



French Car Torque



Magazine of the French Car Club of Canberra



June 2025



On the cover Citroens galore at the annual Battle of Waterloo event, with interstate cars swelling the French ranks in Canberra. Image: Brad 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/>

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02 President's Report

03 2024-25 FCCC Committee
Who's who in FCCC

04 Calendar
Club Events 2025

05 Local events
Battle of Waterloo

09 Classifieds
For sale, wanted, parts and
wrecking

10 Local news

A cartoonist's car

11 National Capital Renault

12 Minutes

Meeting minutes May 2025

13 Shannons

Bonjour Francophiles,

Well, the annual battle of Waterloo event has been and gone, and history has repeated itself – the French were defeated on the battlefield in 1815, and in 2025, the French were defeated again – see the report by Barry McAdie on page 5 with plenty of pictures from day.

Local French forces were well-supported by interstate cars, including a strong contingent of Citroens from both Victoria and NSW – see the cover image. It was great to catch up with Chris Deligny, President of the Peugeot Car Club of NSW, who was driving his red Citroen C5 from Melbourne to Sydney, as he diverted to Canberra for the day – that's us with his car on the right.

One of the things that Chris and I discussed was the possibility of reviving the annual Peugeot pageant, the last one being held in Queanbeyan in 2019. The NSW Peugeot Car Club had been all ready to host the 2020 event in Bathurst, but events conspired against it, including COVID. Then people just went off the boil, I think. However, Chris and I agreed that it would worth reviving the event, perhaps in a modified form to make the organisation less onerous. Watch this space...

Meanwhile on the home front, Bill McNamee and I have successfully refitted the reconditioned brake booster to my Peugeot 404, which has sat idle in the garage for a decade or so. Next step is to drain the fuel tank and top it up with fresh petrol, then see how the car starts. After 10 years off the road, I have no illusions about it being fault-free. Will the water pump leak, do the brake cylinders need reconditioning? We shall see...

Disappointingly, my 508 HDi has developed an intermittent fault after 11 years and 170,000 km of trouble-free motoring since new. The symptom is akin to a miss in the engine, rather like a fuel blockage. However, when Bill did an engine diagnosis, the culprit appeared to be the camshaft sensor. So, we replaced that, and things seemed fine – until they weren't. The problem has recurred, and the camshaft sensor error message is back, as well as an engine speed sensor error message. Sounds like a communication problem of some kind, and Bill will investigate further.

Apologies for the somewhat shortened newsletter this month – but plenty of good pictures – your hard-working editor simply ran out of time...

By the way, "Barry's Cars", our long-running serial, will be back next month.



Our next club meeting for will be held at 8 pm at the Raiders Club on Tuesday 24 June, with dinner and drinks from 7 pm. I hope to see some of you there.

Au revoir,

BRAD

Brad Pillans, Club President

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Last month's quiz question was unanswered, so here it is again:

What country would you be in if you saw this warning sign?

Best answer wins a beret...

CLUB EVENTS 2025

Calendar

- 24 June** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm
- 29 June** **French Car Drive**, Wildbark Café, Mulligans Flat
- 13 July** **Bastille Day**, Breizh Café, Ainslie
- 22 July** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm
- 24 August** **French Car Drive**, Goulburn
- 26 August** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm
- 23 September** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm
- 26 October** **French Car Drive**, Café Stepping Stone, Strathnairn
- 28 October** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm
- 1 November** **French Car Day** at Telopea Park School fete, TBC
- 25 November** French Car Club of Canberra meeting, Raiders Club, 1 Liardet St, Weston, with dinner from 7 pm and meeting at 8 pm

NOTE THE NEW DATE:

All French Car Day 2025

Sunday 14 September
at Silverwater Park

From 9 am.
Entry Clyde Street East



DS – 70 years of innovation – 403

All French vehicles welcome
\$10 display entry, EFT available. Spectators free
Presented by the Peugeot Car Club of NSW Inc.
Subject to weather conditions:
peugeotclub.asn.au or aussiefrogs.com
Chris 0412 306 504 or Ross 0499 708 108
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French Car Drives in 2025

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

Battle of Waterloo 22 June 2025

Barry McAdie, French Car Club of Canberra

with photos by Ole Andersen, Brad Pillans & Barry McAdie

A beautiful sunny day greeted everyone, last Sunday, when we gathered to celebrate the 1815 Battle of Waterloo, when Napoleon was defeated by a coalition of British and Prussian forces. To us, it is a modern-day excuse for a face-off between the French and the British car clubs. The result was inevitable given the sunny weather – the British were out in force; the score 87 British cars versus 31 French cars.

This year's event was very well organised by the MG Car Club and the hosts were Kerry McDonald and Chris Wells who compered the prize giving ceremony. Kerry reminded all that, while Europe was at war in 1815, in the same year Sydney greeted its first convict ship full of females, Bathurst was established and Fawcner founded the city of Melbourne. The event was generously sponsored by Shannons Insurance and the venue was provided once again by Chris of the Spanish-Australian Club. Many of the participants took advantage of his hospitality in purchasing food and beverages, especially an early breakfast of a bacon and egg roll and a coffee.

The best British Car was awarded to an MGTC, the best club display was won by the MG Car Club, and the best French Car was won by Bruce McCubbin for his 2CV Citroen. Bruce's award was presented by Yorick Belfort of Alliance Francaise – upper right photo.

The cars that were on display were of a very high quality, which on the British side included not only the ubiquitous MGs but also Bentleys, Jaguars, Rolls Royces, Healeys and Morris Minors of various types. The French contingent was not to be outdone in the quality of its machines which included a few very nice DS Citroens and 2CVs, various Peugeotts, Renaults, a Talbot Darracq and even a new Alpine A110. The R25 Baccarra owned by Luke Drady was to me an absolute standout – see lower right photo

[Another standout, admittedly on the British side, was a Bean roadster owned by well-known cartoonist and motoring enthusiast, Warren Brown Ed.]



Battle of Waterloo (cont)



Above: Geoff Boyd's nice 505 GTi, previously owned by Allan Lance

Below: Bob Edwards brought the family 203



CLUB STALWARTS. Above: Flash Flanagan (left) and Greg Francis (right)
Below: Bruce McCubbin (left) and Barry McAdie (right)



Battle of Waterloo (cont)

Local event



Battle of Waterloo (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

Citroen 1975 2cv 250 van

This LHD vehicle has been restored in France, including an engine upgrade to 602 cc. Such a delight to drive and has potential to be used as a marketing tool if sensitively sign written. \$22,500. Viewing in Moruya. Contact Ian 0404 821 153 or thegamboli@gmail.com



Citroen DS drive shaft

Contact Manfred: 0408 232 273

1962 Peugeot 403 motor

Complete in good condition \$500. Also 4x 16" wheels and old tyres with stainless steel trim - free.

Contact Peter Withington 0407 940 918 Batemans Bay area.

Citroen 2cv 1983

One for the adventurer, boasting the Swiss conversion to 4WD and powered by a Visa engine., this vehicle will truly go anywhere and at speed. The Swiss conversion comes at a cost of \$10,000 and this 2cv is priced at \$20,000. Viewing in Bega

Contact Ian: 0404 821 153 or thegamboli@gmail.com



1978 Citroen four speed manual Pallas 2400 sedan.

Mechanically faultless throughout. Maintained by one owner since 1991. No smash, body very straight. Exterior and interior need restoration. \$3,500. firm. Contact Ross (02) 6247 5345.

Peugeot 505 Familiale (7 seat wagon)

First Registered 1992. Acquired 2014 with intention of getting it back on the road; but that's never happened and becoming less likely than ever! VIN VF3551F8903245388. Driven into shed, but brakes and other things suspect so not used since. Have accumulated a range of spares which might be needed. Needs a home with less cars and more spare time. Price \$500 Very Negotiable. Paul Ballard, Cootamundra, 0419 973 822 or westkinloch@outlook.com.



A cartoonist's car: Warren Brown's 1925 Bean open top sports steals the show at the Battle of Waterloo

Brad Pillans, French Car Club of Canberra

Just like the cartoon character, Peugois Wetsleeves, that he created in the 1980s, Warren Brown arrived at the Battle of Waterloo in style, behind the wheel of his bright red 1925 Bean open top roadster. The 23rd of June was a minus 8-degree morning, and Warren had driven down from Goulburn, to join the British forces at our annual Battle of Waterloo event. He's made of sterner stuff than me, that's for sure.

Warren is a well-known cartoonist, currently with the Daily Telegraph, but he is equally well-known as a motoring enthusiast. Remember the 2005 rerun of the 1907 Peking to Paris race? He co-organised and participated in that, not to mention presenting the four-part TV documentary and co-writing the accompanying book about the event. Then, last year, he drove his 1925 Bean from London to Melbourne, in a rerun of Francis Birtles' epic 1927 trip, also in a Bean. Plus, he also featured as a presenter on Top Gear Australia in 2008-09. I could go on...

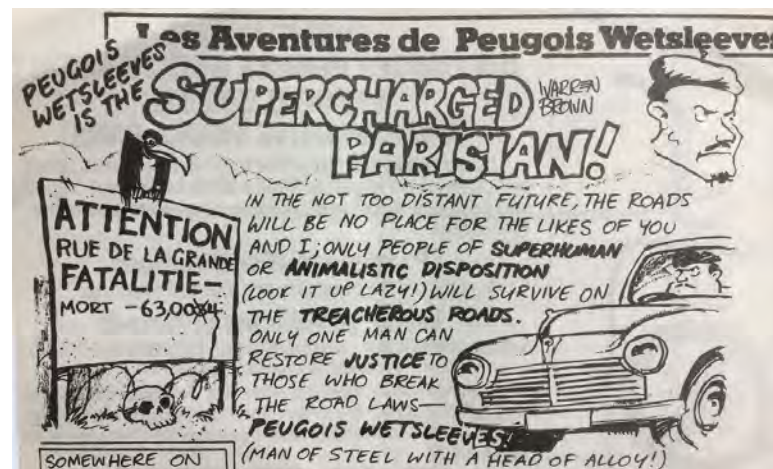


Arriving in style, with goggles up, at the Battle of Waterloo. Photo: Ole Andersen

It turns out that Warren is a Peugeot man from quite a way back. He currently owns a 403, and we had a chat about the appeal of the 'camping body' seats – lay them flat and you have a very comfortable bed... Indeed, he was Editor of The Pugilist, when he created his quirky comic strip hero, Peugois Wetsleeves, way back in 1985.



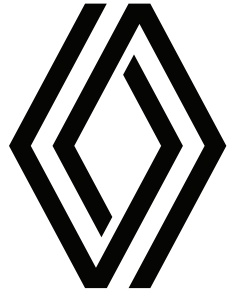
Above: New best mates. Having a chat with Warren about his Peugeot 403



Warren introduced Peugois Wetsleeves to the Peugeot Car Club of NSW in 1985
Image courtesy of Warren Brown, editor, The Pugilist, April 1985

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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.

June 2025

11

French Car Club of Canberra Inc
General Meeting, Raiders Club
27 May 2025
MINUTES



1. Present

Lisa Molvig	Ross Stephens
Greg Francis	Mike Ford
Neil Birch	Charles Birch
Leigh McEwan	Brad Pillans
Barry McAdie	Bill McNamee
Joel Krewaz	

2. Apologies

Neil Sperring	Colin Handley
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3. Introduction

The meeting opened at 8.10 pm.
Brad Pillans welcomed everyone to the meeting
Greg reported that Neil Sperring has been very sick.
The meeting agreed to convey best wishes for better health and a speedy recovery.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: Brad moved that the minutes of the April meeting be accepted, seconded Leigh.
Carried.
Motion: to accept the amended affiliation document as recommended. Moved Brad; seconded Joel.
Carried.

5. Financial report

Our Account balance with Bendigo Bank is \$1,004.53, with three Term Deposits totalling \$15,581.72. Neil Birch moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Barry. Carried
Neil also covered the updated discussions with the Raiders Club regarding our 4th Tuesday of the month Meeting agreement, with changes to accommodate our timings in the coming year.
A reminder was also made that membership renewals are DUE NOW (by 30 June). This prompt, for all members, resulted in a few attendees paying on the night.

6. CACTMC report

Log Book Redesign: Looking to have an extra column in the log book for days used, as a statistical aid for council use
Pie Cart: Numerous offers have been made for the sale of the Pie Cart and are progressing. Confident it will be sold.
Wheels Event: The Wheels event (multi club event at Queanbeyan) will be run again by CACTMC.
Financials: CACTMC has \$14k with \$10k term deposit
Historic Rego Reminder: Applications for CRS are due in June and are dependent on payment and inspection. It is again noted that physical inspection is required and must be sorted by the owner and authorised club registrar prior to application and payment.

8. Social

Trip to Chris's Shed: an excellent turnout of 26 members.
Sydney French car Day: postponed until 14 September.
Battle of Waterloo: The MG Car Club is organising the battle this year and will occur on Sunday 22 June. The French Car Clubs in NSW have been notified, to prompt any potential supporting members, and Renault Canberra dealer will be notified as well. Colin's Shed has all our 'gear', marquee, banners etc. which will need to be brought on the day.
Reminder: the 29 June Mulligans Flat run to the Wildbark Café is on. Be there for a convivial 10:00-12:00 get together.
Bastille Day: at, Breizh Café, Ainslie on **July 13**. Be there at 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. You will be prompted to RSVP Lisa so the Café can cater for numbers. Worth getting there a few minutes early to sort convenient seating.

9. Other business

Barry is out with surgery over the next while. Everyone wished him good luck and a speedy recovery. Unanimous.

10. Close and next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.
The next club meeting is scheduled for the Raiders Club in Weston, at 8pm on Tuesday 24th of June, with 7 pm dinner.
All welcome.



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June 2025 13