfield

Above: The Castlemaine Hot Rodders' visual arts exhibition "The Hot Rod as Art" that was a feature of the Castlemaine State Festival.

RDV Marketing Proposal

Wayne Street of Street Ryan and Associates is currently working on a submission to Rural Development Victoria for funding that will enable us to appoint him to carry out the next stage of our planning process. This will involve a marketing strategy to research and develop linkages with potential partner organisations for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre. Part of this process will be contact with and visits to many such organisations that we anticipate will become stakeholders with us in the Hot Rod Centre.

Preliminary work has already been undertaken with education providers, engineers and industry associations. The Marketing Strategy will allow us to further develop these partnerships into viable programs that will ensure their full participation in the development of the Hot Rod Centre.

By the time you receive this newsletter the board will also have completed an extensive submission to the local Shire Council to provide councillors and staff members with a comprehensive review of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre project. The support of the Mt Alexander Shire is crucial to our development and there have already been several discussions with the planning department, CEO and individual councillors.

Council support for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre project has been very good right from the start when the project was kicked off by mayor of the day, Jim Norris, in April 2004. Recent council elections and changes in staff positions makes it imperative that we continue to inform and update the council on our project and there will be a growing need for further support now that we have identified a suitable property and the Bendigo Bank Referral Agreement has been finalised.



Meeting Dates

The next General Meeting of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited will be May 15, 2009 at the Wesley Hill Hall in Castlemaine commencing at 8.00 pm. All current members are welcome.

The AGM for 2009 will be Friday June 26, 2009, again at the Wesley Hill Hall in Castlemaine commencing at 8.00 pm. There will be a guest speaker for the evening and the general format for the AGM will be similar to last year.

Pledge Form

Let your actions speak louder than words. Let's not wait for others to make our good ideas happen.

I want to be part of Powering Castlemaine an initiative of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited in partnership with Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Community Telco.

Banking

Do you currently bank with Bendigo Bank? Yes No

Would you like your account linked to the Powering Castlemaine Project? Yes No

I would consider transferring banking business to Bendigo Bank. Yes No

Supporter Details

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Mobile phone: _____ Email: _____

Please return to CHRC. PO Box 1080, Castlemaine Vic. 3450