



# French Car Torque

Magazine of the French Car Club of Canberra



October 2023





On the cover A Citroen Ami, looking right at home in a line-up of bikes, Rome 2022.

Photo by Geoff Pillans

## FRENCH CAR TORQUE

Official journal of the  
French Car Club of Canberra Inc.  
(FCCC)

PO Box 4183, Hawker, ACT, 2614.

The French Car Club of Canberra website is at:  
<https://frenchcarclubofcanberra.com.au/>

All copyrights to original articles herein are reserved except for other French Car Associations and clubs which must acknowledge the source and author when reproducing them. Individual opinions expressed herein need not necessarily reflect the FCCC as a whole.

### 02 President's Report

### 03 2022-23 FCCC Committee Who's who in FCCC

### 04 Calendar Club Events 2023

### 05 Local event French Car Drive to Cooma Car Museum

### 07 Classifieds For sale, wanted, parts and wrecking

### 09 News Mt Tarrengower Hill Climb

### 11 History The original Michelin Man

### 12 News Gasoline Alley Museum

### 13 National Capital Renault

### 14 Minutes Meeting minutes Sept 2023

### 15 Shannons

Bonjour Francophiles,

Well, the club AGM has been and gone for another year, and the new committee has a familiar look about it – in fact it is identical to the previous committee. My thanks to everyone who put their hands up for more of the same!

Sadly, we were unable to fill the role of Secretary and, consequently, that position remains vacant. It's not an onerous task at all, so I hope that someone will come forward to take it on, with a bit of encouragement from me...

Sue has just returned from 2 weeks in Northern Ireland, mainly in Belfast, where she was researching more of her family history. It's familiar territory for both of us, as I have Irish ancestry as well, including convict, William Dunshea, who was transported to Sydney in 1818 for stealing two pigs in a market in Belfast.

Anyway, Sue thoroughly enjoyed her stay, despite some fairly ordinary weather (cold and wet, mainly). The price of fuel is much higher than here, being around \$3.00 per litre, but on the up side, Ireland is a pretty small place. Sue spotted a few Peugeots and was keen to snap a Pug in front of one of the giant wall murals that abound in Belfast – she almost pulled it off, but the mural is a bit far away for best effect. The murals are mostly about war and, of course, the Irish 'troubles'.

Sue also visited the Titanic Museum, in the Belfast docks where the famous ship was built and launched.



Meanwhile back at home, I left Sue's car in the garage, which resulted in a flat battery after 10 days of not being driven. I rang the NRMA and a cheerful technician turned up to confirm the diagnosis – yep, the battery was flat and dying, so a new one was fitted for \$300 (ouch). Changing the battery in the 308 is not a straightforward task because the battery is hidden behind walls of plastic and wiring. I doubt that the NRMA guy had done one before, but I was impressed as I watched him methodically work it out, while we both reminisced about the good old days when changing a battery was a snooze.

Interestingly, when the 308 would not start, it generated an error message that said "gearbox fault". A quick call to Bill McNamee confirmed that a flat battery can cause random error messages from the engine management system, so I breathed a sigh of relief.

Our next club event is French Car Day, at the Telopea Park School fete, on Saturday 4 November – see page 4 for details.

The next club meeting will be held at 8 pm on Tuesday 24 October, at the Raiders Club, in Weston, with dinner and drinks from 7 pm.

Au revoir,

*Brad Pillans*

Brad Pillans, Club President



# 2022-23 FCC COMMITTEE

## President

Brad Pillans  
30 Aspen Rise  
Jerrabomberra, NSW, 2619  
0427 662 112  
[brad.pillans@anu.edu.au](mailto:brad.pillans@anu.edu.au)

## Vice President

Colin Handley  
4 Bains Place  
Lyneham ACT 2602  
0414 484 398

## Secretary

Vacant

## Treasurer

Neil Birch

## Technical Officers

Bill McNamee  
15 Finlayson Pl  
Gilmore 2905  
6291 6495, 0419 279 811  
[mcnamee@amorphous.com.au](mailto:mcnamee@amorphous.com.au)

Barry McAdie  
[bardot@iinet.net.au](mailto:bardot@iinet.net.au)  
0415 907 614

## Magazine Editorial Committee

Brad Pillans  
Lisa Molvig

## Membership Secretary

Barry McAdie  
[bardot@iinet.net.au](mailto:bardot@iinet.net.au)  
0415 907 614

## Web Page Editors

Mitch Jamieson-Curran  
Leigh McEwan

## Social Secretary

Lisa Molvig

## General Committee

Lisa Molvig  
Leigh McEwan

Public Officer  
Barry McAdie

## Delegates to CACTMC

Greg Francis  
Neil Sperring

## Club Registrars

Brad Pillans  
Lisa Molvig  
[reno1338@hotmail.com](mailto:reno1338@hotmail.com)





# CLUB EVENTS 2023

## Calendar

**22 October French Car Drive** to Cooma Motor Museum

<https://www.coomacarclub.com.au/Motor-Museum>

**24 October** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club,  
1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7pm & meeting at 8pm.

**4 November. French Car Day.** Telopea Park School

**28 November** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club,  
1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7pm & meeting at 8pm

**Early December Christmas BBQ.** Date to be advised.

**25 February 2024** Shannons Wheels, Queanbeyan Showgrounds

### French Car Drives in 2023 and 2024

These occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of even months (except December).  
If you have any other suggestions of places to visit, please send me  
an email on [reno1338@hotmail.com](mailto:reno1338@hotmail.com). Lisa Molvig, Social Secretary

The website of the Council of ACT Motor Clubs has a calendar of  
car club events in the Canberra region – always worth a look...  
[https://www.cactmc.org.au/cactmc\\_calendar.html](https://www.cactmc.org.au/cactmc_calendar.html)



**French Car Club of  
Canberra**

Display Times  
**10AM TO 2PM**

## FRENCH CAR DISPLAY

**SATURDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER  
2023**

*La Grande Fete*  
*Telopea Park  
School. Barton.*

**CONTACT**

club@fccoc.com.au  
<https://fccoc.com.au>



# French Car Drive: Cooma Car Club Motoring Museum

Lisa Molvig

On Sunday 22 October, we visited this car museum which opened in early 2022 after several years of work by the members of the Cooma Car Club. It is housed in a former gym/indoor cricket arena. The museum includes a display of members' cars, motoring history of the Cooma Monaro region, model cars, car art and posters. They change the display of cars on a regular basis - they have about 350 members' cars (also motorbikes, tractors and trucks) to choose from and currently have about 40 on display. These ranged from a Model T Ford to a 1982 Honda City with accompanying Motocompo motorbike which fits in the boot. There weren't any French cars on display but ones from Sweden, Germany, Italy, America and Australia. Twenty people attended- 6 from FCCC (Flash and Bob in P203, Neil and Charles in P407, Lisa in P308 and Leigh in Audi) plus 14 from our friends in the Rover and Armstrong Siddeley clubs. Chris Forsey, a member of all 3 clubs, came along in a neutral car - a Holden Calais.



Good enough to be in the museum – Flash and Bob's Peugeot 203 (actually the number plate gives it away – it's Bob's mum's car)





## Cooma Car Museum (cont)



*Two stately limos, an Armstrong Siddeley and a Jaguar— just visiting*

The Cooma Car Club Museum is open every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm and the first Saturday each month from 10am to 2pm. It is well worth a visit.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## For sale, parts and wrecking

If you want to advertise something for sale or simply offer items free to a good home, then this is a good place to let other club members know.

Please contact either Colin Handley (0414 484 398) or Brad Pillans (0427 662 112) to place an ad.

### For sale

#### Early Peugeot 404 instrument cluster

Also have front indicator light and bumper bar over-riders to suit same model. Make an offer. Contact Lisa 0412-011927 or [reno1338@hotmail.com](mailto:reno1338@hotmail.com)



#### Peugeot 505 manual sedan

White, 1984, very good condition, on club plates. \$2,300. Contact Neville: 0429 168 595

### Peugeot items

2 x 406 petrol auto sedans ,located in Bombala ,also 403 gearbox. Best offer for each. Contact Neville 0429 168 595

### Peugeot memorabilia

Early 20<sup>th</sup> cent advertising posters. Approximately 380mm high by 280 wide. Bought from a market stall in Avignon. \$30 the lot plus postage. Contact Mike Garrett [mike.garrett@bigpond.com](mailto:mike.garrett@bigpond.com)



### Peugeot bits

403 front guards, 403 outer sills, 403, 203 diffs; second hand windscreens, several 03 crankshafts, 604 504 diff centres and shafts, offers. Contact Neville: 0429 168 595

## Wanted

### Roof rack for Peugeot 403 station wagon

Contact Flash: 0418 110 078

## Wrecking

### Black 2008 Peugeot 407 SV V6 petrol sedan.

Just over 98,000kms on the odometer; driven to where it now lays. Major engine oil leaks and a split cooling system "evaporation chamber"; a small scrape on the back offside mudguard. If anyone is interested in any bits, please contact Flash on 0418 110 078.



## For disposal (mostly free)

- (1)\* **Peugeot 504 GL sedan** 4-sp manual, manufactured August/1980, silver-grey. VIN 504A11 3328162. Complete, running OK when registration lapsed 2008. Condition: upholstery (blue velveteen) very good, exterior poor.
- (2) **Peugeot 505 Sti sedan** 5-sp manual, manufactured Feb/1984, blue. VIN VF3551A36E1662859, ZDJL engine, 413,000km. Largely complete but condition very poor.
- (3) **Peugeot 505 Gti sedan** automatic, manufactured ?, silver. Largely complete but condition very poor.
- (4)\* **Peugeot 505 Gti sedan** 5-sp manual, manufactured April/1985, red. VIN 3551A86F1781262, engine, Bosch LE Jetronic injection, 190,000km, mag wheels. Last registered 2016, condition poor/fair, minimal work needed to make driveable.
- (5) **Set of 5 mag wheels** with 195/70R14 tyres (Peugeot CETEF 061300, ex station wagon but fitted to Sti sedan above). Sound condition.
- (6)\*\*\* **Fuel sender unit and gasket** P/N 1526.74 2004 brand new, unused (Jaeger 320836) \$35
- (7)\*\*\* **Piston and cylinder kit** to suit ZDJ engine (Sti). ENS 6139 26/11/2005, French Bretille brand with instructions. Brand new unused. \$500
- (8) **Towbars for 504, 505.**

All above items are free to collect excepting:

\*\*\* the new parts (6) and (7) for which I am asking a suitable price,

\* vehicles (1) and (4) free but prefer to dispose of as entire vehicle.

Expressions of interest to: Gary Hovey 02-4842 8181 or 0429 484 281 or email gary DOT hovey AT anu DOT edu DOT au.

## MOST MAKES & MODELS

SORRY NO CITROENS

*Canberra Continental*

Service Centre



- REGULAR SERVICING
- MOTOR REPAIR
- EXPERT ADVICE
- GREAT VALUE
- QUALITY PARTS AND COMPONENTS
- STATE OF THE ART DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

**Complete Service  
& Maintenance on...**



# Mount Tarrengower Historic Hill Climb, Maldon, Victoria

Barry McAdie

On 13 October 2023, I took the opportunity to travel to Victoria to see my very sick brother and my daughter and the grandkids in Bendigo. It so happened that the Mount Tarrengower Historic Hill Climb was on that weekend. I had planned to enter my Alpine A110 but it was not ready.

However, I knew that Bob Watson and John Hardy were regular entrants. Bob had entered his 1959 Renault Dauphine Gordini but unfortunately it was running on three cylinders as he journeyed up from Melbourne and so was a late scratching. John also drove his 1967 Alpine A110 from Melbourne and I saw him run on Saturday recording a time of 52.2 seconds. Usually, he runs at around just over 48 seconds. Unfortunately, he broke a clutch cable on the start line on Sunday and had to tilt tray his car back to Melbourne. Naturally, he was not happy.



John Hardy in his A110 at the start line.

The first hill climb was held at Mount Tarrengower in 1928 and ran until 1953 with a 7 year break around the time of WW2. It fell into decline during the 1950s and was revived briefly in 1964 and events were run on the new tourist road to the summit. The new sealed surface, together with rapid advances in the cars used for the event, meant that times began to tumble. There was another lapse until 1975 with 4 events running until 1978 and the Bendigo Car Club has run the event since 2012. The event is recognised as the longest hill climb in Australia being almost 1.6kms long and rising almost 182 metres from start to finish. The fastest time recorded on the hill to date is 37.1 seconds in 1978 by Werner Rodkin who unfortunately lost his life during practice on the hill in 1988 for the Victorian Hillclimb Championship.

I will be entering my car next year. My daughter's rebuilt house in Maldon will be ready by then. I will also have accommodation at my sister's place in Ararat for the iconic One Tree Hill climb which I witnessed way back in the 1970s.



John Hardy's finish time on Saturday. A bit below his best and no run on Sunday.

The event included some very interesting old cars like the 1920s Vauxhalls similar to one owned by my grandfather and a beautifully finished aluminium bodied MG. One I had never seen before was a mini Marcos. At John's suggestion, I was able to put my new A110 on display with other vehicles of interest near the start line and they included Dave Cavanaugh's R8 Gordini rally car originally campaigned by Bob Watson and Mal MacPherson in the Australian rally championship. All in all, it was a great event and fortunately the rain stayed away.



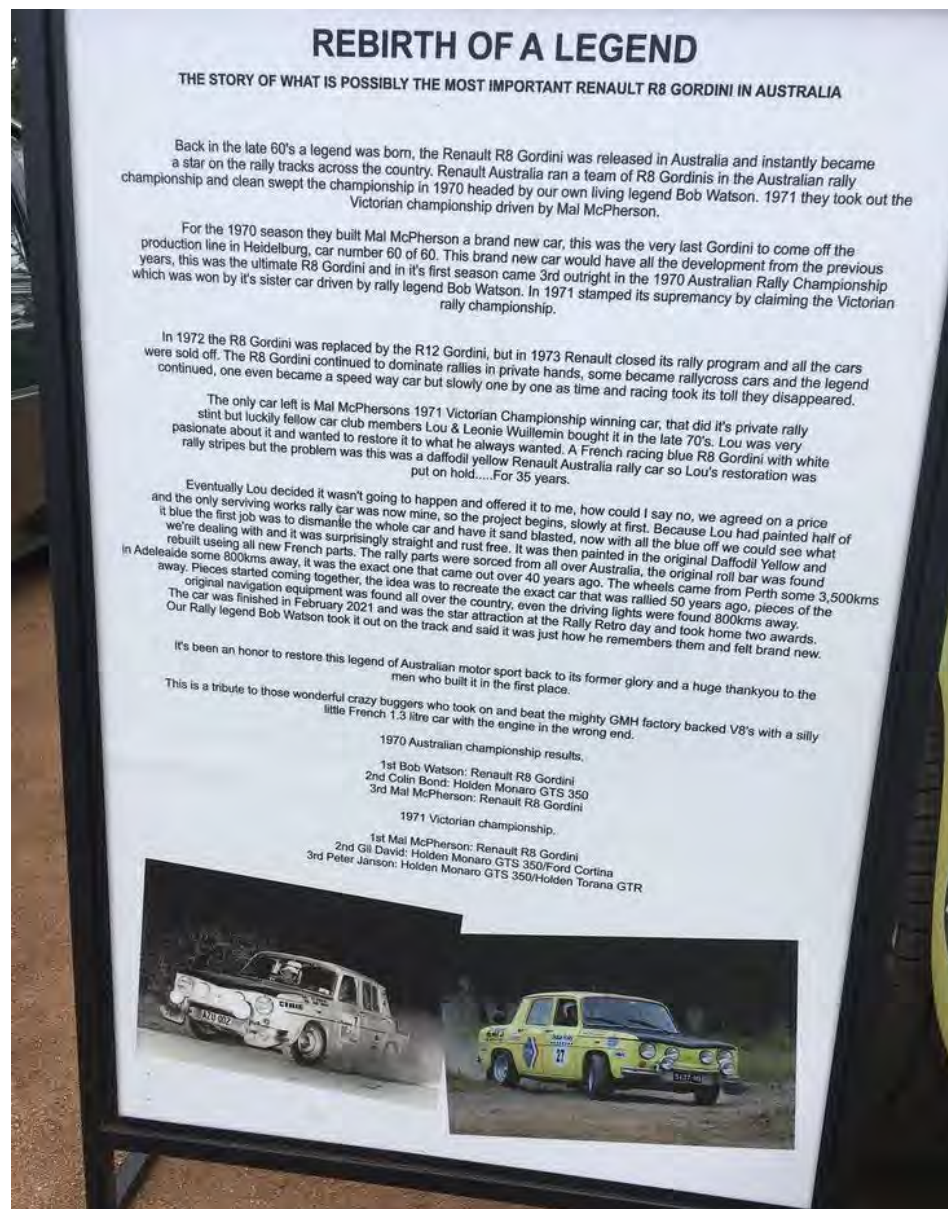
## Mount Tarrengower (cont)



Dave Cavanaugh's R8 Gordini rally car on display



A Vauxhall just like my grandad used to have but never raced.



Story board on Dave's car. [Worth the read, so zoom in on your screen]



## Mount Tarrengower (cont)



*The immaculate aluminium body work on an MG.*



*A mini Marcos - never seen one before.*

[It was a kit car with a fibreglass body on a Mini chassis and running gear]  
See: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mini\\_Marcos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mini_Marcos)

## The original Michelin Man

The original Michelin Man from 1894 is white because rubber tyres are naturally white. It was not until 1912, that carbon chemicals were mixed into the white tyres, which turned them black. The change was structural, not aesthetic. By adding carbon, tyres became more durable.

Michelin also began reviewing restaurants so that more people would travel further distances in their cars to eat at these restaurants. This in turn would wear down their tyres faster, and force them to buy more. The star system that Michelin uses goes up to three and is broken down by whether or not it's worth driving to the restaurant. One star: "A very good restaurant in its category"

Two star: "Excellent cooking, worth a detour"

Three star: "Exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey..."

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10225713105427424&set=gm.1747339152415545&id=186075975208545>



*Bibendum in 1894 (above) and a more modern version on the right*

*Lisa Molvig spotted this story and picture on Facebook*

*The Michelin Man, known as Bibendum, is one of the oldest trademarks still in use.*





# Gasoline Alley Museum

Leigh McEwan

Within the Heritage Park, Calgary Alberta Canada, is the Gasoline Alley Museum with beautifully restored American motoring exhibits from the early 1900's. While there were no French cars, the display featured incredibly well restored vehicles, all immaculately presented



## FIRST HYBRID VEHICLES

During the Depression, many self-reliant Canadians hitched horses to their otherwise useless cars—parts or fuel had become unaffordable. Known as "Bennett-Buggies" after Prime Minister R.B. Bennett, these hybrid vehicles remain a symbol of perseverance in a time of extreme hardship.



Biggar, Saskatchewan. 1933

Reinbow Archives NA 2266-1

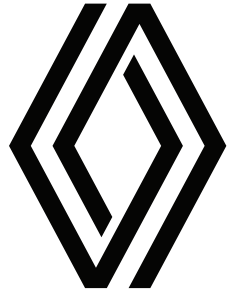


I liked the 'First Hybrid Car' with a car/horse combination to overcome fuel shortages during the depression, not to mention the fantastic array of unusual gas bowlers.

The Renault V8 aircraft engine was pretty cool, too!

# free accessories up to \$500 on new car orders\*

plus a 10% discount on service and parts  
for club members, family and friends^



**NATIONAL CAPITAL RENAULT**

**219 Scollay St, Greenway // ph: (02) 6175 9444**

**[nationalcapitalrenault.com.au](https://nationalcapitalrenault.com.au)**

\*\$500 accessories bonus is on the full rrp of any new vehicle in stock. ^eligible for financial members of the club and anyone they refer only. 10% discount applies to the retail service and retail parts price. National Capital Renault reserves the right to vary, extend or withdraw this offer.

October 2023

13



**French Car Club of Canberra Inc**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**26 September 2023**  
**MINUTES**



### 1. Present

Greg Francis	Neil Sperring
Neil Birch	Glen Bryden
Barry McAdie	Joel Krewaz
Leigh McEwan	Colin Handley
Charles Birch	Brad Pillans
Dave Rowell	Allan Lance

### 2. Apologies

Glen Bryden	Ross Stephens
Bill McNamee	Ian Brock

### 3. Introduction

The meeting opened at 8.22 pm.  
 Brad Pillans welcomed members to the meeting.

### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the August meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record, after a minor correction – the motion to accept the 2022 minutes was seconded by either Barry McAdie or Greg Francis, not Greg McAdie.  
 Moved Brad, seconded Lisa - carried

### 5. Presidents report

Brad noted that the club had 50 to 60 members, with 24 cars on club plates (20 ACT, 4 NSW). Events during the last 12 months included 5 French Car Drives, French Car Day (Nov), a club BBQ at "The Shed" (Feb), Shannons Wheels (Feb), Battle of Waterloo (June), plus monthly club meetings at the Raiders Club. Brad thanked the outgoing committee and all club members for contributing to another successful club year

### 5. Financial report

The audited financial statement to 30 June 2023 was presented, showing a balance of \$19,663.46.  
 Motion: that the financial report be accepted.  
 Moved Neil Birch, seconded Leigh, carried.

### 6. Election of office bearers

Brad thanked the outgoing Committee and declared all positions vacant and asked Barry McAdie to conduct the election of Committee Members.

**President:** Brad Pillans, nominated by Colin Handley, seconded Barry McAdie.

**Vice-President:** Colin Handley, nominated by Barry McAdie, seconded Brad Pillans.

**Secretary:** no nominations, left vacant.

**Treasurer:** Neil Birch, nominated by Barry McAdie, seconded Greg Francis.

These positions were elected unanimously and unopposed.  
 The meeting made the following appointments.

**Technical Officers:** Bill McNamee and Barry McAdie.

**Magazine:** Brad Pillans and Lisa Molvig.

**Membership Secretary:** Barry McAdie.

**Website:** Leigh McEwan and Mitch Jamieson-Curran

**Social Secretary:** Lisa Molvig

**General Committee:** Lisa Molvig and Leigh McEwan

**Public Officer:** Barry McAdie

**CACTMC delegates:** Neil Sperring and Greg Francis

**Registrars:** Brad Pillans and Lisa Molvig.

The meeting decided not to have a position of **Event Coordinator**.

The meeting closed at 8:42 pm and was followed immediately by the September general meeting.



**French Car Club of Canberra Inc**  
**General Meeting**  
**26 September 2023**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Present:** As for AGM

**2. Apologies:** As for AGM

### 3. Minutes

Neil B moved that the minutes of the August meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded Colin. Carried.

### 4. Finance Report

Account Balance is \$4,347.07 and 3 Term Deposits totalling \$15,029.92 Neil Birch moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Barry McAdie. Carried.

### 5. General Business

#### CACTMC report:

Access Canberra is trying to automate special registration so it can be done online, as for normal Rego.  
 Still no club to run Wheels 2023, Council is trying to organise smaller clubs to band together to run Wheels this time. Need people on the ground on the day of Wheels.

Any volunteers let Greg Francis know.

There is an online process to have Club Events added to the Council Web site.

Barry to add French Car Day (FCD) to CACTMC Web site's list of upcoming events.

Barry will contact Shannons about sponsoring FCD

#### Social:

Next Car Run to Cooma Motor Museum.

Christmas Gathering still to be decided.

Any ideas for next year's drives, let Lisa know.

Colin agrees to another event at his Shed Next February.

### 6. Other business:

Greg said it would be nice to have a banner with the FCCC logo on it. Meeting agreed. Greg to follow up.

Nothing has been heard for Peugeot NSW Club about a Pageant next year, Brad to follow up.

### 7. Close and next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm. Next meeting will be at the Raiders Club, at 8 pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

# “NO ONE KNOWS YOUR PASSION LIKE SHANNONS.”



Shannons Home and Comprehensive Car and Bike insurance is for motoring enthusiasts just like you, with features like:

- Choice of repairer
- Agreed value
- Multi-Vehicle & Multi-Policy discounts
- Limited Use & Club Plate cover
- Laid up cover
- One excess free windscreen claim per year
- Total loss salvage options
- Home & Contents Insurance including \$10,000 enthusiast items cover for your collectables & tools
- Towing & storage costs as a result of loss or damage
- Pay by the month premiums at no extra cost

Call Shannons on **13 46 46** for a quote on your **special car, daily drive, bike or your home**, and speak with a genuine enthusiast.



**SHARE THE PASSION**

Shannons Pty Limited ABN 91 099 692 636 is an authorised representative of AAI Limited ABN 48 005 297 807, the product issuer. Some benefits only apply to comprehensive vehicle cover. Shannons has not taken account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Read the Product Disclosure Statement before buying this insurance, available at [shannons.com.au](http://shannons.com.au). The Target Market Determination is also available. Terms, conditions, limits and exclusions apply. The type of cover must be specified on your certificate of insurance. If you do not use your vehicle in accordance with the vehicle usage shown on your policy certificate you may not be covered in the event of a claim. Discounts do not apply to the optional Shannons Roadside Assist or CTP.

**INSURANCE FOR MOTORING ENTHUSIASTS | CALL 13 46 46 FOR A QUOTE | SHANNONS.COM.AU**

October 2023 15