



French Car Torque



Magazine of the French Car Club of Canberra



November 2024



On the cover A very nice 2018 Alpine A110 Legend at French Car Day, owned by Paul Bridgman
Image: Ole Andersen

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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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Individual opinions expressed herein need not necessarily reflect the FCCC as a whole.

Bonjour Francophiles,

As I said at the club AGM last month, the club has had another very successful year, with a range of well attended events and monthly club meetings at the Raiders Weston Club. My thanks to the outgoing club committee and to all members who participated.

Club membership hovered around 60 to 70 members, with 26 members having vehicles on concessional registration (21 in ACT and 5 in NSW).

Our major club events continued to be Wheels (in March), Battle of Waterloo (June) and French Car Day (November). The club was awarded a prize for “best club display” at Wheels and while we did not win the Battle of Waterloo (again), we had a great display of vehicles.

French Car Drives, organised by Lisa Molvig, and held in conjunction with the Rover Club, continued to be popular – many thanks Lisa. Destinations included Cooma Motor Museum, Hall Cafe, Mulligans Flat, Fedra Olive Grove and Sutton Bakery.

Other events included a Bastille Day brunch at Breizh Café in Ainslie, Fish ‘n Chips at Canberra Yacht Club and a summer BBQ at The Shed in Queanbeyan – our thanks again to Colin Handley for hosting the latter. Several members also attended Wheels of Wamboin.

We have one more major event to round out 2024 - an invitation to attend the French Sounds of Summer event at the French Embassy on Sunday 1 December. The invitation arose after meeting the French Ambassador at our French Car Day at Telopea Park fete earlier this month. As a result, not only have club members and their families been invited to attend, but we have been allocated space in the embassy grounds to display some of our ‘classic’ French cars. See the event web page for details: <https://frenchsoundsofsummer.fr/activities/>

This will be the last issue of French Car Torque for 2024 – your editor has earned “time off for good behaviour” and the next issue will be January 2025. As in previous years, I am not intending to travel much further than my garden over the Christmas-New Year break – all the nice places are full of pesky tourists/holidaymakers at this time of year. Besides, I know full well that the water is warmer at the coast in late summer/early autumn.

I encourage all members to attend the final club meeting for 2024, to be held at 8 pm at the Raiders Club tonight (26 November), with dinner and drinks from 7 pm. Finally, I wish all club members and their families (and cars) a safe and enjoyable Christmas

Au revoir,

BRAD

Brad Pillans, Club President

P.S. I've included my favourite 2024 pic, below, one last time.



Brad in the hat, with Bernie Searle, in Searle's Outback Store, Winton

2023-24 FCC COMMITTEE

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CLUB EVENTS 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.

1 December **French Sounds of Summer**, 10 am to 3.30 pm at the French Embassy, 6 Perth Ave, Yarralumla. Please ensure that you register if you wish to attend.
<https://frenchsoundsofsummer.fr/>

15 December **Christmas lunch**, 12 noon, at Hasset Park, Campbell. Enjoy genuine Breton Crepes from the Le Petit Breton Crepes food van. A range of sweet and savoury crepes will be available, plus coffee and cold drinks.

French Car Drives in 2024/25

These occur on the 4th Sunday of even months (except December). If you have any other suggestions of places to visit in 2025, please send me an email on 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

French Car Drive to Café Stepping Stone, Strathnairn

Lisa Molvig, French Car Club of Canberra

We enjoyed morning tea/brunch at this café located at Strathnairn Arts Homestead. Our group was 20 people (15 from FCCC and 5 from Rover club)-Graham and Susan (P208GTi), Barrie (2CV), Neil and Charles (P407), Nick and Helen (Honda), Janette and Phillip (R16TS), Bryan and Kath (P505GTi), Mike and Lorna (P407), Lisa (R12), Chris (Honda). People enjoyed the food and visiting the gallery/shop. Good to support Café Stepping Stone as they employ and train migrant and refugee women. The café owners were recently selected as Local Hero for the ACT in Australian of the Year Awards.



French Car Day

Barry McAdie, French Car Club of Canberra

The annual Canberra French Car Day was held in conjunction with the Telopea Park School Fete on Saturday 2 November 2024. The weather was warm and pleasant and a total of 26 cars were on display – 3 Alpines, 9 Renaults, 7 Peugeots, 6 Citroens and a Talbot.

Based on the results of a popular vote, trophies were awarded for:

- Best Renault - Bob Billards 1965 R8 Gordini
- Best Peugeot – Andrew Bodini Peugeot Sport 208 GTi
- Best Citroen – Paula Macaulay-Black 2CV van
- Best Outright – Greg Spackman 1923 Talbot Darracq
- Best Modern – Paul Bridgman 2018 Alpine A110 Legend

Many thanks to all who attended, especially those from interstate. Thanks also to Shannons Insurance for sponsoring the event and the Telopea Park School for allowing use of the school grounds for the car display.

Photos by Ole Andersen, Andrew Bodini and Brad Pillans



Above: Andrew Bodini – best Peugeot



Local event

French Car Day (cont)



Local event

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

Peugeot 403's for restoration?
Located near Orange; pics below.
Contact Dieter 0428 173 068



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



Citroen BX front seats
Pair of front BX black cloth seats in vgc, best offer
Contact Colin: 0414 484 398

CLASSIFIEDS (cont)

For sale

Peugeot 404 sedan

1969 model. Great car but not getting used. Good condition throughout, no rust, excellent interior, door seals replaced, 2 litre motor, Weber carby, square port head, electric fan and upgraded alternator, Super Oscar driving lights and LED indicators. New brakes throughout, suspension good. Some spares. Noisy thrust bearing which will need replacing at some stage. Located Moruya NSW. A great fun car to drive. \$8000 ono. See 4 images, below. Contact Greg Summerhayes 0427 744 813



For sale

Peugeot 404

1966 404 straight rolling body shell; no motor or seats. Located in Bywong. Offers. Contact Fritz 0428 253 182

Wanted

Peugeot 504 left hand side boot hinge with spring

Contact Colin 0414 484 398

My cars and their stories. Part 6: 1975 Renault 12 GL wagon

Barry McAdie, French Car Club of Canberra

We now had a growing family with 3 daughters born in 1976, 1977 and 1979 and needed a second car and a wagon for transport around Canberra and interstate to visit family. We purchased the car from Brad Boyden Datsun on 25 August 1980.

In November 1980 I was in WA with our road engineer from the Department inspecting the National Highway link between the border with SA and Norseman. It was a very hot and we flew into Eucla in a small plane to meet our ground transport. I was in the seat beside the pilot and could see he was sweating, and it was only at 7 o'clock in the morning. He pointed to the outside temperature gauge, and it was registering 35 degrees, and we were still 1,000 feet above the ground. When we landed, we could feel the hot winds blowing from the inland. As we travelled along the highway, we noticed that the roadside cafes and pubs had lost their air conditioning due to the intense heat. We overnighted in Kalgoorlie and saw on the television news that Victoria was in the grip of huge bushfires

Prior to the trip, I arranged for the R12 wagon to have a service and tune up as Dot and the kids were going to travel to Portland in Victoria to see her brother. When I called, she said that they had been stopped by the fire threat at Maroona and that the car was "pinging" ie out of tune.

When I met up with them, the car was retuned in Portland and when we arrived in Melbourne I took it to East Ivanhoe Motors, where I had bought my R12 sedan 8 years earlier, to arrange for a retune and replacement of the coil and fan belt. As I parked, a fellow came up and said, "I want to talk to you, I sold you your first Renault". I was a bit startled as I did not recognise him at first and thought his manner was a little hostile. He then said that he had made a loss on the sale

Of course, I didn't believe him, but he took me into his office and, after I gave him the date I bought the car, he located a journal on the bookshelf, opened it at the appropriate date and, sure enough, there was red ink beside the car I had bought. I concluded that I must have driven a hard bargain when buying the car. Worse

still, he informed me that the Mini that I traded had been stolen from his car yard and was found later with a broken mag wheel.

The wagon served us well and became a bit of a workhorse towing a trailer carrying landscaping materials etc for the house.



In August 1992 the motor gave up with 239,500 kilometres on the clock. After talking to Jayson Hinder at Renoworld, I decided to have him instal another R12 motor (cost \$400 plus installation \$625) but also agreed to buy a R17 TS motor and gearbox (cost \$1000) for possible installation later. To make sure that the R17 motor was OK, he allowed me to drive the R17TS home and it was parked out the front of our place.

My cars & their stories (cont)

Our eldest daughter had been out late that night and came rushing in to wake me up and saying that someone had poured paint all over the R17. Whoever it was had believed that it was her car and had some sort of grudge against her.

I raced outside and sure enough the car was covered in paint. I prayed that the paint was water based so I washed it off with the garden hose. But then discovered to my horror that some paint did not wash off so easily and was oil based. I cursed under my breath and then got to work with a bucket of turpentine and finally cleaned the car. I had to proceed with haste before the paint dried and because I only bought the motor. Jayson had wanted the body back intact. By that stage, it was 3 am and my next-door neighbour asked me the next day why I was doing some garden watering in the middle of the night!!!?

After that episode, the wagon was running fine although the clutch had to be replaced under guarantee on 6 January 1993 and on 3 February 1994, Renoworld installed the R17 motor and gearbox at 258890 kms.

At that stage, the wagon was being used by my eldest daughter. One night, in March 1994 as she was travelling to work, the car caught fire as she was nearing the National Zoo and Aquarium. She was traumatised by the event and swore off Renaults forever. She subsequently purchased our Ford Laser to use. The event spelt the wagon's death knell. It was retrieved and stripped of useable parts for sale.

Stay tuned for the next thrilling chapter of Barry's Cars in the January issue of French Car Torque.

Hint: Could be a 1980's hatchback

**French Car Club of Canberra Inc
Annual General Meeting
22 October 2024
MINUTES**

Present

Brad Pillans, Neil Birch, Lisa Molvig, Leigh McEwan, Neil Sperring, Joel Krewaz, Greg Francis, Ross Stephens, Bryan Clarke, Mike Ford, Charles Birch

Apologies

Bill McNamee, Bernard Wright, Colin Handley, Grahame Crocket, Barry McAdie

Introduction

The meeting opened at 8.17 pm; Brad welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Brad moved that the minutes of the 2023 AGM be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded Joel. Carried.

President's Report

Brad provided a summary of club activities for the year and thanked all club members for their participation in club meetings and events.

Financial Report

The audited financial statement to 30 June 2024 was presented, showing a balance of \$16,893.64. Equipment purchases and other discretionary purchases were the reason for a deficit.

Neil Birch moved that the report be accepted, seconded Joel.

Brad thanked the outgoing Committee and declared all positions vacant and asked Neil Sperring to conduct the election of Committee members.

Election of office bearers:

President: Brad Pillans, nom. by Greg Francis, seconded Leigh McEwan.

Vice-President: Colin Handley, nom. by Brad Pillans, seconded Lisa Molvig.

Secretary: Joel Krewaz, nom. by Brad Pillans, seconded by Greg Francis

Treasurer: Neil Birch, nominated by Leigh McEwan, seconded Lisa Molvig.

Social/Events Secretary: Lisa Molvig, nom. by Brad, sec. by Ross Stephens

General Committee: Leigh McEwan, nom. by Lisa, sec. by 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

Public Officer: Barry McAdie

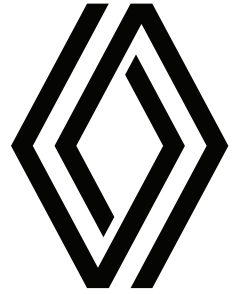
CACTMC delegates: Neil Sperring and Greg Francis

Registrars: Brad Pillans and Lisa Molvig.

The meeting closed at 8:46 pm and was followed immediately by the October general meeting.

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French Car Club of Canberra Inc
General Meeting
22 October 2024
MINUTES



1. Present

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Lisa Molvig | Neil Sperring |
| Greg Francis | Mike Ford |
| Neil Birch | Charles Birch |
| Leigh McEwan | Brad Pillans |
| Bryan Clarke | Joel Krewaz |
| Ross Stephens | |

2. Apologies

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bill McNamee | Colin Handley |
| Barry McAdie | Bernard Wright |
| Grahame Crocket | |

3. Introduction

The meeting opened at 8.47 pm.
Brad Pillans welcomed everyone to the meeting,

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

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

5. Financial report

Our Account balance with Bendigo Bank is \$1,530.28, with three Term Deposits totalling \$15,325.26. Neil Birch moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Brad. Carried

6. General Business

CACTMC report

Greg told the meeting that all living members of the outgoing Council were re-elected. Greg added that they had a pretty good year **Terribly British Day, Marques in the Park and Wheels** all went ahead.

Insurance

Greg, spoke to the meeting about Public Liability Insurance, CACTMC have a new Broker who understands the needs of car clubs and got a better deal for the Council.

Greg moved we review our Public Liability Insurance and get a quote from the same Broker the Council is using. Meeting agreed. Brad noted that we need to have insurance in place by French Car Day

Social

French Car Day is on 2nd November. Greg will get the marquee to French Car Day.

The Christmas Gathering still to be organised. Brad's view is the club should not pay for this again as it did last year. He viewed paying for an event like that at the "shed" differently. No other views were offered.

7. Other business

Neil Sperring said Our Car Clubs license is due for renewal soon. Neil B to follow up.

Discussion of Membership Cards; those using the 60 day scheme need to have evidence that membership is current

8. Close and next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.28 pm. The next club meeting is scheduled for the Raiders Club in Weston, at 8pm on Tuesday 26th November.



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