

Hello All,

Finally we are getting a few days of summer like weather at our place but who knows how long it will last.

How are you fairing at your location?

Those who reside in Victoria are usually quite used to changeable weather, being cursed with the four seasons in the one day but we do have members scattered in other states of Australia as well.

Those in NSW, QLD and SA are dealing with the same sort of changeable weather and extreme climatic conditions and may be looking to take Victoria's title for crap weather.

Hope everyone is safe and well, and dare I say, weathering the storm, in your respective locations. One year we may get back to some reliable seasons.

As we are now firmly in the New Year of 2023, members will note that our AGM has been and gone with the official part of the meetings going smoothly as possible and our executive office holders launching into their roles. Thanks goes to all who were able to attend.

Keen eyed members will detect no change in the names of those in office positions and I would like to say thank you to all those who have remained in position, so the club can continue to operate and fulfil its legal obligations as well.

While I am passing out bouquets, I would like to give one to **Lynn and Wayne McGrath** for hosting our January AGM and Meeting and providing and cooking the BBQ. It was most delicious.

Nice to see all the regular attendees and a new face in the form of Gary Zimmer attend to lend support and input into the proceedings.

At the meetings we were able to acknowledge the death of long time member **Jim Keast**.

Jim passed away on the 24 December 2022 and his previous residence was the location for several year of our AGM.

Jim was a Foundation member of the Scout Club here in Victoria. He had a sojourn away from the Club but re-joined and has been a member since later in 1998. Those who have known Jim will remember his abounding cheerfulness and zest for life - often burning the candle at both ends. He had his Scout from 1988 until he sold it in 2019.

His zest for life, the love and pride he had for his families, his long-time membership & support of ISOC Vic, attendances at our National Gatherings, his long-time loyal

friendship, his laughter and enthusiasm, his container of cashews or macadamias at Happy Hour, his social nature, his never- failing birthday greetings, his flagons of sherry or port and his many years of congenial hosting of our AGM in his pristine (carpeted) garage will never be forgotten. He remembered people's birthdays and life events all written in his diary. Jim attended every National Gathering and would often sojourn up in warmer climes to escape Melbourne's Wintry weather. He will be sadly missed whenever we get together. Jim died on Christmas Eve morning 2022. Reunited with Joan, the love of his life.



March Meeting

To be held on 10th 11th and 12th March at the Midland Holiday Park,
<https://www.midlandholidaypark.com.au>, near **Lake Nillahcootie** and the small village of **Swanpool**.

Everyone is welcome to come, for a day, a night or the whole weekend.

10 sites have tentatively been booked under our club name for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, 10th, 11th and 12th of March and by now anyone intending of going will need to have confirmed their booking with the holiday park direct, **03 5768 2416**.

Contact details are: **Midland Holiday Park 3028 Midland Highway, Lima South Vic 3673**, enquiries@midlandholidaypark.com.au

A full weekend is planned but of course it is not compulsory to be involved in every activity.

The **Presidents BBQ** on **Friday night** will in fact be renamed the “**Vice Presidents BBQ**” with Vice President Hans cooking the sausages to perfection.

Myself and Tracey have to work on the Friday and it will be later that evening before we arrive onsite and I don't think sausages for tea at 10.30pm would go down that well

On **Saturday** of this weekend we will trial a **Travelling on Dirt Day**, visiting some local historic sites, close to the holiday park with the intention of a pub lunch along the way.

Dirt roads and fire trails are planned which will be rated as easy and are accessible via most soft roaders with a bit of ground clearance.

Locations along the route may include but are not limited to, Lima South quarry, Mount Samaria, bush walks, historic saw mills and timber kilns, timber tramways, the Kelly Tree at Stringy Bark Creek, bush graves etc.

Overall **distance covered should be about 100km** and lunch is planned at the **Tatong Tavern**. Some bitumen will be encountered along the way and the dust will be free.

This day is planned just as an enjoyable drive in the bush and all are welcome to come along on the Saturday. There are many other drives in the area also for those wishing to self-explore too.

Due to time constraints and clashes with other events our regular **Meeting time** has been moved to **Saturday afternoon at 4.30pm**.

I'm sure the meeting will go smoothly and lead directly and possibly seamlessly into Happy Hour which should please some of the members.

Members taking their Scouts on the weekend are invited to participate in the **Swanpool Motor Festival** display on the **Sunday**, which I intend to do. See details and web address below.

Display vehicles – (anything with an engine) including cars, bikes, trucks, buses, tractors, boats, racing cars.

\$10 entry fee, (includes driver and 1 passenger) for display vehicles, with chance to share in over \$5000 worth of prizes.

Prizes will be drawn on the hour from 11am through to 2 pm. Vehicle must be present at draw to claim prize.

Public – Entry \$5 with children under 16 years free

Dogs not permitted to enter either with a member of the public or in a display vehicle except for “service dogs”

A small swap meet operates at the festival and food and drinks stalls are available too.

Swanpool also has a general store with fuel, takeaway food and drinks plus alcohol.

NB. Tracey and I will need to leave the show at 11.30am to attend a prior commitment in Benalla but will be returning after a few hours to join up again.

Those not going to the car show may like to explore the antique shop just down the road or go for a tour in the Strathbogie Ranges or indeed just head for home.

The Swanpool Cinema is open Saturday and Sunday night 11/3,12/3 and is showing a **double feature, “The Lost King” and “Whina”** screening commences at 6pm. **Cost is \$14** for the double feature. It's worth going just to get a **Choc Top** and **coffee** from the snack bar. Ticket box opens 5.30pm.

May Meeting 2023

At our **November meeting**, members discussed the coming year, 2023, and its calendar of events.

A suggestion was received by member **John Wilkens** that the **May meeting** is possibly held in Hamilton area incorporating the Historic Vehicle and Machinery Exhibition to be held in May at **Hamilton Showgrounds**.

So this was ratified at the January meeting and our **May meeting** will be held at **Hamilton on Sunday 21st May at 11am**. This will be held at the same time as the **Hamilton Pastoral Museum/Display Open weekend**, <https://www.hamiltonpastoralmuseum.com.au/> and it is intended to incorporate the event into our weekend.

The Club has previously stayed at **Cavendish Rec Reserve** which offers limited power, water, schmick toilets/showers are available and a river runs through it.. Further details when know. BTW there's a pub within walking distance too.

At our 2023 March meeting we will need to lock in the details and commence preparations. We will also need someone to organise or champion the weekend as Tracey and I may not be available in the lead up to or attend the May Meeting.

July Meeting 2023

Ideas for July 2023 meeting were canvassed at our AGM and January meeting. In the past, a day meeting, at a centrally located hotel has been the normal arrangement but there is nothing to say we need to follow this convention.

If the demand is there a weekend meeting could be held if members wish to support it. Maybe a snow trip, a high country hut tour or river or lakeside somewhere but with power and amenities. Please scout around and let us know what you suggest.

This needs to be discussed and decided upon by either the March or May meetings to allow for sufficient lead time for arrangements and notifications. We will also need someone to organise or champion the meeting in whatever shape of form it may take.