



# French Car Torque

Magazine of the French Car Club of Canberra



July 2025





**On the cover** The unmistakable sleek lines of a Peugeot 407 coupe, gracing a cobblestone alley in the ancient city of Nessebar, Bulgaria. Image: Kate Bray

## 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,

Needing to attend a meeting in Moruya, on the South Coast, I decided to take the 508 HDi for a run, rather than take the e2008. The decision was partly because I wanted to see if the camshaft sensor/engine speed sensor issue would recur, and partly because I just like driving the 508 on the highway.

My meeting was set for 11.30 am, and the trip would normally take a bit over 2 hours mid-week, so I left home about 9.15 am. Unfortunately, I hadn't factored in roadworks delays – three long waits that added about 20 minutes to the trip. End result – I was 20 minutes late for my appointment. On the upside, the weather was fine and sunny and 5 degrees warmer in Moruya than in Canberra, plus I filled up with diesel in Moruya at 168.5 cents/litre – about 15 cents a litre cheaper than my local servo in Jerrabomberra. Plus, no recurrence of the sensor problem. A good day! Then, the next day the 508 passed its annual rego check – another good day!

My wife, Sue, took her e2008 to Melbourne, recently, and had a 25,000 km service done at Bayside European Peugeot in Cheltenham. Since Sue was staying with a friend in Brighton, this was very handy. Sue says the Bayside people were fantastic and her car was washed and vacuumed as part of the service at no extra charge. Total cost was \$296, of which \$49 was for a pollen filter, the only other 'parts' costs being screen wash (\$4) and new battery for the key fob (\$15). With no current Peugeot dealer in Canberra, a once-a-year visit to Melbourne might be a good option.

Interestingly, both the 508 and e2008 underwent SAFE-T-STOP wheel alignment checks, with the 508 getting a fail for the alignment of the rear wheels. I haven't noticed any unusual tyre wear, so it may not be a big deal – and it did not affect the rego check result. However, I will investigate further...

**And now for this month's quiz question, which should be very easy: Where was the picture on the right, of the colourful Citroen 2CV, taken? First correct answer wins a beret.**



Our next club meeting for will be held at 8 pm at the Raiders Club on Tuesday 22 July, with dinner and drinks from 7 pm. We were down on numbers at the last meeting, with a few people away or sick, but hopefully now back from their travels or recovered from illness.

Au revoir,

**BRAD**

Brad Pillans, Club President

# 2024-25 FCC COMMITTEE

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Brad Pillans



## Answer to last month's quiz question:

What country would you be in if you saw this warning sign? Answer: Cayman Islands  
No-one got the right answer; Ole Andersen was closest with his guess: Mexico



# CLUB EVENTS 2025

## Calendar

**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**, Morning tea/brunch, Valerie's Sunroom Café at Gehl Garden Centre, 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



Flash Flanagan surrounded by classic French cars at the 2025 Battle of Waterloo

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](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 Drive to Wildbark Café, Mulligans Flat Woodland

Lisa Molvig, French Car Club of Canberra

On Sunday 29 June a group of French and Rover car enthusiasts had morning tea/brunch at Wildbark café at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary, said to be Australia's largest single box-gum grassy-woodland area managed for conservation. The last time we visited this café they had our booking date wrong, so I was concerned if they would get it right this time. I couldn't attend myself, but those who were there said all went well. There were six people from the Rover club and seven from FCCC (Nick & Helen, Graham & Susan, Joel & Doreen, Ole & Margaret, Barry).

Joel reported: The Wildbark, joint FCCC and Rover club, morning coffee was excellent. The Cafe easily accommodated us, on a busy morning, along the big table. You can see a church service going on in the events room. Lots of general chat, and some earnest car discussion. Barry showed me a gorgeous photo of his latest Weber shaped fuel injection system for his A110. Stunning! The Cafe offers cakes and generous sandwiches, toasted and otherwise, to go with your coffee or tea. The view is out to parkland, through which the park service and volunteers will organise guided walks. A potential club idea for warm weather.



The long table at Wildbark. Photo: Joel Krewaz

Ole reported: It was very nice indeed. Everything went well, as expected. Marg and I had a lovely chat with Grahame, Susan and Doreen. We had no idea of Grahame's drawing skills and the ladies' quilting prowess.

So, this venue has redeemed itself and we will visit again in the future.

## Bastille Day celebrated at Breizh Café in Ainslie

Lisa Molvig, French Car Club of Canberra

Two hundred and thirty-six years after the storming of the Bastille in Paris, FCCC members celebrated this French national day at Breizh café. Many years ago, we used to have our annual French car display on this day, but chilly mid-winter temperatures have shifted our celebration indoors these days. Breizh café was started by Breton chef Bruno Paressent in 2013, but sold in 2021 to the current Indian owners. They have continued the same menu, so we had a range of crepes, gallants, pastries etc to choose from. We visited Bruno's new mobile food venue last December, Le Petit Breton crepes, and will return there in warmer weather.

On Sunday 13 July (they don't open on Mondays), we had 13 members gather to celebrate the start of the French revolution. Graham and Susan, Mike and Lorna, Neil and Charles, Nick and Helen, Joel and Doreen, Barry, Leigh, Lisa were there, and discussion ranged from travel to Citroen maintenance and motor racing.





# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:westkinloch@outlook.com).



# CLASSIFIEDS

For sale, parts and wrecking

## Peugeot 307 XSE HDi touring

I wish to dispose of this car in the next couple of weeks while it is still registered. Date of manufacture, March 2007. One owner – me! I would be happy to part with the car for a nominal fee. I do not intend to sell it on the open market. The car is in reasonable condition with new clutch and battery, but the engine is not running well, and the particulate bag arrangement has failed. I have all registration, insurance and maintenance documents. I'd be happy to speak with anyone in the club who may be interested.  
Contact: Heath McMichael 0426 141 912



## Peugeot 203 ,403, 404

Second hand parts for sale  
Contact Colin Handley 0414 484 398

## Peugeot 505 STI auto sedan

Not going, sell whole or parts, cheap.  
Contact Neville at Bombala 0429 168 595



## Peugeot 504 sedan

White manual, aircon, GTi wheels, new tyres, no rust, very straight, interior very good condition, drives really well, \$7,500. Selling for owner who is unwell.  
Contact Geoff Boyd 0427 269 343.





## My cars and their stories. Part 11: 1969 Alpine A110

Barry McAdie, French Car Club of Canberra

My A110 was built in Mexico in 1969 by Dinalpin under licence from Alpine. It had a Renault 8 Major engine (Type 688 with 1108cc) with a rear radiator and a four-speed gearbox (Type 330). The model designation was 1100VA but oddly it had a 1300G badge on the sides.

I imported the car from New Zealand in 2004 after purchasing it from Neil Tollich in Auckland. I had always wanted an A110 after seeing an Australian rally champion, Bob Watson, and his navigator, Jim McAuliffe, win the Don Capasco Rally in Canberra in 1974 in an A110. It was in Australia to celebrate Alpine winning the 1973 world rally championship and Bob persuaded Renault to let him run it in the rally.

It took some time to find an Alpine A110 especially when you were newly married, had a house mortgage and eventually three children all of which had priority over buying a project car like an A110.



*Andrew Collier, Mike Neil and me picking the car up in Sydney*

After I got the car, it underwent extensive restoration. This included a full body respray in Alpine Bleu, rust proofing the chassis and suspension components with POR 15. It also included repairing the floor with aluminium forming a fibre glass sandwich to replace the rotten 3 ply on the driver and passenger sides.

Other improvements included new headlamps, side lights, indicators and taillights, new chrome bumpers, new instrumentation, new Gotti wheels, a new plastic Group 4 50 litre fuel tank to give it greater range, installation of a new radiator with twin fans in the front to improve weight distribution, all new wiring and additional fuses, installation of a big brake system and a hydraulic handbrake.

I installed a R8G motor rebuilt by Rob Sealey mated to a five-speed gearbox. The gearbox came with the car along with other parts and had been built by Richard Mann. The gearbox has since been rebuilt by Rob Sealey as it was jumping out of third and fifth gears. I also added a cold air box to the twin 40mm Webers.

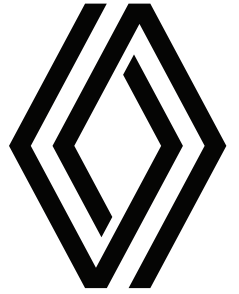


*Engine bay showing R8G motor and cold air box*

The car is not a trailer princess, and I have used it in various sporting events including Targa Tasmania (April 2016), Phillip Island (March 2017 and 2018), Geelong Revival and Hillclimb and Sprints (November 2017), Challenge Bathurst (November 2017) and Targa High Country (November 2019, February 2021, February 2022).

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July 2025

9



**French Car Club of Canberra Inc  
General Meeting, Raiders Club  
24 June 2025  
MINUTES**



### 1. Present

Colin Handley	Mike Ford
Leigh McEwan	Brad Pillans
Barry McAdie	Joel Krewaz

### 2. Apologies

Neil Sperring	Lisa Molvig
Ross Stephens	Bill McNamee
Bernard Wright	Greg Francis
Neil Birch	Charles Birch

### 3. Introduction

The meeting opened at 8.12 pm.  
Brad Pillans welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
Brad informed the meeting that Lisa's father, Jon, had died. There is an obituary in the July issue of *The Pugilist*. The meeting acknowledged the loss to Lisa, her family, and the French car community, and moved a motion of condolence.

### 4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion: Brad moved that the minutes of the June meeting be accepted, seconded Mike.  
Carried.

### 5. Financial report

Our Account balance with Bendigo Bank is \$1,669.53, with three Term Deposits totalling \$15,581.72. Brad moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Barry. Carried

A reminder was also made that membership renewals are DUE NOW (by 30 June).

### 6. CACTMC report

Pie Cart: Now sold

Wheels Event: The Wheels event (multi club event at Queanbeyan) will be run again in 2026 by CACTMC. The new venue will be Thoroughbred Park in Lyneham on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.

An ATO presentation on 'Not-For-Profit Tax Obligations' will take place at the Spanish Australian Club on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. All motor club representatives are invited. Details through the following link:

[https://www.cactmc.org.au/cactmc\\_calendar.html#ATO-NFP](https://www.cactmc.org.au/cactmc_calendar.html#ATO-NFP)

### 8. Social

Battle of Waterloo: An excellent turn out on the day with a substantial British representation. A very enjoyable and extremely well organised day for all. The French cars came up short, but a lovely time was had on a sunny day.

French Car Drive: the 29 June Mulligans Flat run to the Wildbark Café was held in conjunction with the Rover Club of Canberra. It was a convivial get together at the venue.

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

More sad news as Frank Marshall of the TR Register died on 23 June. The sad loss of another respected member of the classic car community.

### 10. Close and next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.33 pm.

The next club meeting is scheduled for the Raiders Club in Weston, at 8pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, with 7 pm dinner.  
All welcome.



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