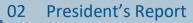






ALPINE, AMILCAR, BALLOT, BERLIET, BUGATTI, CITROEN, CLEMENT-BAYARD, DARL 'MAT', DARRACQ, DE DION, DELAGE, DELAHAYE, DELAUNAY-BELLEVILLE, DYNA PANHARD, FACEL VEGA, GORDINI, GREGOIRE, HOTCHKISS, HURTU, LA BUIRE, LAGO-TALBOT, LIGER, LORRAINE-DIETRICH, MAB, MAJOLA, MATRA, MOTOBLOC, PANHARD ET LEVASSOR, PEUGEOT, RENAULT, SALMSON, SIMCA, TALBOT, TURCAT-MERY, VOISIN.



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On the cover A rather tired South American-built Peugeot 504 XS, spotted in Patagonia, Argentina 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,

My brother, Robert, and his partner, Kate, have been holidaying in South America for several weeks – an all-embracing tour that included everything from glaciers in Patagonia to tarantulas in the Amazon rainforest (and lots in between), My simple request was to take photos of French cars when opportunities arose. The front cover image is one of Kate's – a rather worn Peugeot 504 XS, spotted in Patagonia.

The Peugeot 504 was manufactured in Argentina from 1969 to 1999, long after production had ceased in France (1983). From 1991 onwards, with help from Pininfarina, Argentinian 504s, including the 504 XS, featured restyled bumpers and lights, plus a new interior. The 504 XS was powered by the 1971 cc motor which was standard in most 504s, but with twin Solex carbies and a 5-speed gearbox. Top speed was reported to be 166 km/hour, and 0-100 km/hour was said to take 13.4 seconds – hardly breakneck speed...

In 2008, Sue and I visited friends in southern Chile, and did a short road trip to Bariloche, just across the border in southern Argentina. Bariloche was full of French cars, including many 504s – though I did not spot a 504 XS on that trip. In the 1990s, Bariloche was revealed as a refuge for Nazi war criminals and there were even rumours that Hitler himself had escaped there. Southern Chile was certainly a destination for many German immigrants, dating back to the 1840s, and German remains the third language of the area after Spanish and English. However, most historians agree that Hitler died in his bunker in Germany.



The Lindsay Fox Classic Car Museum at Docklands in Melbourne

Meanwhile, back in Canberra, club member Leigh McEwan, has provided some thoughts on his recent visit to the Lindsay Fox Classic Car Collection in the historic Queen's Warehouse at Docklands in Melbourne. Leigh tells me that it is a fantastic and unique collection containing more than 50 rare and prestigious vehicles, collected over 50 years by businessman, Lindsay Fox. Although there are no French vehicles, Leigh thoroughly recommends the museum to other club members. The museum is within the Melbourne free tram zone, and the modest entry fee goes to charity. See: https://www.foxcollection.org.au/

Last week, Ole Andersen and I attended a 60th anniversary celebration at Campbell High School, which opened in 1965 – we were members of the cohort that began 1st year at Campbell High that year. I mention this because of the strong French car following that developed in our final high school years. Peugeot 203s and 403s were popular because they were cheap to buy and almost indestructible. One of the teachers, Ron Neville – he was the school Councillor – drove a Renault 16TS, which certainly stood out in the school car park. A hatchback in a sea of sedans and station wagons... Who would have thought that a weird French design would take over the world?

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 8 pm at the Raiders Club on Tuesday 28 October, with dinner and drinks from 7 pm. Please come along and have your say in the election of the 2025/26 committee. Be reassured that if you do come, you won't be press-ganged onto the committee! Minutes of the 2024 AGM are on page 13.

Au revoir.

BRAD

Brad Pillans, Club President

2024-25 FCC COMMITTEE

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Social Secretary

Lisa Molvig

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Leigh McEwan

Public Officer

Barry McAdie

Delegates to CACTMC

Greg Francis Neil Sperring

Club Registrars

Lisa Molvig
reno1338@hotmail.com
Brad Pillans



Answer to last month's quiz question:

Where was this picture taken, with a US Navy helicopter for scale? Taylor Glacier, Antarctica with a bright red tongue of iron-rich water oozing out – known as Blood Falls. Photo taken by Brad Pillans in 1984 Congratulations to Chris Forsey, who will receive a French beret.

CLUB EVENTS 2025

26 October French Car Drive, Café Stepping Stone, Strathnairn

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

1 November French Car Day at the Spanish Australian Club, 5 Narupai Place, Narrabundah, 10 am to 3 pm.

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

30 November French Sounds of Summer at the French Embassy Details to be confirmed.



Nice cars! French Car Drive to Strathnairn on 26th October 2025. Photo by Lisa Molvig



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

French Car Drive to Strathnairn, Sunday 26 October

Lisa Molvig, French Car Club of Canberra

We returned to Café Stepping Stone at Strathnairn on the western edge of Belconnen. This area is rapidly developing out to the Murrumbidgee River with the Ginninderry development. There are many picturesque walks out to the river and Shephards Lookout from the café - an adventure for another day. There was a cold front approaching and we were all checking the hills for rain, but we managed to get our brunch before it became too wet. Our group consisted of 20 people- 15 from FCCC and 5 from the Rover club. Some nice French cars in the carpark- 2CV, R12, R16, Citroen SM. P504 coupe and P3008.









Photos by Lisa Molvig

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.



CLASSIFIEDS

For sale, parts and wrecking

Peugeot 505 STI auto sedan

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



Renault 8 Gordini for sale

Superb R8 Gordini 1375cc, 5 speed, built January 1967 Melbourne. Fully restored copy 1969 R8G Monte Carlo rally winner with 2017 Targa Tasmania livery. Roll cage, Halda Twin Master, engineer's report and other rally instrumentation. Perfect mechanically rebuilt by Rob Sealey in Melbourne. Featured in Aust Classic Car, January 2008. Full details including spares. Contact James Coleborne, Stockinbingal 2725 M: 0434 604 865 jcolebor@bigpond.net.au Offers over \$80k.



Peugeot 203 sedan 1950

Original interior and paint; no rust, \$8,500 firm. Also, accident damaged 1956 203C for \$4,000, or \$10,000 firm for the lot, including trailer of spares. Contact Phil Turner 0499 155 046 Jindabyne





Peugeot 203,403,404

Second hand parts for sale. Contact Colin Handley 0414 484 398

Citroenella, the Phantom Goddess

Lawrie Nock, French Car Club of Canberra

A New Beginning

My association with the French Car Club of Canberra began soon after I bought Citroenella, my bright yellow D Special. Her first appearance with me was at the 2024 French Car Day, at Telopea School Fete. Early in 2025, we attended Wheels of Wamboin, where I demonstrated her unique tyre-changing system — a party trick that drew plenty of curious onlookers. Later, I joined a club run to Goulburn, which really cemented my place in the Citroën community. After that trip, Lisa Molvig contacted me with an enquiry from a New South Wales owner about Citroenella's background. That's when Craig Keller added an intriguing twist to her story.



Citroenella with her skirt lifted, at Wheels of Wamboin, 2025 Photo: Ole Andersen

The Wollongong Phantom

It turns out that early in her life, Citroenella lived quietly in Wollongong. Her first owner wasn't part of any motoring club, so for years she went unnoticed. Craig had long heard rumours of a D Special hidden somewhere in the region but could never track it down. One day, a fellow club member (Dragan Samardzija) invited him over to see his 'new toy.' To Craig's amazement, there it was — the phantom Citroën of Wollongong, freshly painted but unmistakably the same elusive car he'd hunted for years. After Dragan died, the car sat unloved for several years in a garage, before it was bought by Mark Ravagnani who promptly joined the Citroen Car Club of NSW, of which Craig was now historic plates registrar. The club plates were last renewed with CCC NSW in September 2023.

Early Fascination

My admiration for Citroëns began long before I could drive. As a child, I spent hours at the local tennis club with my father. One of the members, Bob Thompson, owned a sleek black Citroën Traction Avant. To a small boy, it looked like something from another world — and the fact that Bob shared his Columbine Iollies with me made him unforgettable. My father, who ran a motor business in Parkes selling Peugeot, Morris, Plymouth, Rover, and Land Rover, often spoke highly of Citroëns. His respect for the marque stayed with me. I first saw a Citroën Goddess in the 1957 Ampol Reliability Trial when the rally cars came through Parkes. The DS arrived with its suspension sagging — hydraulics gone — but it was still running. That resilience impressed me deeply.

The Ones That Got Away

By the time my family moved to Canberra in the mid-1960s, my fascination had only grown. I remember a neighbour who claimed he could reach the snow faster in his DS than others could in cars doing over 100 mph — even faster than my father's Porsche. Dad conceded he might be right, which left quite an impression on a teenage car enthusiast. Years later, when my wife and I married — she was then a foreign diplomat in Canberra — the prospect of buying a new car, duty-free, was irresistible. Our first stop was De Jong's in Fyshwick to order a DS23 Safari. Unfortunately, production had just ended. We settled for a Saab, but my heart was still with the Goddess.

The Phantom Goddess (cont)

A Return to the Goddess

Decades later, after retirement, my wife insisted I find a shared interest to lure me out of hermit life. We joined the heritage vehicle movement. I was offered a Light Fifteen Traction Avant but found it too demanding mechanically, so we stuck with some familiar British classics. Still, at every event, especially the Battle of Waterloo (affectionately nicknamed 'Flog a Frog Day') I found myself drawn to the DS line-up. Then in 2024, while helping a friend inspect a Packard at auction, I spotted a DS in the catalogue. It had already sold, but the flame was reignited. Before long, I came across a yellow D Special on Carsales. I like yellow. I like Goddesses. I knew what had to be done. When my wife returned from an overseas trip, we made our way to Sydney — and came home with Citroenella.

Settling into Canberra Life

Renaming her was never an option — Citroenella suited her perfectly. She's been part of our family ever since, drawing smiles wherever we go. Her Wollongong origins made her story all the more special. These days, she and I turn up at club events, French car displays, and local runs. When her suspension developed a few leaks, Bill Inkpen kindly stepped in to help. Without the wisdom of seasoned enthusiasts like Bill, even the most detailed workshop manuals would have left me scratching my head. I still get a thrill when I spot a Citroën on TV, especially a Traction Avant in an old war film. And discovering a group of Traction Avant owners in Queanbeyan only deepened my appreciation for these French masterpieces. As a former student of Telopea Park High, I couldn't resist the chance to drive Citroenella onto the school oval for the annual club display. Surrounded by gleaming DS models and fellow enthusiasts, I realised that this remarkable car had found her place — and so had I.

The Phantom Lives On

From her hidden days in Wollongong to her bright new life in Canberra, Citroenella truly is the Phantom Goddess — graceful, mysterious, and enduring. I remain grateful to the owners who cared for her before me and to the Citroën community that keeps these eccentric yet beautiful machines alive. Owning a Citroën isn't just about driving; it's about preserving a piece of rolling art and history. Citroenella may once have been a phantom, but today she shines proudly among the French Car Club family.



About the Author

Lawrie Nock is a long-time admirer of Citroën's engineering excellence and design flair. A retired businessman and heritage-vehicle enthusiast, he enjoys sharing the stories behind the cars and the people who keep them running. Many members of the French Car Club will remember Lawrie for leading the British forces in Battle of Waterloo events — wearing a pith helmet. Citroenella is his favorite Citroën — but, as he admits, probably not his last.

And many thanks to Craig Keller, for filling in some of the early history of Citroenella.

National Gordini Gathering, Clare SA, 3-6 October 2025

James Coleborne, Renault Car Club of Australia

"Congratulations to Trevor Naismith, John Sanders and Robert Lee for their spectacular planning and program to bring together 12 R8 Gordinis and 7 R12 Gordinis in scenic Clare. South Australia.

The program included a wide range of high interest activities such as Happy Hours, seeing Goode Restorations, Show and Shine for Awards, historic Martindale Hall, Jim Barry Wine Tastings, Gathering Dinner for Awards, Swap Meet, and Farewell drinks at Knappsteins Enterprise Winery.

Four exciting circuit drives were held, including long straight and tightly cornered roads with exhilarating gear selections, engine revs, and timely braking with an eye on the route instructions to stay safe.

There were many opportunities to chat with like-minded Renault aficionados, such as the 1970 Australian Rally Champion Bob Watson and Colin Stark from Alpine Affair along with around 50 participants from NSW, WA, Victoria and SA.

Sadly, Bruce Collier is no longer with us but his remarkable contribution to the Renault Gordini was warmly acknowledged. Dr Andrew Moore, an acknowledged historian from Tarago wrote the enthralling Bruce Collier Story, 2020. Copies of this booklet may still be available.



James Coleborne, Andrew Collier and Dr Andrew Moore travelled well over 1000 kms from NSW each way to attend this unforgettable Gordini Gathering.





My cars and their stories. Part 14: 1969 Alpine A110

Barry McAdie, French Car Club of Canberra

GEELONG REVIVAL 2017

This event basically consisted of a car show, hill climb and a sprint down the Esplanade. It was great fun and well organised. I have not attended a further event as they have scrapped the hill climb.



My car lined up with other Renaults, on the Esplanade at Geelong Reserve

PHILLIP ISLAND 2017 & 2018

In 2017 and 2018 I joined other Alpinists for a run at Phillip Island. The track is a great drive and free flowing. The car performed well with no incidents, and we all had a great time mixing it with the big bangers in the regularity events.



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French Car Club of Canberra Inc Annual General Meeting Raiders Club, Weston 22 October 2024 MINUTES



1. Present

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

2. Apologies

Bill McNamee Barry McAdie Grahame Crocket Bernard Wright Colin Handley

3. Introduction

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

4. Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Motion: Brad moved that the minutes, of the 2023 AGM be accepted, seconded Joel. Carried.

5. President's report

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).

5. President's report (cont)

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 to 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.

Brad thanked the outgoing committee and moved his President's Report be accepted, seconded by Greg, carried.

Brad then declared all positions vacant and asked Neil Sperring to conduct the election of Committee members for the 2024/25 year.



6. Election of Office Bearers

President: Brad Pillans, nominated by Greg, seconded

Leigh.

Vice-President: Colin Handley, nominated by Brad,

seconded Lisa.

Secretary: Joel Krewaz, nominated by Brad, seconded by

Greg

Treasurer: Neil Birch, nominated by Leigh, seconded by

Lisa.

Social/Events Secretary: Lisa Molvig, nominated by Brad.

seconded by Ross. **General Committee**: Leigh McEwan, nominated by Lisa.

General Committee: Leigh Me seconded by Greg.

These positions were elected unanimously and unopposed.

The meeting made the following appointments.

CACTMC delegates: Neil Sperring and Greg Francis

Website: Leigh McEwan

Magazine: Brad Pillans and Lisa Molvig.

Technical Officers: Bill McNamee and Barry McAdie.

Membership Secretary: Barry McAdie.

Public Officer: Barry McAdie

Registrars: Brad Pillans and Lisa Molvig.

7. Meeting close

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

French Car Club of Canberra Inc General Meeting, Raiders Club 23 September 2025 MINUTES



1. Present

Greg Francis Leigh McEwan Lisa Molvig Neil Birch Neil Sperring Mike Ford Brad Pillans Ross Stephens Charles Birch

2. Apologies

Bill McNamee Bernard Wright Barry McAdie Joel Krewaz

3. Introduction

The meeting opened at 8.07 pm. Brad Pillans welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Amendments: Barry McAdie did not attend the August meeting. Social report – we visited lan's shed, not David's. The DS owner's name was I awrie Nock

Motion: Brad moved that the minutes, as amended, of the August meeting be accepted, seconded Ross. Carried

5. Financial report

Neil reported that our account balance with Bendigo Bank is \$1,959.33, with three Term Deposits totalling \$15.711.69.

Neil moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Leigh. Carried.

6. CACTMC report

Some delegates were unhappy about "family memberships" not qualifying for access to the Conditional Registration Scheme (CRS). This restriction affects 6 people. Greg noted that some club delegates don't realise that the Council Registrar is the sole point of contact between ACT Government and the Council. As such he is responsible for informing delegates what government regulations are, he is not responsible for what the regulations are. Greg also noted that Council communicates with affiliated clubs through their delegates, there are 78 affiliated clubs, there are usually about 20 delegates at meetings.

The location of next year's Wheels is up in the air.

Neil Sperring moved that Ross Stephens be appointed as a

Delegate to the Council to replace Greg, seconded by Greg

Agreed to by Ross and the meeting.

8. Social

The next French Car Drive on 26 October will be Cafe Stepping Stone, Strathnairn.

Lisa is working on a Christmas event.
French Car Day at Telopea Park fete on 1 November
French Sounds of Summer at French Embassy on
7 December – details to be confirmed

9. General business

Newsletter – Brad would like more contributions. The beret for this month's quiz question was won by Chris Forsey. Brad spoke about the Antarctic picture.

10. Close and next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.4 pm.

The next club meeting, which will be the AGM, is scheduled for the Raiders Club in Weston, at 8pm on Tuesday 26th of August, with 7 pm dinner. All welcome.





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