

VOLKSWORD

A PUBLICATION OF THE VOLKSWAGEN DRIVERS CLUB OF QUEENSLAND



Club members enjoying the weekend at O'Reilly's 12-14 April
The Volkswagen Drivers Club of Queensland Incorporated

VWDCQ inc. Club Objectives:

- 1) To foster the good fellowship and further the interest of Volkswagen owners and drivers.
- 2) To promote the club
- 3) To co-operate with other motor vehicle clubs

Visit us at: www.vwdcqinc.org.au

PO Box 568, Morningside, Queensland, 4170

Meet with us at: The Old Church, Mt Gravatt Showgrounds, 1644 Logan Road Mt Gravatt Qld 4122 on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except January) at 7.30pm. Visitor's and prospective member's welcome.

ABOUT US

The Volkswagen Drivers Club of Queensland was founded in 1982 to give the drivers and devotees of the rear-engine Volkswagen 'Beetles', Karman Ghia's, Transporters and Kombis, together with the then 'new' front wheel drive Volkswagens, an opportunity to share their enthusiasm in mutual rewarding activities and to demonstrate to the public generally the goodwill and fellowship that these vehicles engender in their owners and drivers.

This is summarised in the original objectives of the club which are:

- To foster the good fellowship and further the interests of Volkswagen owners and drivers.
- To Promote the club
- To co-operate with other motor vehicle clubs.

Membership is now also open to owners of any Volkswagen Group Vehicles such as Audi, Porsche, Skoda, and Seat. Lamborghini, Bentley and Bugatti are also now in the VW Family.

Whichever Volkswagen or VW derivative you own or drive, as a member of the VWDCQ, you will be sure to meet people with an extensive knowledge of all types and be able to enjoy activities including friendly club fellowship and public road club runs and also opportunities for off-road activities such as circuit racing, hill climbs and rallies.

Club Membership can also offer those whose vehicles are only used irregularly access to reduced Qld Transport registration, subject to certain conditions. Club officials can advise on these requirements and the restrictions that accompany club registration.

All Volkswagen drivers are welcome to join our club and enjoy the club comradeship and family atmosphere that started with the Volkswagen 'Beetle' and continues with the ownership of the Volkswagen Group motor cars of today.

Club Meetings are held in the **Old Church, Mount Gravatt Showgrounds, 1644 Logan Road, Mount Gravatt** on the **1st Wednesday of each month** (excluding January) starting at **7.30 pm**. In the grounds there are several car parks available close to the Hall. These are well lit in the evening and security cameras monitor the site.

Prospective new members and Visitors are welcome to attend these meetings.

Andrew Weyer
Secretary VWDCQ Inc



Affiliated with Motorsport Australia (CAMS)



**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
2023**

President:

**Andrew Seymour
0413 949 985**

Vice President:

**Nolan Wilcox
0407 576 802**

Treasurer:

**Greg Turnham
0409 472 487**

Secretary:

**Andrew Weyer
0402 919 978**

Sporting Captain:

**Craig Hughes
0419 735 596**

Social Secretary:

Vacant

Dating Officer:

**Greg Turnham
0409 473 487**

Editorial

It is sad to have to say this but like many other clubs established to further the interest of members and to promote public awareness of the fellowship and knowledge that membership of the club can bring we have a declining number of members prepared to take an active part in the club. The burden is falling on an also declining number of 'old timers' available or willing to continue the work. In our case this is happening despite club membership actually increasing following the Covid suspension of activities.

It would appear that many of the new members are joining merely to obtain the 'special vehicle' registration discount for their vehicle(s). Our club is not alone in this. VW clubs around Australia are all suffering the same problem.

The internet is now providing the social interaction for the younger enthusiast that was once the preserve of club rooms. Informal gatherings of VWs with their owners can now be organised at the stroke of a keyboard on websites such as VW Life without owners leaving the comfort of their lounge or office.

To be honest no club can survive just as a clearing house for discount registration with even the administration of that being left to a declining number of long-time members.

Mel Cheal Editor

Events for 2024

1st Saturday of each Month (early!) Turbo Cars Turbo Drive Coorparoo.

1st Saturday each month 3pm Joes diner car meet Kingsford Smith Drive Eagle farm

Wednesday mornings 7.30 – 8.00am for meet for breakfast at Jacobs Well. Further Info from Barry Browse 4378 882 245

Wednesday 1st May 2024 Club Meeting 7.30pm Mt Gravatt Showgrounds.

4th May 2024 M G Car Club Come and Try Day at Mount Cotton Hill Climb. Contact club for details.

5th May Gold Coast VW Club Show and Swap Day, South Coast Restoration Society, Heritage Park, Bell Road, Pimpama. From 8.30 am. Contact GC Club for details.

25th May 2024 8am. Chillax Café Chatswood Road Daisy Hill Celebrating 1 year of meeting place for Club. Be sure to attend as Café Owners have upgraded the café and are putting on a special celebration for us.

Mount Cotton Hill Climb 1st/2nd June 2024.

16th June RACQ Motor Fest 2024. 10-3pm Entries close 10th May See the website for details.

Keep an eye on our website or minutes for other events.

Picture Gallery:



Mount Cotton Hillclimb 14th April 2024
Noel Dore giving his Beetle a workout.



The Volkswagen turnout at the Chillax Café 27th April (!)



Club members Hardy and Denise Sorensen arrived in their Mercedes rather than a Volkswagen and Hardy entertained those present with a demonstration of the Mercs self-opening and closing hard top.





WHEN? **SATURDAY 25th MAY 2024 8.00am**

WHERE? **CHILLAX CAFÉ**
3/10 OLD CHATSWORTH ROAD
DAISY HILL

WHY? 1st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
VOLKSWAGEN DRIVERS CLUB OF QUEENSLAND INC.
MEETING HERE FOR BREAKFAST WITH OTHER VW AND
CLASSIC CAR ENTHUSIASTS ON LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH.



BE SURE TO BE THERE AS CAFÉ OWNERS ARE PROMISING
TO PUT ON A SPECIAL CELEBRATION FOR US!

Volks Torque.

As the advertisement preceding this says, there will be a special anniversary celebration at the Chillax Café at Daisy Hill, it being one year since we were invited to meet here on the last Saturday of the month for breakfast, and it being a suitable venue for showing our vehicles and meeting other VW enthusiasts.

The first meetings were well attended and everyone agreed that this should be a permanent fixture in our calendar but lately attendance has fallen away to only a couple of cars and half a dozen members. The Christmas and New Year Break and the Easter and Anzac long weekends have undoubtedly provided other family priorities for members so it is to be hoped that the next meeting at Chillax Café will result in a good turnout of members.

The owners of the Café have also indicated that long anticipated renovations and improvements to the venue will have been completed in time for the anniversary meeting and that they will be also contributing to making the occasion one to remember and to encourage future participation of like-minded car enthusiasts.

For those unable to attend the Wednesday evening club meeting at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds this 'breakfast' meeting is an excellent way of keeping in personal touch with other members. If the 8 am start sounds a bit too daunting, don't worry, the 'early birds' are seldom leaving before 9.30 as they find much to talk about and catch up on things VW!

So! Put the date in your diary or mobile phone now and resolve to attend and help make this a memorable occasion and one to be kept on the club roster.

THE CHANGING VW SCENE

Our club was founded at a time when Air cooled Volkswagens were still plentiful, although no longer made or imported into Australia, but were enjoying a 'cult' status from the halcyon days of the 1960's and 1970's when every city street photograph had several 'beetles' parked at the kerb or mobile on the road. The famous photo of the Beatles band members using the pedestrian crossing at the Abbey Road Recording studios in London even had a beetle parked nearby. (Since purchased by Volkswagen themselves for their museum).

Watching movies from the 50's to the late 70's is even more interesting for us due to the sheer numbers of Volkswagens appearing on screen!

At the time our club was founded many owners still carried out routine servicing of their vehicles. Oil changes, spark plug changes, contact breaker point changes etc were easy on nearly all vehicles with VW's proving to be ultra reliable and easy to service at home too. Membership of a club such as ours also gave the home mechanic access to much specialist knowledge and even to qualified VW mechanics only too willing to pass on their knowledge and even lend an experienced hand for jobs that would normally have to go to a VW dealership. Second-hand Air-cooled Volkswagens were thus well worth buying and, of course, the Kombi's catered for the bigger family or for camping and surfing holidays.

When Volkswagen decided that the 'beetle' needed to be updated in appearance they kept the same basic floor pan and clothed it in a more conventional two or three box body. Good as these cars were, they did not attract the non-VW owner and many 'beetle' owners and 'second hand' buyers kept to the old style 'beetle' shape.

VW then went 'back to the drawing board' and produced the stunning front wheel drive, water cooled Golf (Rabbit in the USA) which immediately found favour in the European and US marketplace although the 'beetle' refused to die in other markets where its reputation and ease of maintenance kept its manufacture going for another 20 years or so!

However, the arrival of the Golf and other VW water cooled models did start the trend away from home maintenance to dealer only maintenance. The simple electrics and carburettors of the 'beetle' gave way to electronic ignition, fuel injection and diagnostic servicing which only the dealer could do. Furthermore, the Volkswagen dealers no longer wanted to service the old air-cooled models which helped to accelerate them into the realm of 'enthusiast' rather than every day transport.

Of course, our club, like other VW clubs, quickly accepted owners of the water-cooled VWs into the fraternity, and many were people who had an air-cooled VW now relegated to week-end use or restoration rather than new VW owners looking for the social and knowledge benefits that come with club membership.

Few modern owners of Volkswagens would have purchased by reason of nostalgia. The model range has been greatly increased and new safety laws and 'driver aids' would have been carefully compared with other manufacturers products and prices before the purchase made. Brand loyalty is a thing of the past. Volkswagen's quality has always been a selling point but quality comes at a cost. This is why the modern VW is not a vehicle where a 'Made in Germany' can be gleaned from the German name origins. It is most likely to be assembled from a collection of parts made all over the globe in factories where labour is so much cheaper than in Germany and many of those parts would have originated in China regardless of where the final assembly plant is.

Although not as easily identifiable as were the 'beetles' in days gone Volkswagen are very much in evidence on our roads today. There are probably more VWs on the road than there ever were in the halcyon days of the beetle but the incentive for their owners to join a club is sadly no longer there. As their Volkswagens age and become eligible for concessional registration there is an incentive to join a club to obtain that cheap registration for the second or third car in the family but that is where the benefits of club membership end or are wanted.

This is the dilemma we club members currently face as, like many of us, our vehicles are aged and in need of TLC and there are fewer and fewer on the road! Bring your solutions to the Editor or the next club meeting!!

Club members can advertise for sale or wanted items in this magazine for free.

Last date for inclusion in the next magazine is the second Saturday before the end of the month. **Maximum time is 3 editions unless otherwise arranged.** Please notify editor immediately an item is sold or withdrawn.

Non-members can advertise for a \$10 donation on the same terms as members.

Contact the Editor melvync@optusnet.com.au Photos of events, members cars and profiles also welcome for the magazine.

FOR SALE or WANTED

VW Caddy diesel and a VW Crafter diesel contact Patrick Tuckwell 0409 262 306 for more information.

Andrew Seymour is still after a 2011 or later VW Kaddy Max 0413 949 985

Club Merchandise for sale:



\$55:00

**POLO
SHIRTS**
Sizes S
to XXL



Number Plate Surrounds Fits Standard Plates. \$7:50 pair



Club Stickers 100mm (4") \$1:00 each



VWDCQ inc. Cloth Badges for sewing on T Shirts and Polo shirts, Tote Bags, handbags etc. \$2: 50 each.

All the above available at Club meetings

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