



# French Car Torque



Magazine of the French Car Club of Canberra



July 2024





**On the cover** A beautiful 1961 Citroën DS19 in the Riga Motor Museum, Latvia  
Photo: Kate Bray

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## 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/>

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Bonjour Francophiles,

My brother, Rob, is a chartered accountant turned business coach, with clients all over Australia. As a result, he racks up millions of frequent flyer points, which he and his partner, Kate, use to great advantage for overseas trips. This month, they were in Europe, including Italy, France, Denmark, Finland, Latvia and Estonia, and under instructions to photograph any French cars of note.

The Riga Motor Museum, in Latvia, had some fine French vehicles on display, one of which, a handsome looking Citroen DS19, features on the front cover of this issue of French Car Torque. That's Rob, taking a closer look... He's also sent me some other great photos which I will share with you in later issues.

Meanwhile, back in cold old Canberra, I dream of somewhere warmer as I pull on my winter woollies and turn on the heated seats in my 508 or our new e-2008. Sue and I might be tempted to do a road trip to Queensland, perhaps in the e-2008. We shall see.... With fuel prices remaining stubbornly high, the e-2008 is certainly the cheapest way to drive, though we need to check the availability of charging stations in some of the out of the way places we want to visit.

.A friend of mine recently did a road trip from Canberra to Tasmania in his Nissan Leaf, which has a fairly modest range compared to newer EV vehicles. The upshot was, that with careful planning, the trip went pretty smoothly. Mind you, Tassie is a small place to compared to Queensland, so the distances he travelled each day would be much less than we might expect to drive on a Queensland odyssey.

July is car registration month for two of the Pillans fleet – Sue's 308 (now for sale – see page 7) and my 508. For older cars, in NSW, that means an annual inspection to get a pink slip – not something to be feared if you keep your car in good nick, as we do, but you never know what the inspection might turn up. As it happens, both cars passed with flying colours, so there were no surprises. The place we take our cars to get inspected is the BP garage in Fyshwick – no appointments, you just turn up and take your chances on how long you wait. The sign at the entrance says that the average wait time is 15 Fijian minutes, which means almost any length of time. In Sue's case it was an hour and a half, and in my case it was one hour of Canberra time!

The next club meeting will be held at 8 pm on Tuesday 23 July, at the Raiders Club, in Weston, with dinner and drinks from 7 pm. These get-togethers are an excellent opportunity to get to know other club members and their cars in a relaxed setting. Very good bistro food, too, so why not come along?

Au revoir,

**BRAD**

Brad Pillans, Club President



# 2023-24 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 2024

**23 July** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm.

**25 August** **French Car Drive** to Sutton Village Bakery

**27 August** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm.

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

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

**27 October** **French Car Drive** to Mt Stromlo Observatory Café; the visitors centre is planning to reopen in 2024.

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

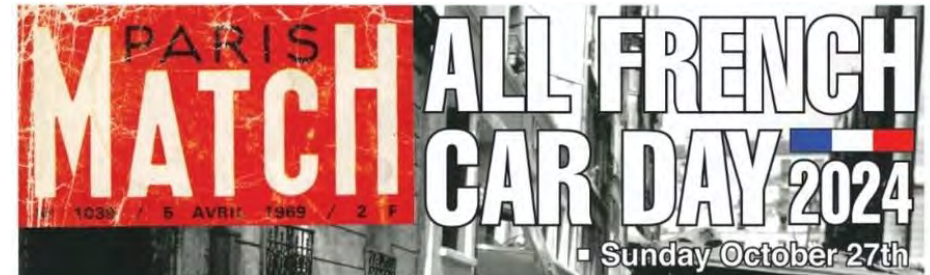
## French Car Drives in 2024

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 festival in Melbourne** is on October 27. Being organised this year by RCCV and will be held at Living Legends <https://www.livinglegends.org.au/> near Tullamarine airport.



Featured horsepower from Renault, Peugeot, Citroen & More

At 'Living Legends', Woodlands Historic Park, the home of equine thoroughbreds ([livinglegends.org.au](http://livinglegends.org.au)) Woodlands Drive, Greenvale 3059

All other French thoroughbreds welcome! Think Alpine, Simca, Delage, Amilcar, Panhard and Bugatti. New cars too! This year become a legend. Bring your French automotive beauty and let it shine at our annual spectacular display of all things French automotive. This year at beautiful, historic Woodlands Park.

- Concours judging for each club
- Merchandise for sale
- Coffee Van
- BYO picnic
- Historic homestead and grounds
- Cycling & walking trails throughout the park
- Café & food available at Living Legends homestead
- Participating cars arrive from 9am
- Participating cars \$10 entry
- All welcome. Free entry for public

HERE! SEE YOU THERE! SEE YOU THERE! SEE YOU THERE! SEE YOU THERE!

Hosts in 2024: Renault Car Club of Victoria

See also [aussiefrogs.com](http://aussiefrogs.com) and FB



# French Car Drive: Fedra Olive Grove

Lisa Molvig, French Car Club of Canberra

It was a cold and showery day for our outing to the Fedra Olive Grove off the Federal Highway at Collector, for brunch/morning tea. Thankfully it was warm and dry inside the café with a wood fire.

Our group consisted of 13 members of FCCC (Nick and Helen, Leigh, Janette and Phillip, Neil and Charles, Chris, Joel and Doreen, Ole and Margaret, Lisa) and 4 members of the Rover club. Everyone enjoyed the coffee and choices of either savoury brunch dishes or sweet pastries.



With more than 6,000 olive trees, and a specifically imported Italian olive press which can process up to 1,500 kg per hour, Fedra Olive Grove produces award-winning extra virgin olive oil. Read more: <https://www.fedraolivegrove.com.au/>

Photos by Lisa Molvig and Chris Forsey



Local event



# Bastille Day celebration

Lisa Molvig, French Car Club of Canberra

Bastille Day (July 14) was celebrated with brunch/ morning tea at Breizh Café in Ainslie. We had 14 members attend and enjoy the French style offerings for brunch. Unlike last year, this year the café wasn't decorated for Bastille Day, which was a bit disappointing. Members who attended were Ken and Joan, Joel and Doreen, Karl, Grahame and Susan, Neil and Charles, Chris, Leigh, Lisa, Janette and Phillip.



Photos by Lisa Molvig and Chris Forsey



Local news



# 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

### Peugeot 504 trapezoidal headlights

Contact Colin: 0414 484 398

### Citroen BX front seats

Pair of front BX black cloth seats in vgc, best offer

Contact Colin: 0414 484 398

### Citroen Xantia

Registration YLC465, current to 26 January 2024. Suitable for restoration or parts; some engine spares. Located in Weetangera, Canberra.

Contact Pat Stone: 02 6254 5525, or 0405 127 457



### Peugeot 307 wagon 2008

Tubo diesel, 69,000 kms; at least 4 good mag wheels; severe rear end damage; located in Queanbeyan. Phone 0414 154 895



### Peugeot 308 2 litre HDi Sportium

MY2014, white, one owner, always garaged and fully serviced; 6 speed auto, Michelins, tow bar, 186K, 6 months NSW rego. A couple of minor scratches and a small dent on the boot, otherwise a very sound car and much loved by Sue Pillans. \$9,250.

Contact Brad 0427 662 112 or Sue 0402 258 341





# Sydney then and now

Brad Pillans, French Car Club of Canberra

With a long family link to Sydney, including being born in Chatswood, it is interesting to see how much the city has changed over the course of my lifetime – 70 years plus.

Although my parents moved away from Sydney when I was a baby, my father's parents' home in Cammeray was a favourite destination for us grandchildren during school holidays. I have fond memories of doing simple things like riding the trams, buses, trains and ferries, as well as trips to Taronga Park Zoo, Manly and the city centre. Completed in 1962, the now heritage-listed AMP building on Circular Quay was the tallest building, with a rooftop observation deck just over 100m high – rather small by today's standards, but impressive to a young boy from the country (we lived in Moruya, on the south coast). Back then, I could name every station on the railway line from Central Station to Hornsby.

So, when Peter Rees drew my attention to a Facebook Group called "Sydney Then and Now", I was quick to join. Peter had spotted the image pair, on the right, which features the same scene – the western façade of Sydney GPO on George Street – in the 1950s and in 2024 – with a Peugeot 203 taking pride of place in the 1950s image. [The GPO is officially located in Martin Place, but it spans the entire southern side of Martin Place, from Pitt Street to George Street]

The Sydney GPO has always been special to me because the columns of the façade are made of granite that was quarried in Moruya (where I grew up) – the same granite that was used for the pylons of the Harbour Bridge.

Check out their Facebook page:  
[\(20+\) Sydney Then and Now | Facebook](#)



Source: [\(20+\) city of sydney/stephen thomas - Search Results | Facebook](#)



# My cars and their stories.

## Part 2. 1949 Vanguard

Barry McAdie, French Car Club of Canberra

My second car was a 1949 Standard Vanguard that I called the “black jellybean” because of its looks. It had a four-cylinder engine of 2088cc and a three-speed gear box with a right hand column gear shift. If you were not careful and had the side vent window open, you would crack your knuckles while changing gear. The engine was basically the same as that used in Ferguson tractors with some changes for automobile use - and it felt like it, too. It had good torque but handled badly, being somewhat top heavy. It had a top speed of close to 130km/hr but fuel economy was lousy at around 12 litres/100km.

This was another car Dad found for me – this time through his friend, Jim Lindsay, in Stawell. It was part of a deceased estate and had been sitting in a garage for some time. When we came to see the car, it was covered in dust with cat paw prints over the top. However, Jim started it first go and the sale was made.

I don't have a photo of my actual car but this one, below, from Wikipedia, shows what it looked like.



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard\\_Vanguard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Vanguard)

On one weekend, Mike Brasier and I decided to travel to the Horsham Drive-in with our girlfriends (Sally and blind date Lorraine Boag) to see the movie “Help” with the Beatles in 1966. Just before we arrived, the exhaust system let go and we travelled around looking for a park sounding just like a Ferguson tractor.

The first showing was a nature film that didn't grab us much so we all settled in for a bit of smooching. The narrator of the film was talking about bush turkeys and said “Gobble, gobble, give me, give me” and we just burst out laughing as we were thinking the same thing.

One other night, Sally and I decided to go to the drive-in in Stawell. We had only just driven down the road and found that I could not change gears. I managed to get the car home in gear, explained the situation to Dad and he kindly lent me his EH Holden so we could continue on our way for the night.

Next day, he and I tackled the problem. The car had a removable floor pan right above the gearbox – very handy. Once removed, we could see what was wrong – the whole gearbox had shifted to the right because the flange on the bell housing was breaking away from the engine block. As a result, the clutch was jamming tight against the flywheel. Dad's solution – get some threaded rods, make hooks on the ends, insert the hooked ends into holes he drilled into the clutch housing, insert the threaded ends into the appropriate holes on the back of the engine and screw the rods up. Sure enough, the gearbox gradually shifted back into place, and all was good.

I am not sure what happened to the car in the end. From memory, I sold it because, as a poor university student at the time, I could not afford to run it. It was time to look for a smaller car that was cheaper to run.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH...



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\*\$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.

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French Car Club of Canberra Inc  
 General Meeting  
 25 June 2024  
 MINUTES



**1. Present**

Lisa Molvig	Neil Sperring
Neil Birch	Jim Taylor
Barry McAdie	Greg Francis
Leigh McEwan	Brad Pillans
Bill McNamee	Ross Stephens
Colin Handley	Joel Krewaz
Charles Birch	

**2. Apologies**

Dave Rowell	Michael Bowden
Pat Stone	Fred Cook

**3. Introduction**

The meeting opened at 8.26 pm.  
 Brad Pillans welcomed everyone to the meeting,

**4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Motion: Brad moved that the minutes of the may meeting be accepted, seconded Greg.  
 Carried.

**5. Financial report**

Our Account balance with Bendigo Bank is \$1,541.18, with three Term Deposits totalling \$15,198.42. Since the last meeting, 30 members have renewed their membership.  
 Motion: Neil Birch moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Greg. Carried.

**6. General Business**

CACTMC report

The Council has decided to sell the Pie Cart. A working committee is working on a plan to hold Wheels 2025 to be cost neutral.

Social

Great turn out for Battle of Waterloo, some interesting participants. Lisa reported that 17 people are coming on the drive to Collector.

Bastille Day: we will have a celebration at Breizh Cafe in Ainslie. See the latest FCT for full report.

**7. Other business**

Neil Birch requested that the AGM be held in October instead of September this year so he could present the Treasurer's Report in person. Leigh said that at least a month's notice needed to be given. The meeting agreed to have the AGM in October.

**8. Close and next meeting**

The meeting closed at 8:51 pm. The next club meeting is scheduled for the Raiders Club in Weston, at 8pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.



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