

# HCCV Warrnambool Weekend Getaway Report #1

Friday 22 to Sunday 24 April 2022

What lovely weather we enjoyed for our long-awaited weekend. Unfortunately we had to forgo taking one of our Humbers as the journey to Warrnambool would have taken days rather than hours in either of our vintage or veteran Humbers. However, a number of Humbers made the journey and made a splendid show parked alongside each other.

Dining together on Friday night at a local pub was a convivial time as we caught up on news from those members we knew and made friends with the members who we had not had the pleasure of meeting before. It augured well for a great weekend.

lade. I am hoping she will give us the recipe which we can share with all our club members.



Saturday was a day to visit various interesting places in Warrnambool, starting with a relaxed morning tea at Chas and Lucy Speed's home allowing us to view a couple of interesting vehicles they have, hearing about some of the district's history and receiving a special gift from Lucy, her delicious lemon and carrot marm-

Later on Saturday we visited two more historic places – Wollaston Bridge privately funded and built in the 1890s it is the oldest cable suspension bridge in Victoria. It spans the Merri River



and was the entrance to the Wollaston Estate.



The second historic place we visited for afternoon tea and dinner later Saturday evening was "Proudfoots". An historic boathouse built in 1900 by the Proudfoot family on the Hopkins River. This beautiful wooden boathouse provides mooring and rowing facilities as well as a function room, café and restaurant. What a delicious meal we had there too.



After the visit to the Wollaston Bridge and a talk by Murray we were lucky to be asked back to his place. We met some years ago on a veteran 1 and 2 cylinder car rally at Warrnambool where John and I featured in the local paper in our 1910 Brush. It was a great end to the day for us not only to renew old acquaintances but to have a look at his veteran 1911 Buick nearing the completion of a full restoration. Just goes to show what can be done.

Sunday had us exploring the Flagstaff Village







with its collection of yesteryear buildings of shops, a church, a bank, newspaper office and various other businesses associated with Warrnambool's maritime history. Such an interesting place we could have spent many hours there, but we wanted to squeeze in a visit to nearby Tower Hill Reserve too which nestles inside a dormant volcano. It is a wonderful



place for wildlife and I enjoyed one of the many walks that you can do there.

Returning home after such a relaxing and enjoyable weekend we thought how glad we were

to have made the decision to attend this club event. A big thanks to Chas and Lucy Speed for suggesting and helping to arrange this visit to Warrnambool together with Jon Miller, our Events Co-ordinator.

Judy Lewis





## HCCV Warrnambool Weekend Getaway Report #2

Jon Miller

Attended by:

- ◆ Chaz and Lucy Speed
- ◆ Hans Paas
- ◆ Michael Pass
- ◆ Rob and Liz Young
- ◆ Marion and Len Barry
- ◆ Judy Lewis and John Washbourne
- ◆ Majella and Rod Burchill
- ◆ Jon Miller

In 1986, Chaz and Lucy Speed hosted a HCCV event in Warrnambool where they live. Those attending stayed at the Fig Tree Caravan Park, close to the centre of Warrnambool, and by all accounts everyone had a fabulous time. Its rumoured at the time that Chaz and Lucy advised they would be happy to organise and host another HCCV rally to Warrnambool – but due to the effort required, it would need to be in 36 years. True to this commitment, in 2022 the HCCV headed to Warrnambool to once again be hosted by the en-





thusiastic and very welcoming Chaz and Lucy Speed. The Figtree Caravan Park was once again the central meeting point for the event, which commenced on the Friday evening with a dinner at Macy's Hotel.

Saturdays activities commenced with a relaxing morning tea at Chaz and Lucy's place, including a tour of Chaz's garage and copious amounts of cake and a gift for everyone, being a jar of Lucy's excellent lemon and carrot marmalade.



We then headed down to the Warrnambool break water constructed in the late 1800's, and spent an hour in the autumn sunshine walking along the water's edge, observing a resident seal, and devising ways to save Judy's camera lens cover, which was doing a very good impersonation of a boat heading out to sea. I declined Judy's invitation to jump in and save it, my excuse being in my present state of unfitness, I could have been mistaken for a dugong, and herded out to sea by marine mammal lovers.

Saturday afternoon we embarked on Chaz's tour which included a trip to Granny's Grave and the

lovely beach (the water was so enticing and the weather fine and warm – I was almost ready for a swim and camera lens rescue effort), with the rest of the afternoon spent at Proudfoots - the famous boat house and now restaurant, on the Hopkins River (lovely scones and tea/coffee). Chaz organised for Murray Murfett (long-time local and member of the Warrnambool and District Historical Vehicle Club) to speak to the group about the early history of Warrnambool, and some of its motoring history – which included at least one owner of a veteran Humber, which was pictured on the breakwater in the early 1900's. We then toured to the famous Wollaston (suspension) Bridge, constructed in 1890, originally a part of a private driveway. Again, Murray provided a chat on the history of the bridge and the estate that it once belonged to.

Saturday dinner was at Proudfoots, relaxed atmosphere and excellent food, with entertainment (magic tricks) provided by Chaz - I didn't get a photo of his famous penny, needle and forks balancing act – hopefully someone took one and we can publish at a later date.

Sunday – pancakes at the Figtree and then off to Flagstaff Hill Historic Village for a guided tour, some more history (lots of ships sunk on off the south west coast) and morning tea. I headed home after this tour, others spent more time at Warrnambool and stayed until Monday.

My overwhelming impression of the weekend, although we didn't have a large turn out of members, was how relaxing it was, with not much driving, brilliant weather, great company and fabulous hosts in Chaz and Lucy, and Murray who gave up his Saturday afternoon to chat to us.

Warrnambool is a beautiful town only a few hours from Melbourne, with lots of intact period buildings, next to the sea, and lots to do if you want to. Although I have booked Chaz and Lucy in for a return trip by the HCCV in 36 years (2058) to keep up our club tradition, I think it would be worthwhile making this an annual destination for a club event for a few years. Next year Hans may even bring his boat if we go???

Lastly, a huge thank you to Chaz and Lucy for organising the weekend and the brilliant weather – all ran smoothly and they were excellent hosts – and I had a brilliant weekend.

Jon Miller