

# induction

The Voice of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre

## Autopia - Celebrating the Future of Aussie Hot Rodding

For the Victorian Labour Day long weekend, March 12-14, the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre hosted their second Autopia event, a celebration of the art of hot rodding, with this years feature exhibition being, The Future of Hot Rodding. The main focus of this show was young rodders and their projects with 15 vehicles on display, all built by kids ranging in age from teens to mid-20s.

Just like last years show, Autopia 2022 also featured the annual T Bucket Cruise-In, the Castlemaine Auto Model Show, art and photography exhibitions, pinstiping, a rock and roll dance and a special guest speaker.

Starting on the Saturday with more than a dozen examples turning up for the T Bucket Cruise-In, Autopia was off to a flying start with many visitors enjoying Ray McDonald's talk before seeing the buckets off on their cruise. This journey took enthusiasts and followers from the centre of Castlemaine, out to Harcourt for a visit to The Mustang Marquee where proprietor, Ian Blume, gave a tour of his workshop and explained his love of 'Stangs and the projects currently underway. A quick look at the European vintage cars next door was an extra treat, before the group headed to Chewton via Mount Alexander. The cruise ended at Hadfield's Hot Rods.

Meanwhile back at Autopia, a good crowd filed through the many rooms at Autoplex checking out all the exhibits that this year also included a display promoting the Castlemaine Billy Cart Challenge and a side-show of vintage wooden boats. All of this was very well received by the visiting public, but the kids and their cars were the real stars of the show.

Most of these youngsters are second, and some are third-generation hot rodders who belong to a club known as the Mised Youth. A good number of them are employed in trades that relate to the automotive industry and the workmanship that has gone into their projects is impressive to say the least. Yes, many of them have more experienced rodders guiding them, but the passion and enthusiasm these kids



**ABOVE:** That's 20-year-old Alex with Model A coupe owner/builder, Stephanie Williams. Eighteen-year-old Stephanie has had this project underway for just over two years and is well on her way to creating one badass hot rod. So far she's built a rolling Deuce chassis to mount the chopped and filled steel coupe body and loaded it with Hemi running gear and a quick-change rear end with a dropped and drilled front axle located by hairpins.



**ABOVE:** A display of racers promoting the Castlemaine Billy Cart Challenge.

**LEFT:** The main exhibition hall of Autoplex filled with vehicles from the next generation of Aussie hot rodders. Early Fords are clearly the popular choice amongst these clever kids. Thirteen hot rods, an Edsel and a Triumph chopper made up this part of the show.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Some of the metal sculpture artwork on display at the show. Intricate pieces by local rodder, Glenn Rewell while piston-head characters were made by Bill Hatzigiannis of Steel Edge Constructions.



# Autopia 2022 (continued)

have for the hobby is second to none. You'll usually find a bunch of them at the more popular events all over the east coast, and when you don't see them, they're often working on their own projects or helping one of their mates with theirs.

The Sunday kicked off with the Castlemaine Coffee Cruise following a similar route to the T buckets and ending at Autopia. A huge turnout of hot rods, chrome bumper classics and special interest vehicles overflowed the Autoplex car park with a massive crowd keen to see the spectacle inside. The Castlemaine Auto Model Show proved a hit again and a rock 'n' roll dance later that evening, featuring the very entertaining Milkshakers live band drew a big crowd. The Monday was a much quieter day in comparison.

Congratulations to the Mised Youth and especially to Aaron Develyn for helping to put on a fantastic event, the feedback has been extraordinary. It's great to see that the future of Aussie hot rodding is in good hands.

■ Al O'Toole.



**ABOVE:** Some of the Mised Youth crew pose for a photo in front of Cam Jones' 1958 Edsel Ranger. These kids travel all over the country enjoying hot rodding together, so it was great to have a show dedicated to their own projects.



**LEFT:** More than a dozen examples rolled in for the T Bucket Cruise In on the Saturday of Autopia. After being on display in the Autoplex car park, enthusiasts took a tour of Ian Blume's Mustang Marque at Harcourt and Hadfield's Hot Rods in Chewton.



**ABOVE:** The Sunday Coffee Cruise took rodders on a similar route to the T buckets the day before. Entrants travelled north out of town to Harcourt, through the valley to Chewton and back to Autoplex. This shot shows Jase and Tash White's yellow A roadster preparing to turn towards Castlemaine from Chewton.



**ABOVE LEFT:** A Q&A session with Ian Blume after touring The Mustang Marque.

**ABOVE:** Visitors enjoying the Auto Model Show and the Best Competition Car.

**LEFT:** Sunday night rock 'n' roll dance featuring the Milkshakers.

**RIGHT:** Lincoln Camilleri drew great interest with his live striping and added his lines to another half a dozen pieces while there.





**ABOVE:** Ivan Frost travelled all the way from the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne to join the cruise to Trentham before heading home late in the afternoon. That's Corey Wilson's Model A coupe in the background.

**BELOW:** Rick Ling decided it was just too cold to drive either his T bucket or MG roadster, Toyota Corollas always had great heaters and Rick's somewhat uncommon Aussie built van is no exception.



**ABOVE:** Austin A30 maybe be a tiny little car but this one was big on 'cool'. Beautifully put together and carrying a little extra pep under the hood.



## Castlemaine Coffee Cruise

Sunday, May 15th dawned with a little moisture in the air, but it wasn't rain, no, it was just ice that appeared to have influenced the turnout at Castlemaine Information Centre for the monthly Coffee Cruise, even close to departure time the "fleet" was looking a little thin. However, there was one car in the rather short line-up that spoke of its owner's, some suggested crazy, "it's never too cold for a ride in a roadster" attitude. Ivan Frost drove all the way from Ringwood in his newly completed Model A Ford bucket, not only is Ivan's car topless, it has almost no windscreen, just a small pane of class like an old aero screen once popular on English sports cars.

The slim turnout (14 vehicles) was due to a few regulars being stuck at home with colds, flu and even broken cars. Or maybe they'd heard how cold, wet and miserable it was at Trentham the previous weekend for the Spudfest, and Trentham is where the Coffee Cruise was headed today, for the annual Cavalcade of Transport.

This is a great event promoted by the Association of Motoring Clubs and undertaken at various locations around the state on the same day. Each event is organised locally, but they all happened at the same time and despite being a tad cool, it turned out to be an excellent day out with good friends, old and new and, of course a few neat old cars of all types.

Interestingly, there was a Vintage Driver's Club Rally stopped off at Castlemaine for breakfast, with some pretty old (mostly pre-1930, but we spotted a couple of late models with wind-up windows and big round fenders), horseless carriages all driven by people younger than 40 years old. Whilst there was a good turnout of VDC members and cars at Trentham, these young folks must have headed off in a different direction to enjoy what the Castlemaine area has to offer.

Anyhow, the Coffee Cruise itself was uneventful and the volume of cars at the destination far larger than it was last year after the storms had wiped out most of the local trees and closed many roads. The sun shone all day and there was no sign of precipitation from above our heads. It even got pretty warm for this time of year at around 18°C by midday. Plenty of parking space, good food and like I said, lotsa good friends and non-car folks to appreciate our stuff.

■ Carps.



**BELOW:** This one appears to be a 1947 Packard clipper Standard Eight, which again would have been uncommon here although this one has right hand drive indicating it's most likely been here since it was new.



**ABOVE:** Damian O'Doherty drove across from Sebastapol in his rare to Australia English built 1932 Ford four door sedan. This one had a few hardcore Ford fans scratching their heads, but once one counted all the Lucas parts it was obvious where the car started it's life. The large rain gutter across the top of the windscreen should have given it away.

**LEFT:** It may have been cold but this group from the Vintage Driver's Club were well equipped for any contingency and having as much fun as a bunch of kids who have wagged school.

**RIGHT:** Another uncommon US model is this 1952 Hudson Wasp, based off the Pacemaker the wasp was slightly longer due to having larger bumper overriders and slightly more luxurious trim.



## Future Meeting Dates

The next AGM to be held at Autoplex Castlemaine on Friday, June 24, 2022. Future meeting dates will be decided by the Board subject to COVID regulations, but are typically March, AGM in June, September and December (with Christmas break-up).

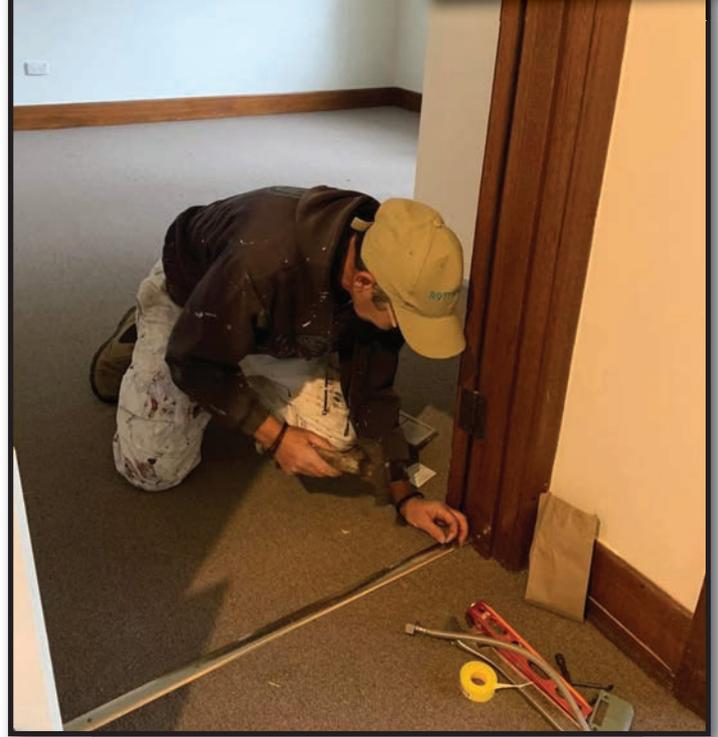
■ For further information call Secretary Vicki Farrell on 0418 510 352.

**Annual  
General Meeting  
24th June, 2022  
at Autoplex  
Castlemaine**

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General Meeting  
24th June, 2022  
at 7:30pm  
at Autoplex  
Castlemaine**

## Gower Update

*BELOW: Gower, finishing touches. Waiting for better weather to complete outside painting. Here is one of our fantastic volunteers finishing off the carpet.*



## SWAP MEET TRASH N TREASURE

**4TH SEPTEMBER 2022  
AUTOPLEX 35 ETTY STREET  
CASTLEMAINE**

All automotive undercover \$25.00 per site –  
manual handle items only.

Vehicles and/or part thereof on oval  
\$20.00 per site.

Trash 'n' treasure on oval \$20.00 per site.

Site size:

Undercover 3m deep x 4m wide,

Outside 4m x 4m.

Catering available

8:00am to 3:00pm.

\$4.00 per head entry.

**SITE BOOKINGS:**

**VICKI 0418 510 352 OR RICK 0409 837 710.**



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO BOX 1080, CASTLEMAINE, VIC, 3450.

WEB: [www.hotrodcentre.com.au](http://www.hotrodcentre.com.au) Email: [info@hotrodcentre.com.au](mailto:info@hotrodcentre.com.au)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of newsletter delivery:

Email  Post

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

Do you have an account with Bendigo Bank? Yes/No

Do you have your vehicle/s insured with Shannons Yes/No

Would you like a quote from Shannons Insurance? Yes/No

Are you interested in accessing the Club Permit System  
through CHRC? Yes/No

What skills/qualifications do you have that could assist us to  
achieve our aims? \_\_\_\_\_

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT:  Cash  Cheque  Credit Card  EFT

Individual member: \$100.00 p/a payable June 30.

Take advantage of our extended membership offers:

3 years: \$250.00  6 years: \$500.00  12 years: \$1000.00

Make cheque payable to: Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT:  Mastercard  Visa  Amex

Expiry date: / CCV:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

EFT Bank Details:

Bendigo Bank – BSB: 633000 Account No: 131166829

PLEASE NOTE: Put your Initial and Surname as Payment ID.

Use your your credit card by phone: Call Vicki Farrell 0418 510 352.

Comments/suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All information remains confidential.