

THE
CCCVA **NEWSLETTER**

THE JOURNAL OF THE CITROËN CAR CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc.
Internet: www.citcarclubvic.org.au

March 2022



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Brighton Classic Car Show
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Hundres of Citroëns saved from scrapheap

CITROËN CAR CLUB OF VICTORIA Inc.

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MEMBERSHIP RATE

Metropolitan including printed newsletter \$ 70.00
Country including printed newsletter \$ 55.00
Electronic only newsletter for above \$ 50.00 / \$ 35.00
For 2nd & subsequent members \$ 15.00

CCCV GENERAL MEETINGS

8.00 PM 3rd Thursday of the month except Jan.
8/41 Norcal Road Nunawading Mel 48 / G11

CCCV COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings are held monthly in locations decided each month.

CLUB BANKING DETAILS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

AND PAYMENTS

BANK: Bendigo Bank - BSB: 633 000—ACCOUNT: 120 127 907

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Among the recent Australia Day Honours, Ian Tate was the recipient of an OA award for:

"Service to historic motor racing."

Ian was a guest speaker at a Club Meeting back in later Glen Iris days where he spoke of his time as a key person in the Holden Dealer Team during the Peter Brock era.

Bill Sagers



MOTORCLASSICA REIMAGINED

7- 9 October 2022

Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne

Motorclassica Reimagined is coming to Melbourne

For over a decade, Motorclassica has been Australia's premier festival of motoring and now it's coming back reimagined in 2022!





Things are looking up and it looks like we are finally getting into a place where we can run club activities

as we have in the past. Hooray!

To get the ball rolling we will have our March club meeting at the clubrooms. We would appreciate it if only vaccinated members attended. Our plan is for this meeting to be a swap meet and a chance for people to catch up. Nick Hutton has already sent out an email regarding the swap meet – bring along your parts that are no longer needed and either swap them with others, sell them or buy parts that you need for what is usually a very reasonable price. We also have a couple of boxes of donated parts which are available on a first come, first serve basis - most will be at no cost. We kick off at 8pm and there will be the usual coffee, tea and snacks available at no cost as usual. Please come along and give members all a chance to catch up with one another.

As part of getting the meetings back to normal, your committee is looking for suggestion and assistance with getting appropriate speakers to our meetings. They can be an expert in things automotive or just have a topic of interest to members. This is one of the hardest tasks for your committee and any ideas or assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated.



If undeliverable return to:

CCCV PO Box 122
Nunawading Victoria 3131

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Club runs are back on as well. We are trying to get activity across a range of Victorian locations to ensure all members can participate. Details of planned runs are in the issue of the magazine. As with speakers, if anyone has an idea for a club run that they would like to organise, please let Dave Rogers, our activity coordinator know.

Finally, a reminder that CitIn in Cowra entries are closing soon. This annual event which gets all of the Australian clubs together in one spot is always great fun. When I first attended, I was warmly welcomed, and it gave me an opportunity to meet members from other clubs and share stories. It also gives you some valuable contacts if ever you get stuck on a trip and need help – of course that may not be necessary as we all know that Citroen's never fail to proceed..... If you do go, there is always the pre Cit In tour from Melbourne to Cowra which is also advertised in this issue.

Peter Moloney

President

FRONT COVER

Ted Cross and Bruno Tonizzo resident chefs at our February BBQ.

Image: Brian James

BACK COVER

Castlemaine Art Gallery & Museum taken during the Heathcote Expedition

Image: Haydn Kelvy

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DISCLAIMER

This newsletter may contain articles with suggestions and advice for maintaining and modifying your car. It is your responsibility to ensure that any modifications or maintenance carried out on your vehicle conforms to all applicable safety and design laws and regulations and any stipulation made to your insurance company. The editors, authors, CCCV Inc. Committee and Members decline any responsibility for any transactions begun through contacts made in the CCCV.

CCCV NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE: Sunday night, after the 2nd Wednesday of the month.



NOTICE BOARD



Club password for the month: This has now been deleted and by simply logging on to the CCCV website: www.Citcarclubvic.org.au you can view all sections including the newsletter without having to remember a monthly password.

New Members . CCCV welcomes the new members to our family: Robert (Bob) & Gaye Herbert, and David Waldren. We trust you will enjoy your membership and we look forward to seeing you at club meetings and monthly outings.

LHM OIL for members: The price of LHM oil is now \$18.00 per litre as at 10/11/21 (see p/27 for your closest rep) Unfortunately we have had to increase this charge because of rising purchase cost to the club. It is still well below retail price.

LDS OIL available at club rooms on club nights only at \$25.00 per litre.

Events Calendar

2022

Draft Activities Program

2022

NOTE: Club nights are held in our club rooms at 8/41 Norcal Road Nunawading, Mel 48/G11 at 8pm **ON THE THIRD THURSDAY IN THE MONTH.**

Monthly 1st- Chit-Chat Tuesday Chit-Chat Tuesdays will be at Laneway Espresso Café – next door to Dromana Hotel – from 10 am onwards. This is a low-key “DIY” event for likeminded Citroen owners to meet and chat. Contact: Warwick Spinaze 0407 016 719 **CCOCA & CCCV event for coffee & chat.**

Monthly BOYS DAY OUT-Port Arlington Golf Club- **WHEN:** The fourth Thursday each month and the third Thursday in December (*See p/7*) 10.30 am for 11.30 departure & leaving from 1/29 Everist Rd, Ocean Grove Industrial Estate. **CCOCA & CCCV event for coffee & chat.**

[AOMC NEWSLETTER](#)

Click on this link
Available to members to download.
For more details on club events contact :
Dave Rogers..

- Mar 4-6** Venus Bay camping w/end. **p/ 5**
- 17** Club night—**Swap meet of car parts, p/9**
- 19-25** For those folks who would like to have a bit of fun and enjoyment before CITIN 2022, we are inviting you to join us on "Helen's Happy Holiday / Teddie's Terrific Tour / Dave's Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap", to be held over 7 days and 6 nights. March 19, 2022 @ 8:00 am - March 25, 2022 @ 5:00 pm
Check CCCV website for full details.
- Mar 25-28** **CIT-IN COWRA NSW**
See website below for details
<http://citroencarclub.org.au/cit-in/cit-in.html>
- Apr 15** Club night
- 20** Concourse Location TBA
- 29-April 1st** Florence Thomson Tour (RACV)
<https://groundstation.wufoo.com/forms/r7d71nv13j15gm/>
- May 15** Maling Road Autoclassico –Canterbury. **p/9**
- 19** Club night 2
- 28-29** Winton Races
- June 16** Club night—Movie Don Scutt
- 25** Tech day
- July 21** Club night
- Oct 07-09** Motorclassica
- 20** AGM

CCCV Club Advice Line

Traction Avant	Ted Cross	9819 2208	SM	Garth Campbell	0406427657
2CV	Dave Rogers	0422229484	Xantia/Xsara	John Wyers	9787 6280
AX/Berlingo	Kirk Kirkcaldy	9363 2464	XM & modern models	Salman Chaudhry	0410 040 505
GS/GSA	Andrew Smith	9755 2439	C2/C3	Don Scutt	9807 8999
ID/DS	Contact CCCV		C6	John Fedorko	0438 597384
BX	John Wyers	9787 6280			
CX/C5	Graeme McDonald	9781 1649			

VENUS BAY



MARCH—FRIDAY 4TH TO SUNDAY 6TH

NOTE: The Cidery event has now changed to Sunday

We have changed things around a bit this year.

The plan is to **leave Venus Bay at 11am on the Sunday morning** and drive to a very picturesque cidery near Foster for lunch. They make a very good platter to share. Together with a tasting board of 6 different ciders.



After lunch we will drive to Koowarra for coffee and cakes and then back to Venus Bay for chatting, Golf Croquet, Solex run or a walk on the beach. For the evening meal it will be cook your own main meal barbecue? and share desert.

Breakfast will be at your own time and pace. There will be some organized activities for you to do or not on Sunday.

Feel free to come on the Friday and leave on the Monday, but please let us know if you are coming.

Ring Dee on 98078999 or 0450644570 or

Email double@ozemail.com.au

If you are over camping and need accommodation let's know early so that we can see what is available in the area.

Let's hope that the gods are kind to us this year with Covid and good weather.

Keep well. Don Scutt.



When: Sunday 3 April 2022
Where: Firbank Grammar
51 Outer Crescent, Brighton

- * Opens 10am until 4pm
- * 100 Classic Cars on Display
- * Fun for the whole family
- * Live Roving Musicians
- * Food & Beverages available
- * Adults Entry: \$5 - Children under 16: \$2
- Children under 2: Free - Family of 5: \$15

You will need to
be double vaxxed
to attend this event
& have proof
with you.

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PETROLEUM**
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eyes on
brighton
OPTOMETRISTS



Charters



*** A Rotary Club of Brighton Charity Fundraiser**

Entry Form enquiries to Steve Wolf 0403 253 926

All other enquiries to Wayne Styles 0417 532 411



GOLD SPONSORS:



FIRBANK
GRAMMAR

Rotary
Club of Brighton





Brighton Classic Car Show 2022 for vehicles 25 years or older

Entry Form:

Date: 3 April, 2022 **Car Entry Time:** 8:00am
Location: Firbank Grammar School, 51 Outer Crescent, Brighton.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Vehicle Details:

Make:

Year:

Model:

Registration or Permit Number:

Entry Fee: \$25

Additional Donation: \$.....

Total: \$.....



Credit Card Details:

Name on Card:

Number:

Expiry:

Signature:



Please email back with current vehicle photos: stevepaulwolf@gmail.com

All enquiries to: Steve Wolf Mob: 0403 253 926 Email: stevepaulwolf@gmail.com

or Wayne Styles Mob: 0417 532 411

Note: Tickets will be emailed a week before the event. Umbrellas, star pickets & tent pegs not permitted on the oval.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: Cars must arrive at the Venue and be parked by their drivers in accordance with the directions of the Rotary Clubs Officials in the space designated for it between 8.00am and 9.00am. Cars must be collected and removed from the venue between 4.00pm and 5.30pm. (Venue gates may be locked after 6.00pm). Cars must not be moved prior to 4.00pm and will remain at the owners risk at all times. The Rotary Club will provide Marshalls in the viewing area to monitor the behaviour of the crowd. Drivers must comply with all reasonable requests and directions of the Rotary Club and it's officials. The number of sites available for display of vehicles is limited therefore, in the event applications are in excess of available display space any unsuccessful applicant will have their application fee [if processed] refunded in full.

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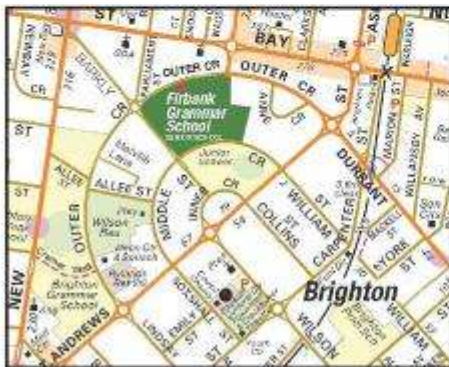


FIRBANK GRAMMAR



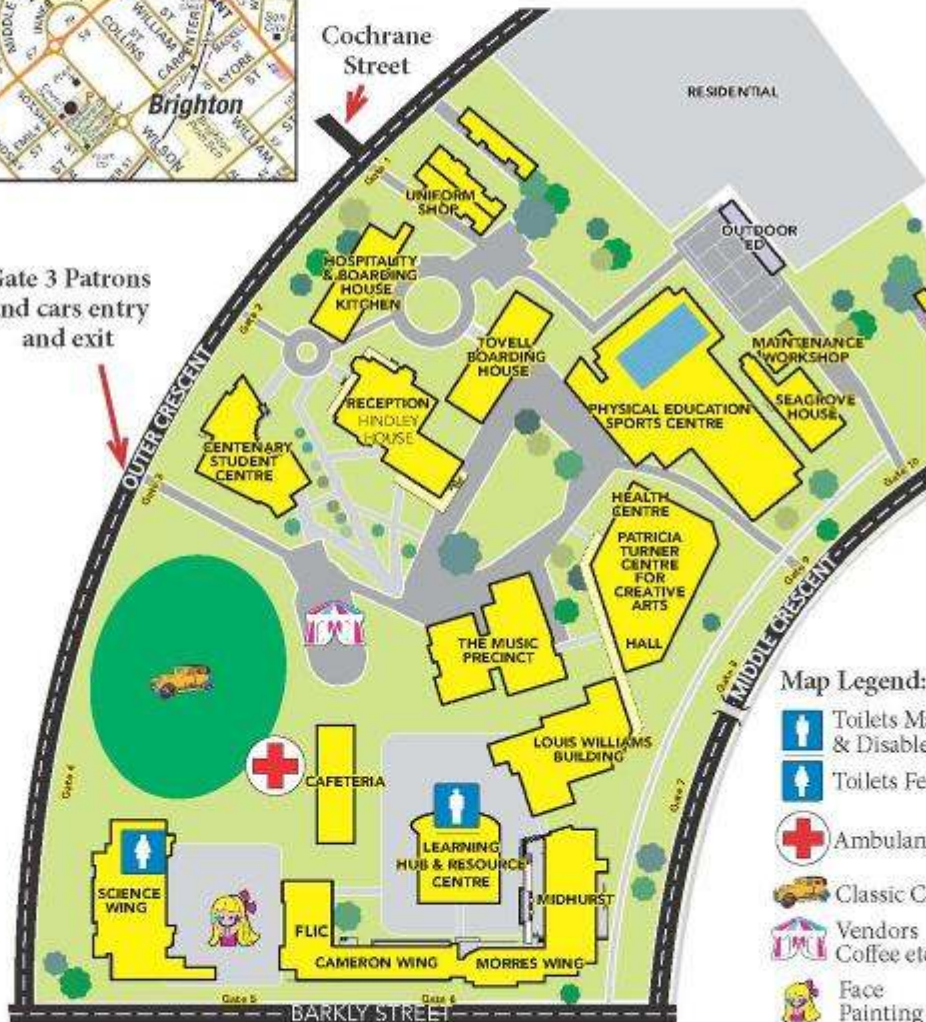


A Rotary Club of Brighton Charity Fundraiser



Location Map
Melway 67 E9

Gate 3 Patrons
and cars entry
and exit



Map Legend:

- Toilets Male & Disabled
- Toilets Female
- Ambulance
- Classic Cars
- Vendors Coffee etc
- Face Painting

GOLD SPONSORS



FIRBANK
GRAMMAR



Maling Road

Autoclassico

Sunday 15th May 2022



Maling Road Autoclassico will be held on Sunday 6th February 2022 within the Maling Road shopping precinct where over 200+ classic & modern exotics cars displayed.

Planning is well advanced to the point where we have secured some great cars & clubs, whilst also expanding the event to cover a broader range of classic and modern cars from multiple marques across the globe.

The event will continue to focus on displaying classic, historic and some modern classics consistent with the unique characteristics of the event. The event will be further expanded to include some classic and rarely seen scooters and some privately-owned cars 'never previously displayed' at such events.

The event has Boroondara Council approval and submissions & COVID safe plans have been lodged with all relevant authorities to ensure the event is approved and run appropriately.

UNIQUE VILLAGE & HISTORICAL SHOPPING PRECINCT

The entire Maling Road shopping centre will be closed off from 7:30am – 4:00pm for the Maling Road Autoclassico and will be a major event, that with the support of our sponsors, clubs, and private entrants – will ensure it is a fantastic day!

MARCH 17th CLUB NIGHT

In the Norcal Road Clubrooms

SWAP PARTS NIGHT.

Bring parts you have in your shed you with to sell or swap with other members.

This is your chance to clean up at home, and after all the Covid lockdown, once again to socialize with other members in person.

Nibbles and tea/coffee supplied.

We look forward to seeing you.

THE HEATHCOTE EXPEDITION

The Heathcote Wine Research Expedition began at 1000hrs on Friday 11th February at the Tullamarine Airport northern Aircraft Viewing Area on highway C743. The aircraft viewing area is where aeroplane buffs gather under the flight path of airliners to get a close up view as they come into land on Tullamarine Runway 16.

The weather was very cool, overcast and windy, a real surprise given the sunny 29 degrees day that had been forecast. The following days were expected to be in the 30s. (The forecast hot weather had caused some of the expeditioners with less modern Citroën models to opt for non-Citroën cars with aircon - which thus tested the levels of the expedition standards!)

The cool day added an element of anxiety (could the forecast be wrong!), though this began to evaporate as we bought good quality coffees from the van pulled up in the carpark. Some of the expeditioners had spirits lifted skyward as they looked up to see the underside an RAAF Dassault Falcon 7x executive jet fly over with our Prime Minister and Foreign Minister on board to attend the international foreign ministers meeting being held in Melbourne later in the day. (Some even said they saw a wave from one of the windows!)

With spirits thus lifted we were ready to tackle the wilds of central Victoria. With all members in the expedition party accounted for, we set off through Bulla then turned northward via Monegetta to Lancefield where we made our first “pitstop”. The hills had begun to rise up and the gullies deepen through the cleared grazing countryside. The next leg to Romsey headed into the southern side of the Dividing Range with large smooth granite boulders and eucalypts scattered through the dry grass covered increasingly steep hills. On rumbling through Romsey we made the long climb up the forested hill on the north side of town to get into the hill country proper. The forest on this hill gives a full canopy for the ferns

and bracken that grow on the forest floor. The subsequent curves, rises and falls in the road provided fun driving to test out the Citroëns in the convoy. Travelling at 80 – 85kph to suit the convoy’s 2CV provided an opportunity to take in and reflect on the boulder strewn landscape.

As the morning progressed the weather warmed into a beautiful sunny day, perfect for driving. After winding through the hills we jolted over a set of rumble strips into a tee intersection with the Northern Highway and turned left heading north into Tooborac.



At Tooborac we pulled into the historic Tooborac Hotel, a heritage listed blue stone building dating

back to 1857 when it was a Cobb & Co. stopover for travellers to the gold fields. The hotel now boasts a boutique brewery located in the original stable building, while in the main hotel building they make and serve delicious gourmet savoury pies. After a wearying journey from Melbourne we partook of the fare and enjoyed a cleansing ale and hearty pie lunch while soaking up the building’s history.

Satisfied and fortified we pressed on into the central Victorian wilderness and travelled further north through Heathcote where we took a veer right on the Northern Highway in the direction of Rochester. Now at the start of the northern slopes of the Dividing Range we began seeing acres of vineyards and soon came to Shurans Lane where we found the Sanguine Estate winery.

Sanguine Estates Chief Winemaker, Mark Hunter greeted us and took us into the winery’s modern buildings to the wine making area then into the barrel room to get down to business. We were surrounded



Sanguine Estate above.

by racks and racks of French oak barrels holding Sanguine Estate's fine wines as they age to maturity. Invited to sit in comfortable chairs arranged around a barrel we were set to taste four wines made at Sanguine Estate including their recently awarded Top Shiraz in Victoria, the Sanguine Estate 2019 Inception Shiraz. Mark passionately explained the intricacies of wine making at Sanguine Estate in particular the four wines as we tasted each one. Then some tastings taken from the barrels to demonstrate the wine making process stages. We were joined by Jodi Marsh the CEO and Marketing Manager who described the history of Sanguine Estate going back to Pietro D'Orsa after whom their premium shiraz is named, who migrated from Italy during the gold rush. After buying some of the wines, we loaded into the cars and headed back to Heathcote to check into the motel.



Sanguine Estate above.

A quick rest and freshen up then back on the road to explore further north again along the Northern Highway through crops, grazing land and vineyards over very Citroën suitable red dirt rocky roads to our destination just east of Toolleen at the Tellurian Winery. A very modern winery building set amongst the vines nestled in the lower rolling red earth hills. We were



Telluriam Winery x 2 images above.

greeted by Cellar Door Manager Chris Parker and shown to the long formally set out table prepared for our dinner. Each setting had four wine glasses on a place mat printed with the descriptions of the wines we were to taste through the dinner – Tellurian Riesling, Blanc, Rosé then Tranter Shiraz. After a brief introduction to Tellurian and our first tasting we were served our first course; zucchini fritter with cauliflower and crispy prosciutto. On finishing this course, Chris gave a description of the wines and we were served main course of pressed lamb shoulder on crispy polenta, fresh herb Salsa Verde topped with blistered tomatoes and fetta - delicious. The views of the golden setting sun over the surrounding vines and dry grassed paddocks through the large picture windows in the restaurant provided a perfect setting for our fine dining meal and the matching wines.

With the sun low in the sky and the light now a very golden glow, we finished our meal and set out on the return journey south to Heathcote via Toolleen, being weary of the kangaroos that had come out for their

evening graze. After a day's solid expeditioning the comfortable beds of the suitably named Retreat Motel in the quite of downtown Heathcote were most welcome.

Next morning came clear and sunny with some people enjoying a walk around town while others made a "bee line" for coffee places to get there morning pick-me-up. At 1030 hours promptly the convoy reassembled and we set out to the west again along Mitchell Street aptly named after Major Thomas Mitchell who explored the area to the west in 1836 and described it as Australia Felix. Now the westerly directed C326



headed to Redesdale where we journeyed through the winding hilly rocky countryside. At Redesdale we had the pleasure of crossing the Campaspe River on the beautiful bluestone founded riveted wrought iron lattice truss bridge opened in 1868 and still serving travellers well. Onward we pressed through Sutton Grange and Faraday onto Blackjack Road that led us to Castlemaine. After the cross country journey we were disappointed to find that the pie shop we were navigating to had moved to a different location in town. Savvy reorienting led to multiple lunch locations being located and adopted.

After lunch we took got back on track and found the Castlemaine Art Museum, a handsome art-deco building in the middle of town. A well established gallery and museum with 4 contemporary exhibitions and a collection of some of Australia's classical early artworks on its ground floor. The lower floor level had the museum with exhibits from indigenous times through to white people, to the gold rush and the development of modern Castlemaine. One of our expeditioners found their family forebear's miner's right on display when she recognised their family name. After the gallery it was time for afternoon tea which some took in the Botanical Gardens while others visited the authentic German "Das Kaffeehaus" for coffee and cake – luxury!

Suitably refreshed we assembled the convoy and began the journey back to Heathcote via a different route that took us out along the Midland Highway and through the apple orchards of Harcourt. We then journeyed through the hilly and rocky country over gravel roads with broad views of the country out the south east on our way back to Redesdale. Over the wrought iron bridge and back onto now the familiar C326 back to Heathcote.

Safely back at the motel people took rest and swapped stories from the day's travels, while another team made a quick foraging trip to the local well-provisioned IGA supermarket to pick up the pre-ordered "cooked chooks", salads and dessert. With victuals now back at the motel the Citroën clubs' catering crew swung into action and prepared the usual "slap up" meal. Ample quantities of local "refreshments" were on hand which assisted in ensuring a broad range of conversation topics traversed over the evening meal. Folks finally made their way back to their beds late in the night.



Saturday night's dinner.

After solid sleeps, another bright sunny day greeted us in the morning. Most folks made their way to the cafes for much needed heart starter coffees after the previous night's festivities. At 1030 hours we assembled the convoy for the last formal leg of the expedition. There were several requests for the return trip to include a stopover early in the journey at the Tooborac Hotel retail outlet pie shop. We dually pulled in at the pie shop and everyone took the opportunity to buy pies for dinner back in Melbourne. On the road again we retraced our path back through Lancefield to Romsey where we took a left turn to the east and travelled approximately 18km through grazing land to Darraweit Guim to visit DV Cider where lunch was taken from their range of ciders and light café meals.

Our expedition thus completed, expedition members navigated their own ways back to their respective homes. It had been a very full weekend of travel, scenery, enjoyable company, good food and very good wine!

Article & images by
Haydn Kely.



Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

Public toilets
BBQ and picnic area
Rotunda
Children's playground
Wheelchair accessible
There are power outlets at the following locations available for general public use:
BBQ's near Playground - 2 x Double power points on two of the posts near the playground BBQs - the posts that make up the big BBQ shelter.
Rotunda - 2 x Double power points near the stairs
External Tea Rooms – 2 x Double power points near picnic tables under veranda

The gardens are home to an impressive collection of established native and exotic trees, with a beautiful ornamental lake surrounded by open landscaped gardens, this setting will enhance any function and is the perfect location for weddings and family gatherings.

Originally designed by notable botanist, Baron von Mueller, some of the surrounding trees are listed by the National Trust, including an ancient oak planted in 1863 to commemorate the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales.



John Wyers, and Peter and Kate Moloney's Citroens at the pie stop on the return journey to Melbourne.

THE HEATHCOTE

Some tastings were taken from the demonstrate the wine making process.

We were joined by Jodi Marsh the Marketing Manager who described the history of Sanguine Estate going back to D'Orsa after whom their premium wine is named, who migrated from Italy during the gold rush.

After buying some of the wines, we got into the cars and headed back to the motel to check into the motel.

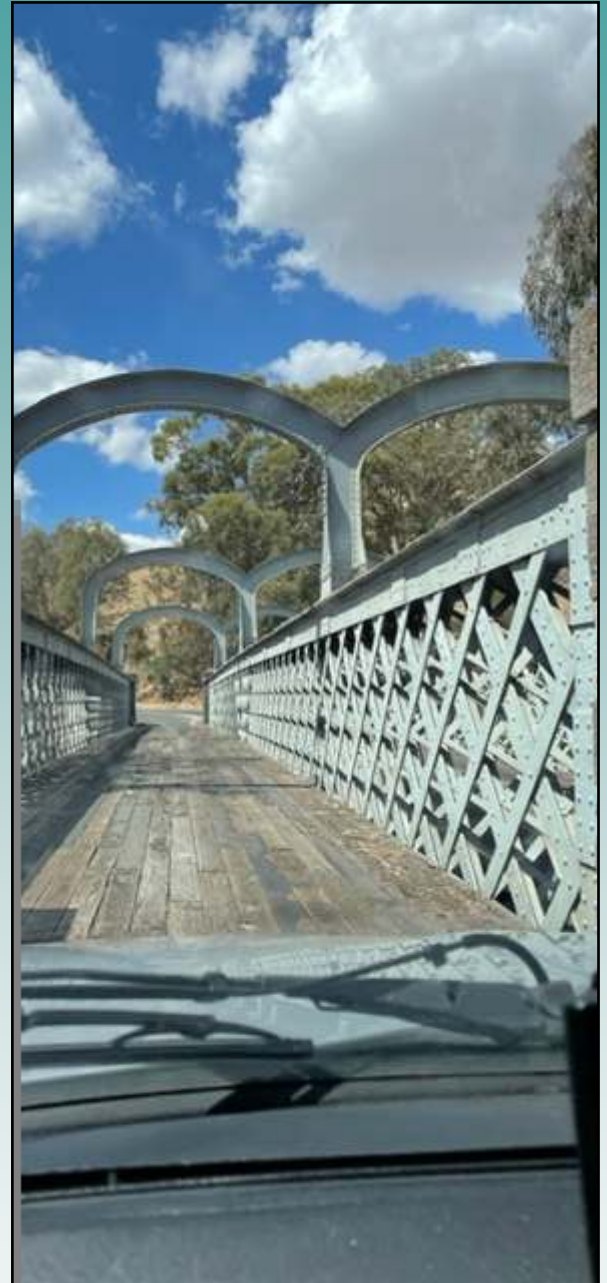


WINE EXPEDITION

the barrels to
access stages.

CEO and
and the his-
back to Pietro
in shiraz is
during the

ve loaded
Heathcote





SM2A in France has saved hundreds of old Citroëns from the scrapheap

14 January 2020

Jean-Michel Gallet is the self-taught and very talkative father of SM2A in France, a small empire dedicated to the Citroën DS and SM to which owners from all over the world travel to have their cars restored...





Settled in Mussy-sur-Seine in the Aube region of France, which was first devastated by the loss of its industries thanks to globalisation and subsequently reinvigorated by the success of champagne, Jean-Michel Gallet has long been something of a UFO in the classic car world.

But having been born in a Citroën DS and spent much of his childhood travelling around Europe with his parents in their DS21 family car, he was very quickly plunged into the world of mechanical engineering. “I took my first steps in engineering at the age of seven, when I sand-casted aluminium parts by hand and accompanied my grandfather, who was head of an aluminium foundry, to meet his customers,” Gallet recalls. “With him, I learned to observe and listen.”



Curious about everything, to the point he became a true perfectionist, he took a greater step forward at the age of 14 by diving into the bowels of a Citroën and learning by heart the entire mechanics of the fuel-injected DS21 or, as Gallet refers to it, “the one nobody wanted to take any care of”. Needless to say, Citroën is in his family’s genes. “We’ve always driven Citroëns,” he proudly proclaims, “and for good reason – they’re the best cars in the world!”



Both the passion for the double-chevron brand and the thirst for solving mechanical problems never left Gallet. “At 16 years old, I was preparing and improving my first enduro bike, a Yamaha 125 DTMX, but I was already maintaining our family Citroën DS21,” he explains. “And at 17, I bought a Maserati engine, the one found in the Citroën SM, via the French magazine *La Vie de l’Auto* to study and understand it.”

Word quickly spread of Gallet’s technical prowess and he was inundated with old Citroëns. “Very quickly I was being given or sold DSs for little or nothing – at one time I owned up to 60 DSs at the same time and I’ve certainly taken over 300 of them apart during my career!”

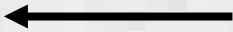


By the time Gallet was 22, he could finally buy himself a disassembled SM to put it back together again. In the meantime, he'd graduated with two CAPs (French qualifications) in fitting and milling, skills that continue to serve well him to this day. The only time he ever worked for somebody else was in his early twenties, when he joined Roland de la Poype, the great plastic pioneer who designed both the Citroën Méhari and Marineland in Antibes. "He was an extraordinarily passionate man," remembers Gallet, "In prototyping for him, he gave me the desire and drive to create and move forward."



Aged 25, Gallet returned to Mussy-sur-Seine and bought second-hand machine tools in order to manufacture his own automotive parts, and in 1989, he met Marc Nicolosi, the founder of the famous Rétromobile salon in Paris at which he exhibited said parts for the first time. "Nicolosi truly launched my career." With a nation-wide clientele, Gallet's business grew naturally to encompass the comprehensive restoration of cars right down to chassis sandblasting. He established SM2A in 2002 and was quickly joined by his brother, who was entrusted with the bodywork and painting sides of the business. Later, in 2012, his son – who has skills in three-dimensional computing and a degree in Le Mans competition – joined the company, turning SM2A into a truly family affair.





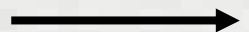
SM2A now has four more employees and a global customer base. While it's virtually invisible from the nearby country road, anyone who enters the workshop for the first time is in for a real shock.

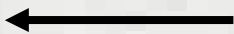
A former mattress factory, the workshops are huge and once inside you feel like you're in a Claude Chabrol film. The canopies, partitions and doors are unchanged and today house no fewer than 40 machine tools that Gallet bought at small regional auctions. "Each time a factory closes, machining tools that were once the flagship of our industry are sold at auction for a pittance, predominantly to salvage the metal," he explains. "If they're not too heavy, we bring them back here in our Citroën DS Tissier and give them a second life." Gallet's team model each part in 3D before manufacturing it on site. It's extraordinary.



The former factory is arranged by specialist work, with rooms dedicated to bead blasting, drilling, grinding and machining, but also to pickling, sanding and painting. That's not to forget the space dedicated to the storage of spare parts and the final assembly of the cars before they're road tested.

In the background, beneath the glass canopies, there are dozens and dozens of DSs in 'barn-find' condition, patiently waiting for brighter days back on the road. They sit next to the wild SM Tissier, with its four rear axles and which will be fully restored to celebrate the SM's 50th anniversary at Rétromobile in February. "I found it as a wreck, and it'll be the quickest tow truck in the world!" Working day and night, Gallet is also handling the restorations of Maserati Boras and Ghiblis.





With the arrival of his son, the company now embraces 3D engineering and digital machining tools. “Citroën DSs and SMs are great cars, but today people want an old car with the advantages of a modern car, especially in terms of reliability and performance,” Gallet comments. “So, we give it to them – we’re the only ones doing that, building modernised Citroëns, because we have all the machines, materials, technology and expertise to do it.”

Electronic ignition, injection and other innovations are thus no taboo here and SM2A has modernised Citroën DSs, SMs and Maserati Merak. In fact, no fewer than 18 SM engines are rebuilt every year and in 2019 four Maseratis were comprehensively restored. Gallet waxes lyrical about the process: “Restoring a car like a DS or an SM is like raising a child – it’s osmosis between the customer and the craftsmen.”



Gallet is using his in-depth knowledge of these complex machines to take things one step further and produce a car he’s always dreamed of, the ultimate Citroën SM, a true ‘Concorde of the road’. The exciting car is aptly called the SM2 and could be considered the ultimate Citroën restomod. Keep your eyes peeled on Classic Driver because we’ll be featuring the car right here very soon.

Text: Etienne Raynaud / Photos: Rémi Dargegen for Classic Driver © 2019

<https://www.classicdriver.com/en/article/cars/sm2a-france-has-saved-hundreds-old-citroens-scrapheap>

A Three Country DS Restoration

November 2021



Classic Cars recently published an article titled; 'It was almost beyond saving' – the Epic Restoration of a Citroën DS.

Owner John Collenette in the UK took a very shoddy 1970 DS21 and made sizeable investment to bring it back to its former glory. To do so, he had all the resuscitation mechanical work done in England, then the car was sent to Poland for bodywork and paint, while a new interior leather was created in Hungary. The article goes into great detail and shows some good pictures of the process involved, but as you can see in this photo of the finished car's rear, one needs to stay on top of all stages of a DS restoration.



Look at the taillights of the DS that were installed in Poland — they are not aligned properly. They are angled downward at the outer edges. The shop put the lower edge of the lights parallel to the bumper when they should have been offset and vertically aligned to be parallel to the edge of the license plate. Such a shame as the rest of the car is most impressive.

You can read the full article here: <https://www.classiccarsmagazine.co.uk/blog/features/it-was-almost-beyond-saving-the-epic-restoration-of-a-citroen-ds/>

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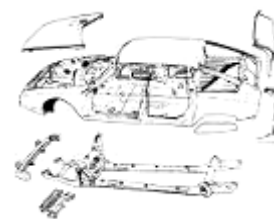
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