

West Coast

# Vette Torque



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
CAR CLUB (INC)

Issue E01 Spring 2014



Corvette CR7



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# CONTENTS

3

4. Committee information
5. Presidents report
6. CR7 Cover story
7. Air conditioning installation in 1973 C3
12. Corvettes of W.A. supporting Make•A•Wish foundation
13. Salvaged corvettes - interesting website
14. Vehicle inspections
15. David & Roses 1970 corvette
18. Valet Parking -Take your chances.
19. This is Africa
21. General information



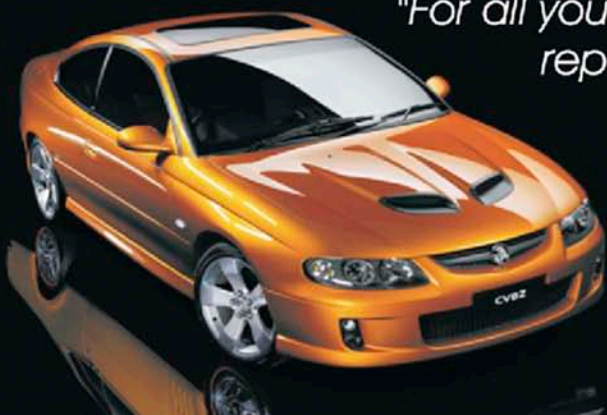
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## Committee

<b>President :</b>	Greg Walker	<b>Web Editor:</b>	Andy Weatherburn
<b>Vice President :</b>	Rod Tunnercliffe	<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	Andy Priest
<b>Secretary:</b>	Darryl Lockhart	<b>Membership Delegate:</b>	Dennis Kopcheff
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Warren Pass	<b>CMC Delegate:</b>	Ron Flood
<b>Social Co-ordinator:</b>	Marion Weatherburn		

**Life Members** Ron Flood, Tony Katavatis Colin Morris Darryl Lockhart

## Welcome to Corvettes of WA Inc.

*Corvettes Of WA Inc. is dedicated to the enjoyment and appreciation of America's finest sports car the Chevrolet Corvette. The Club is based in Perth, WA (Western Australia), Australia and has an active and enthusiastic membership. New members are always welcome and visitors to our website are encouraged to browse and learn a little more about Corvettes "down under".*



## Meetings

*Club meetings are held bi-monthly at the Bassendean Bowling Club  
(Entrance via Hamilton Street) commencing at 7.00 p.m.  
Please check the club website for meeting dates.*

## Correspondence

*Please address all correspondence to:  
The Secretary  
Corvettes of W.A. Car Club Inc.  
PO Box 555, Cloverdale  
Western Australia 6985*

## Website

[www.corvettesofwa.com](http://www.corvettesofwa.com)



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well we are into another year, I would like to thank all the members who voted me in as President for 2014, as you are aware I have always have the club at heart and will strive to keep it that way.

I have a great Committee to work with, that does make things work smoother. Members who are critical of committee's should step forward and give it a go. I salute all past committee persons for their effort, they only have what they get to work with and it seems that COWA will have to keep getting the same members from the Pot to take on positions, enough said.

COWA have taken on the 2018 National Convention in Perth, members voted for this at the General Meeting on the 9th of June. I only hope that eighteen months out that those members are going to put their hands up for a position on a Committee, if not it could be embarrassing for COWA.

You will see that there are plenty of Social Events to keep all Members happy, I would love to see more new members come along to these events it is great way to foster friendships.

Everything you want to find is on the Web Site, check it out and get your stories and Vette's up there.

Membership Fee's are long overdue so please put your \$50.00 in the post and enjoy the benefits of the social outings.

The Committee are all away over the next couple of months, I will be away for 2 months, there will be plenty to keep members happy.

On closing I would like to wish Andy Priest and Bill Mair a speedy recovery.

Safe Vetting and will see you at the next meeting.

Greg Walker.

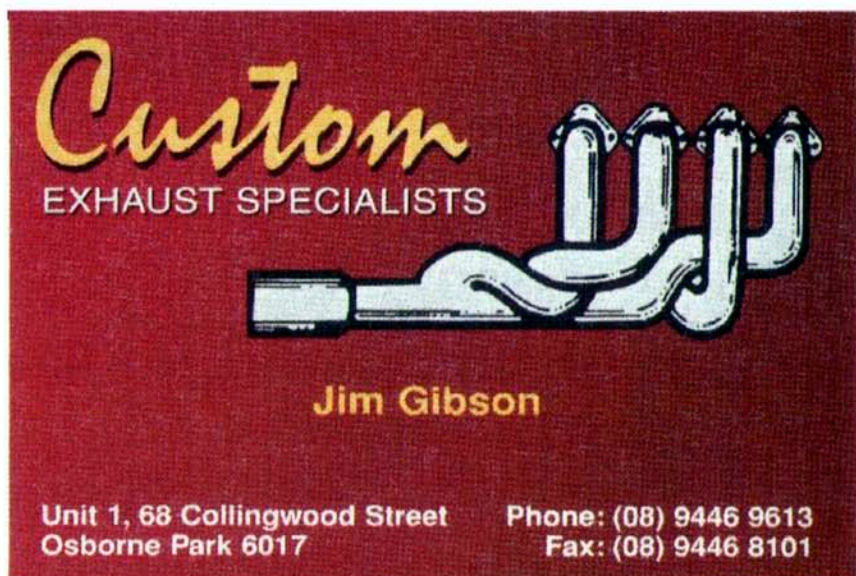
President COWA.



## Cover Picture

DETROIT – Chevrolet unveiled the Corvette C7.R race car, which was co-developed with the all-new 2015 Corvette Z06. They represent the closest link in modern times between Corvettes built for racing and the road, sharing unprecedented levels of engineering and components including chassis architecture, engine technologies and aerodynamic strategies.

When it comes to endurance racing, Corvette has been the benchmark of success for nearly 15 years,” said Jim Campbell, U.S. vice president, Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. “A great deal of the team’s success can be attributed to the symbiotic relationship between Corvette Racing and the production vehicles. The 2015 Corvette Z06 and new C7.R will be more competitive on the street and track due to successful design of the Corvette Stingray – which itself is heavily based on the C6.R race car.”



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# Installation of after market air-conditioning in a 73 C3 Corvette

*by Jan Karpinski*

I bought my 73 Corvette back in 2009 with a statement to my then girlfriend (now my wife) that I will restore it and keep for 12 months and then sell it. Now 5 years later I still have the car and cannot see myself selling it anytime soon.

So when the driver seat broke and I had to remove it from the car I thought what other jobs could I do?

Well the c3 corvettes are notorious for three things; being a sweatbox, leaking and electrical issues. So I decided to redo the car insulation, have a go at some of the adjustments to stop some of the leaks, fix some of the electrical I had some problems with and install an aftermarket retrofit air-conditioning unit. This is the story of that fateful decision. Please note I am not affiliated, sponsored or have any other interest in the two suppliers I mention and this is my own experience. Others may have different experiences.

## **The Car is cool**

- With the new air conditioning system installed the car is definitely cool and as a bonus I also have a very good heating system. Whilst the previous heat worked the ducts after 40 years were not so good and the installation of the new system fixed both problems at once.
- There are two suppliers that I am aware of that market retro fits kits for specific corvette years that use the factory supplied controls. So if you have a corvette that already has air-conditioning you can purchase one of their systems which will utilise the existing controls. If you have a car like mine they provide modifications to use the existing hardware to control the unit. For example there is a modification of the heater face plate and replacement of the cable controls with electronic systems.
- The two suppliers I looked into are Vintage Air and Classic Air. I looked into both systems (installation instructions can be downloaded from the web) and asked plenty of questions. I found that for Classic Air that they had a distributor in Australia but they were based in the eastern states. Whilst I was happy to do some of the hack work I did not feel confident doing the whole installation. When I looked into Vintage Air I found that they had a distributor in Perth as well as being an installer. There was little difference in price between the two systems.

## **Retrofit kit supposedly easy installation**

- Now my car is not an original matching numbers vehicle and in the space of 40 odd years and numerous owners the car has some significant changes down to it compared to the day it rolled off the show room floor.
- Some of these included an aftermarket oil cooler on it which had to be relocated during the installation. Additionally some of the fixings that the instructions said would be able to be used to fix the unit were not in fact in the car. I am not sure that this has to do with an aftermarket changes but probably more to do with the kit not actually being specific for that year and being more generic for a range of C3 years.



• In some cases I found the instructions less than clear but managed to bumble my way through the part that I was doing. Which was to do as much as the hack work I could e.g. remove the heater core, modify the fresh air vents, retrofit the heat unit etc. I have to remove the replacement wiper switch plate (described below) and I found that all of the ducting associated with the system had been massaged to fit and was squashed up so I am not that convinced that the system has been specifically designed to fit. During installation I had also found that a number of lights bulbs were now not fitting into the back of the console again probably due to the limited space.

#### **Little difference in price however the finish on the Classic air is better**

• Although there was little difference in price between the two suppliers when it arrived I found a major problem. With the Vintage Air unit a new plastic insert is used in the console for the wiper switch and to accommodate the new central vent. The insert looks pretty ordinary as it does not have any markings for the wiper switch and when I installed it the first time I could not get the wipers to switch off. I thought I had @##@##@# it up. But upon closer inspection I found that the hole for the switch was not wide enough which meant that the switch could not be put into the off position. In addition there was no place for the light that illuminates the wiper switch and because of the angle of the insert from the driver position the top of the fuel and temperature gauges are now hidden. *Refer to photo.*

• By contrast the Classic Air system handles the vent by modifying the original wiper plate which retains the original look but does require taking a power tool to a 40 year original centre console. I ended up purchasing the Classic Air vent (it took them 2 goes to send me the correct part) and used that instead of the Vintage Air part. However after successfully cutting out the required part I managed to break it during filing operations to make the opening wide enough. Unfortunately the local aluminium welder thought it was too difficult to fix so I have purchased a replacement plate for a vehicle which had air conditioning and will need to modify it to accommodate the connection for the system. This should arrive any day soon.

#### **Cost**

• The total cost of the supply and installation was approximately \$4,000 and this is after I have removed the old heater core, removed most of the interior (to accommodate the other odd jobs I was doing plus the installation) plus some other elements such as modifying the fresh air vents, doing conversions to the heater control unit.

• I was told initially that the job would end up taking a single day but it took 4 days. Fortunately I had an agreed cost with the installer. During the installation they found that the supplied electrical cabling for the unit would not reach the battery and they informed me that "someone had moved the battery from the engine bay to behind the rear seat". To which I provided evidence that this was not an aftermarket modification.

#### **Long supply lead times**

• I originally ordered the unit in March 2014 and it finally arrived in June and when it arrived it was not complete in that the required pulley upgrade was delivered separately.



## Outcome

Now my car is really cool (of course it is it is a Corvette!!) but the real test will come in summer. The installer has told me any problems come back and they will address it. Hopefully there will be none but time will tell. If anyone wants details of the installer drop me an e-mail at [jkarpinski\\_oz@hotmail.com](mailto:jkarpinski_oz@hotmail.com) and I will send you their details. Now they have done at least one corvette the next should be a breeze!!!!!! Safe vetting.



## Your Electronic Magazine

If you are reading this you are reading the first issue of your club magazine in an electronic format. This format will link it more closely to the clubs website and allow it to become more "live". Over the next few issues the magazine will gradually evolve as it becomes more assimilated into the website.

Many of the items that were previously published in the magazine will now be able to be viewed more immediately on the website.

These include:

- Classified Ads.
- Club calender and forthcoming events.
- Articles on club activities and past events.
- Minutes of meetings.

These changes may not suit everyone but we have to change with technology and the advantages would seem to be many.

As always we would welcome your contributions - particularly technical articles, hints and tips and stories that relate to corvettes.

Editor



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## Corvettes of W.A. Supporting Make•A•Wish Foundation

At our General Meeting on August 12th, the members agreed that Corvettes of WA would like to continue it's association with Make a Wish Foundation and agreed to donate the sum of \$2,000. In addition the club would be available to assist in fund raising activities where corvettes could be used either in a display capacity or in some sort of interactive promotion such as rides for the children or as raffle prizes. The committee will continue to discuss these options with the foundation.

The logo for The Tyre Factory, featuring the letters "tff" in a stylized font inside a circular frame.

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The logo for 13TYRE, featuring a telephone handset icon next to the text "13TYRE" and the numbers "8 9 7 3" below it.

**Bryn Allwood**

Q. What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers, and laserprinters all have in common?

A. All invented by women.

"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.



## Salvaged Corvettes

Interesting website selling repairable, insurance salvaged corvettes. more info on <http://www.autosource.biz/>



1954 Corvette - Smoke & Heat Damage - \$12,900

1954 Corvette Project Car - MAKE OFFER



1956 Corvette - Project Car - \$11,900

1965 Corvette Sting Ray Roadster - Carburetor Fire - \$15,300



2008 Corvette Z06 - Flood Car - \$19,800

# Vehicle Inspections

The club received an email from someone in South Australia who is interested in buying a corvette from W.A. and enquiring about vehicle inspections. Ron Flood spoke to Tony Katavatis, from Corvette Engineering, and the original email and response are printed here for member information.

*Dear Greg,  
My apologies for bothering you with such a trivial question.  
I reside in South Australia and I am looking to purchase a Corvette in Western Australia.  
I would like to be able to organise a pre-purchase inspection of the vehicle, but I don't know who to engage that understands Corvettes.  
Would the car club be able to suggest someone?  
Kind Regards,  
Stefan*

*Hi Andy,*

*Yes ,I have spoken to Tony and he would look at the vehicle, on the condition that the vehicle is presented to his workshop for access to his hoist, The fee is \$150 and he will give a written report on the general condition of the vehicle and is items needing attention ,& what they are most likely to cost to fix.*

*Whether the vehicle is value or not is up to the purchaser to make his or her own decision on that side of it. Should the purchaser wish to have the vehicle looked at , an appointment would need to be set up at Tony's for the inspection and Corvette Engineerings ph Number is 9445 7737.  
Cheers Ron.*

**Only in Africa** - More on page 19







Trim: 2 Door Sport Coupe  
 Stock: 30690  
 Odometer: 75694  
 Engine: 396 w/ 8-71 Blower  
 Transmission: Turbo 400 automatic  
 Exterior Color: Pewter, black  
 Interior Color: Black

## David & Rose Albion's 1970 Corvette

My husband and I joined your club a year or so ago. As yet we have not come along to anything as we still in process of maybe registering my car or getting permits for it. Dave bought this magnificent machine for me for my 50th birthday. He imported it from California, took us 9 months to convince the government to let me bring it in to Australia. After a lengthy battle with government, they finally gave me the import approval and it now sits proudly in my shed.



Cecil B deMille with his 1937 Cord

A Texas rancher was visiting a farmer in Israel. The proud Israeli showed him around. "Here is where I grow tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash. Over there I built a play set for my kids, next to the doghouse," the farmer said.

The land was tiny, and the Texan was surprised by its small size. "Is this all your land?" he asked.

"Yes," the Israeli said proudly. "This is all mine!"

"You mean this is it? This is all of it?" the Texan said incredulously.

"Yes, yes, this is really all mine!"

"Well, son," said the Texan, "back home I'd get in my car before the sun'd come up and I'd drive and drive and drive, and when the sun set, why, I'd only be halfway across my land!"

"Oh, yes," replied the Israeli farmer wistfully, "I used to have a car like that."

### Fixing stripped screw holes on instrument panel

#### Question:

Short of buying a new dash, how can the screw hole be repaired to hold a screw?

Is there a filler or some type of screw anchor fastener I could use?

Has anyone had this problem and how did you repair the holes ?

#### Answers:

Shove a tooth pick or paper clip in the hole that has been cut to size, insert screw

Just put some steel wool in the hole. This works very well

I have found that the plastic wall anchors work best.

Teflon tape is a good idea.

Slop some decent epoxy in the hole and then stick the screw in. When its cured remove the screw and you have new threads. Good for the next time you need to take it apart/put it back together.

It isn't like this is the last time.



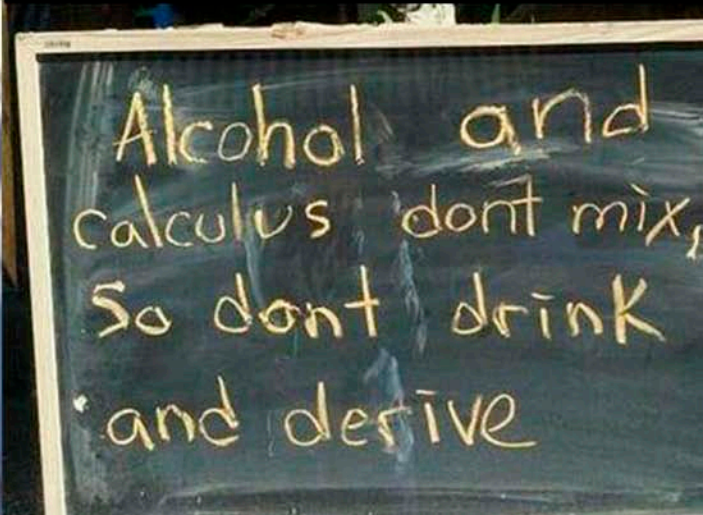




Alcohol!  
Because No Great  
Story started with  
Someone eating  
a Salad.



## Great Pub Signs





## VALET PARKING ANYONE?

Face it. If you own a luxury or sports car, whenever you hand the keys to a valet, you imagine the car going on a high-speed joy ride like the Ferrari in the 1980s cult movie “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.”

Now, General Motors has an option on the 2015 Chevrolet Corvette that takes those worries away. The latest version of the sports car, due out in September, has a feature that records where the car goes with a camera mounted in the windshield trim.

It also captures audio in the cabin, as well as speed, engine revolutions per minute, gear position and G-force. That all helps the car tattle on any valet who doesn’t take a slow, direct route to a parking space.

The feature is paired with a navigation system and costs \$1,795. A 2015 Corvette starts at just under \$54,000. GM says it’s the most extensive attempt by an automaker to thwart valet joy riders, although it’s not the first. The automotive website Edmunds.com says Hyundai and Mercedes offer “geofencing,” a feature that sets a perimeter and then notifies the owner’s smartphone if a car goes beyond it.

Chrysler has a valet mode that caps engine speed and horsepower, while Audi lets owners limit engine speed for valets. With the Corvette, once the owner activates the feature with a four-digit code, the touch screen tells the driver it’s in Valet Mode.

But it doesn’t warn the valet that he’s being recorded. The feature also locks the glove box and a storage compartment in the dashboard and shuts down the infotainment system.

Valet Mode started off as a performance data recorder for those who take their Corvettes on the racetrack. GM engineers quickly figured out that it had more uses.

“Think of it as a baby monitor for your car,” Corvette Product Manager Harlan Charles said in a statement. “Anyone who has felt apprehension about handing over their keys will appreciate the peace of mind of knowing exactly what happened while their baby was out of sight.” Data and video from the valet mode can be viewed instantly by the owner on the car’s 8-inch color screen when the car is parked, or it can be downloaded to a computer.

The system could go into more mainstream models if feedback is good on the Corvette, GM spokesman Monte Doran said.





# This is Africa







## Hollywood boulevard at night 1950s CA

*I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.*



*A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.*





# Info

## **Business Profiles:**

*Profile on Advertiser's business -*

*Full page \$100/issue*

*Half page \$50/issue*

## **Members Classifieds:**

*Classified "For Sale", "Wanted", "Swap" or "Free" ads are at no charge to club members. Deadlines for submission will be 3 weeks prior to publication dates as listed in the information page. Ads will run for the edition they are submitted for. If a member wishes an ad to be run again in the following edition the editor must be notified prior to the deadline for that issue.*

**All enquiries** regarding advertising or profiles should be made to the editor at:

[andypriest@westnet.com.au](mailto:andypriest@westnet.com.au)

**Submissions** should be made in PDF, Word or RTF format with photographs in PDF, JPEG or PNG format. Image sizes are not critical as we will resize as required but try to compress them to around 300k max. for ease of emailing.

**Please note** that all classifieds are in Australian Dollars (AUD) unless specified otherwise.

All advertising material is accepted on the understanding that it does not contravene the Trade Practices Act.

No responsibility is accepted by Corvettes of WA Inc. for statements made or the failure of any product or service to give satisfaction. Inclusion of an advertisement shall not be construed as an endorsement by Corvettes of WA Inc.

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## **Corporate Advertising Rates:**

<i>Business Card Adverts</i>	<i>\$100pa</i>
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