



French Car Torque



Magazine of the French Car Club of Canberra



May 2026

Cover Page:

Colin Handley's fine Peugeot collection from the Queanbeyan 'shed'.

Photo by Brad Pillans

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Bonjour Francophiles

My wife, Sue, has been looking for a car for her eldest grand-daughter, to replace her ancient (pre-airbags) Daihatsu Charade - a hand-me-down from my mother when she handed in her drivers licence in 2023, at age 95.

This week, the right car came up – a 2018 Peugeot 2008 1.2 litre, 6 speed automatic with just over 100,000 km on the odometer. The car was advertised on Facebook Marketplace for a few weeks and the price had dropped. We paid \$9,200 for it, which we think is a good buy.

When I examined the service logbook, it turned out that Bill McNamee had done the last 4 services, so I was able to ask him about the car. He gave the thumbs up and we confidently went ahead with the purchase. That's me with car, below.



Planning for the annual Battle of Waterloo event is proceeding apace – see the flyer on page 5. With several British car clubs competing against a single French Car Club, the numbers are invariably in favour of the British. Needless to say, I encourage all club members to attend the event, to bolster the French forces.

Our club meeting this month is back at the Raiders Club on Tuesday 25 May at 8 pm, with dinner and drinks from 7pm. I look forward to seeing you there...

Au revoir,

BRAD

Brad Pillans
Club President



2025-2026 FCC COMMITTEE

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Peugeot was the first car manufacturer (1889 first car and, in 1890, the first four wheeled petrol car). However, prior to cars, from 1840, Peugeot manufactured coffee grinders. You can pick up a Modèle R, getting close to 180 years old, for about \$150 on eBay. Or a brand new 'très moderne' one for a few dollars more from your favourite kitchen gadget store.

CLUB EVENTS 2026

Tue April 28

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[French Car Club of Canberra – monthly meeting](#)

Raiders Club 1 Liardet St, Weston Creek, ACT, Australia

Tue May 26

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

[French Car Club of Canberra – monthly meeting](#)

Raiders Club 1 Liardet St, Weston Creek, ACT, Australia

Sun June 21

[Battle of Waterloo, Spanish Australian Club, Yarralumla](#)

June 21 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Battle of Waterloo, Spanish Australian Club, Yarralumla

See Social pages below for details.

Sun August 23

[French Car Drive – Morning tea at a Station Stop Café in Weston Park](#)

August 23 @ 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Weston Park, Station Stop Café - Yarralumla Play Station

Sun August 25

[French Car Club of Canberra – monthly meeting](#)

August 25 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Raiders Club 1 Liardet St, Weston Creek, ACT, Australia

Seen in Alaskan waters on an ‘inside passage’ tour from Vancouver.

Lovely scenery, but note the logo on the salt and pepper mills. Yes, Peugeot is at it again. Decking out (pardon the pun) the whole fleet.



CLASSIFIEDS

For sale, parts and wrecking

Hubcaps – Peugeot

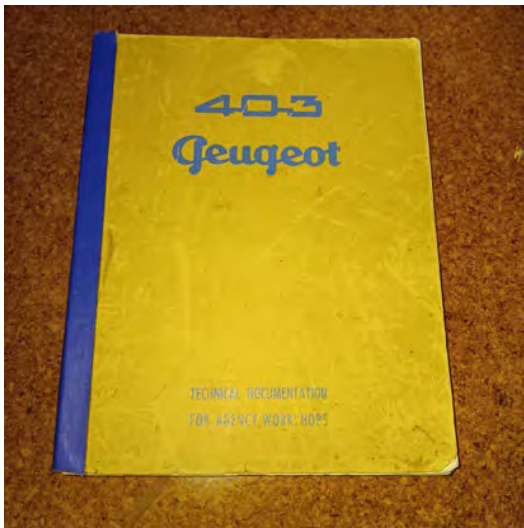
Three early Peugeot hubcaps for sale, \$15 each. Contact Lisa via email reno1338@hotmail.com



Classifieds

Genuine Peugeot workshop manuals, spare parts manuals, technical bulletins for P203, P403, P404, P504, P505.

Many to choose from. Contact Lisa via email reno1338@hotmail.com for details.

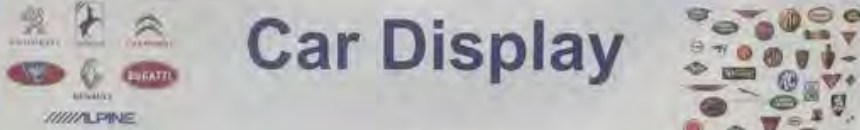


Example photo.

Battle of Waterloo

French v British

Car Display



Hosted by the MG Car Club Canberra in collaboration with the French Car Club of Canberra



Sunday 21st of June 2026
Entrants to turn up at 9am
Spectators 10:00am to 2:00pm
Trophy Presentation 12:30pm



Spanish Australian Club
5 Narupai Place Narrabundah ACT

Sausage sizzle, Coffee and other drinks available to purchase



A couple of highlights from 2025

What car is this?

Several weeks ago, my brother Rob sent me images of a wreck he had spotted in Namibia. "Looks like a Peugeot 404" he proclaimed. However, on closer inspection it was clear that the wreck was not a 404.



Key features to note:

1. Shape of the wheel arches
2. Boot shape – or at least the cavity where the boot lid would have been
3. Detail of the chrome strip down the side panels
4. Shape of the bodywork in the front grill area
5. Angled tail-lights in side profile

From the body shape, it's clearly a Pininfarina design, but which one? Italian car design company Pininfarina was founded in 1930 by Battista "Pinin" Farina. The company has been employed by many car manufacturers to design vehicles, including Alfa Romeo, Ferrari, Fiat, General Motors, Lancia, Maserati and Peugeot. Since 2015, the company has been owned by Mahindra. Classic Peugeot designs by Pininfarina include 404, 504, 205 and 406.

Coming back to the Namibian wreck, similar Pininfarina designs to the 404 (but none were as good as the clean lines of the 404) included Fiat 1800/2100/2300, Austin A6 Freeway/Cambridge, Wolseley, Morris Oxford Series 6 etc.

My best bet is Morris Oxford Series 6 – the grill shape clinches it, I think, but what do readers think?

Brad Pillans



1963 Morris Oxford Series 6

Image source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris_Oxford_Farina

America's Car Museum Tacoma Washington - USA

Joel Krewaz

A one way \$3 bus ride from Seattle Washington is the more industrial, satellite and coastal city of Tacoma. Home to aerospace companies, defence contractors, trailer (caravan) manufacturing as well as maritime and health industries. For the more cultured, it is also the birthplace and, not coincidentally, has a gallery of Dale Chihuly's, the famous glass artist's, work.



A bit of Dale Chihuly, he had a display at Canberra's Floriade and the National Gallery in 1999-2000

To us who have an interest in all things automotive, Tacoma also possesses LeMay - America's Car Museum.



1956 Sunbeam Talbot

Harold LeMay was a very successful businessman (waste management and a multitude of car related enterprises) who amassed a 3,000 car collection over his lifetime and arranged this amazing museum to be built to house a small part of that collection after his death. The vast displays do change regularly.

Mainly focusing on impressive American cars of all eras, he also had broad taste in all things automotive, and that's where a few French and French related cars sneak in.

Yes, there is a French connection with the red Sunbeam Talbot you see here. A Franco-British automotive manufacturer was founded in 1896 by French businessman Alexandre Darracq. Darracq originally made high quality passenger (and fearsome v8 racing) cars in Suresnes, near Paris.

Clément-Talbot Ltd, a British quality car and limousine manufacturer was acquired by Darracq in 1919 and the Sunbeam Motor Car Company was also purchased a year later. Rootes Motor Cars, and subsequently Humber, purchased Darracq, the Talbot subsidiary and Sunbeam line by 1935 but manufacturing under the Talbot name continued 'till WW2. In 1946, Sunbeam Talbot was the named manufacturer, and this beauty (above) was manufactured in 1956.



Yes, we are 'back to the future' with this DeLorean.

Now, how does a DeLorean, designed in the USA and manufactured in Northern Ireland get a mention? By the use of the V6 PRV engine. The PRV is an overhead cam V6 automobile engine designed and manufactured by the company "Française de Mécanique" for an allied company, PRV, an alliance of Peugeot, Renault and Volvo Cars. The PRV motor was sold from 1974 to 1998. It powered every DeLorean made as well as plenty of Volvos, Renaults and Peugeots and some other exotic manufacturers.



Fun fact, a PRV motor (admittedly with multi overhead cams and pushing 910hp) holds the 24 Hours of LeMans top speed record, deliberately set in 1988 by the Peugeot WM endurance racer, of 253MPH on the 5km straight before the engine was destroyed. The air cooling ducts were apparently taped over to enhance speed to achieve the record.

The above lone DS 21 Pallas looking resplendent in metallic green (alas with a slower prewar derived 4 cylinder motor).



The crowning French car in this collection would have to be this well prepared but humble maroon on black 1953 'ripple bonnet' Citroën 2CV. Complete with front hinged 'suicide doors' and the peppier 602cc motor. It came second in its class in the 1997 Peking to Paris Rally after successfully travelling 14,994 km in order to roll back into its hometown.

If you find yourself in the Pacific Northwest and in the State of Washington. The 5 floors of hundreds of incredible American cars, from Saleen hypercars, to between the wars Packards, a Stutz Bearcat, genuine Cobras, Allan Jones's Tasman Repco race car, endless movie star cars, even a mid-engined Holden derived ute, is worth the price of admission.

The French cars are the pleasing sprinkles on the icing of the cake.



I quite fancied this Saleen S1. 450hp from a 2.5 litre turbo 4. You would never park beside another one.

Fini.

American Style
Seen in passing.



The name's Moose, Jimmy Moose.



What Canadians do to 2CVs in glacier country.



Feeling the need to explain yourself.

MEETING MINUTES, 28 April 2026

Present

Brad Pillans, Mike Ford, Barry Mc Adie, Charles Birch, Colin Handley, Greg Francis, Leigh McEwan, Lisa Molvig, Matt Dennis, Neil Birch.

Apologies

Joel Krewaz, Dave Rowell, Ross Stephens, Neil Sperring, Bill McNamee

Introduction

The meeting opened at 8:12 pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Brad moved that the minutes of the February meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, seconded Leigh. Carried.

Financial Report

Working Account balance is \$1,743.84, with 3 Term Deposits totalling \$\$14,611.30. Since last month, \$1,335.64 has been transferred from a Term Deposit to the working account.

Motion: Neil Birch moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Greg. Carried.

cactmc.org.au – report:

Minutes of the last Council meeting are not yet out. Most of the delegates who spoke thought Wheels 2026 went well. Greg was there alone as Neil Sperring is quite sick, Greg said he is not getting any younger either.

Brad said if anyone wants to be a delegate to let Greg know. Council meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at the Spanish Australia Club in Narrabundah, near the Harmony German Club where Greg usually eats beforehand. Leigh expressed a willingness if needed.

Social:

Last Sunday was the best attended French Car Drive Lisa has organised. 16 from our club as well as members of the Rover Club and the NSW Citroen Club. See Lisa's article in latest FCT. The drive in June is to a furniture restoration workshop in Fyshwick owned by a member of the local Rover club. Battle of Waterloo: MG car club is organising this year's event. Greg has offered to help but not as a co-organiser. Greg said the Spanish club should be reimbursed for the costs of for hosting the event and has suggested asking clubs to contribute to the costs.

General Business

The NSW Citroen Club is planning an event that will come to our region 8-9 May next year. They would like to meet local Citroen owners.

Brad talked about the magazine and asked members to keep contributing content.

This is the first meeting Matt Dennis has attended. He owns an R17 and has some 404s. His interest in French Cars is in the family, his Grandfather owned Corin Motors in Fyshwick. We have put an application in to the Raiders Weston Club for a meeting room for meetings next Financial Year. As the fourth Tuesday of January is Australia Day we have applied for the 3rd Tuesday in January.

Close and NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

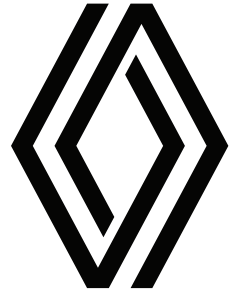
The next club meeting is scheduled for the Raiders Club in Weston, at 8pm on Tuesday 26th of May, with dinner at 7 pm. All welcome

https://fccoc.com.au/?tribe_events=french-car-club-of-canberra-monthly-meeting-28

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plus a 10% discount on service and parts
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