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Issue E25 Spring 2020

Right Hand Drive Corvette In danger of not making it to Australia Page 16





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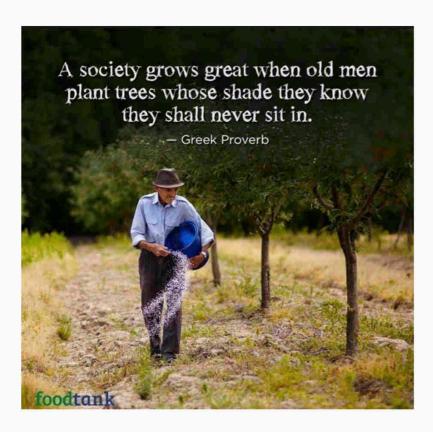


SHARE THE PASSION

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Irene Ryan. Better known as Granny on The Beverly Hillbillies. Approximately 1920.

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President Andy Weatherburn

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Secretary Glen Shreeve

Treasurer John Neskudla

Web Master Richard Webb

Membership Delegate Kevin Donetta

CMC Delegate Ron Flood

Social Director Natalie Tchorzewski

Social Committee Andrea Patching & Gail Harris

Magazine Editor Andy Priest

Welcome to Corvettes of W.A. Inc.

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

Club Meetings

Club meetings are held bi-monthly at the Bassendean Bowling Club. (Entrance via Hamilton street), commencing at 7p.m.. Please check the club website for dates.

Website

www.corvettesofwa.com

Correspondence:

Cancer Council

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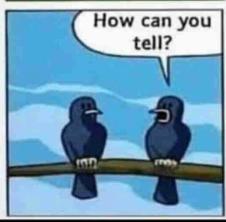
The Secretary,
Corvettes of w.a. Car Club Inc.
P.O.Box 555, Cloverdale
Western Australia 6985

Life Members: Ron Flood, Tony Katavatis, Colin Morris,

Darryl Lockhart, Greg Walker











CAROWNAVIRUS: (car - owna - virus)

Disease: A condition of the male mind. Creates an overwhelming

desire for more than one classic automobile.

Ed. Thanks Ron

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Presidents Message

Well what a year 2020 is turning out to be, so many twists and turns it hard to know what's going to happen next. As a club the best we can do is make the most of our freedom for the moment and get our Corvettes out and enjoy them.

I would like to thank Richard for steering the club for the last 2 years and Lois for her great job in Social events. Not an easy task for 2 people in a

relationship.

A big thank you also goes out to the Committee for the great job done and for putting your hand up to continue on in your roles doing so much for the members.

The Mid-week cruise is up and running and still proving very popular as with the monthly Sunday lunch cruises. Natalie has booked Abbey Beach resort for the weekend Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th of October, please get in and book early as the rooms will go fast.

Again I will be organising a BBQ and hoist day soon with a date to be finalised, we will also have a swap meet on the day. So any spare parts hanging around you think members can use please get ready with a price and bring along.

The club is trying to secure a venue to hold Autokhanas again so watch out for more info on this.

In the last couple of months I have noticed an increase in people wanting to reconnect with their Corvettes that have been sitting for quite a while, 3 new members in the last 3 weeks.

Rumour has it that a member that sold his C4 has recently bought a very nice numbers matching 77, look out for this one.

Looking forward to catching up soon on the runs and events.

Regards Andy Weatherburn President Corvettes of Western Australia Inc

One night at Cheers, a TV Sitcom, Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson: "Well, ya see, Normy, it's like this .. A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But, naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers!

A Message from our Outgoing President

Thank you all for the support you have given the committee and myself the past two years. Thank you to the core group of 30 or 40 members that regularly attend meetings, drives, and events. Thank you to the whole committee for their time and efforts.

If there was a member of the year, I think it would have to be either the social committee or the webmaster. An outstanding job, organising drives, events, and keeping our members informed and the website up to date.

Corvettes of WA has been incorporated for around 35 years. I feel as if I have accomplished a few things over the past two years. We remain financially secure, our Constitution complies with the law, we have an outstanding website that works, and our membership continues to slowly grow.

I had hoped to bring Corvettes of WA and the NCRS closer, sharing our Corvette enthusiasm. Hopefully in the coming years we can do more drives together.

Tonight I am standing down from the position of President, Corvettes of WA. In parting if I can leave the club and the committee with one thought, everything in the universe is constantly changing. When a new idea comes up and the first response is, 'we've never done that before', you are probably giving up a chance to progress. New ideas and new procedures will keep our club up to date, current with the times and successful.

I am pleased to have been able to give service to the club for my 18 years of enjoying the benefits of being a member.

Thanks again for your support.

Richard Geiger

Your New Committee

President: Andy Weatherburn Magazine Editor: Andy Priest

Vice President: Matt Alexander Membership: Kevin Donetta

Treasurer: Glen Shreeve CMC: Ron Flood

Secretary: John Neskudla

Web Master: Richard Webb

Social Director: Natalie Tchorzewski

Social Committee: Andrea Patching & Gail Harris



A Great Day Out Sunday Drive 21 June 2020

Once again, the sun shone bright on the 38 Corvettes of W.A. members who joined the June Sunday drive. Brilliant blue skies accompanied 16 Corvettes to Two Rocks. Di arranged with Oscar's and Sons for our arrival. Martin lead our group of Corvettes from Hillarys.

The restrictions that remain in place regarding social distancing required us to be seated at several small tables. The difficulties of restaurant owners were apparent. The social director provided a list of attendees with phone numbers as required which saved everyone the trouble of signing in, but unfortunately, all our orders for food and drink had to be done from each table. After an extended period being closed and standing down staff, finding staff to work a large group on a Sunday may have been difficult. The restaurant staff was racing around doing all they could, and the kitchen would have been flat out. All the food was very good once we received it, but we arrived at noon and our last table was not served until 2:30. That said, we had a drink or two, a lot of enjoyable conversation, caught up with our Corvette friends we haven't seen in a while, and the food was really very good once we received it.

Oscar's and Sons is worth a return trip. Take a short drive on a sunny day and you will be rewarded with good food, but you may want to wait for the restrictions to be eased further to ensure timely service.





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Wednesday Drive July 1 2020
A group of intrepid enthusiasts met at the BP petrol station just past Mundijong Road off the South bound Kwinana Freeway for our monthly Wednesday drive. Due to a few attendees Corvettes being under repair we had 3 Corvettes at the meeting point and Peter and Wendy drove up from Busselton to meet as in Harvey. The rest of us enjoyed a nice drive in our everyday drivers.

Once again, the rain avoided us for our Wednesday drive to Austin's in Harvey. Sunny blue sky greeted us in Harvey when we arrived. The Corvettes were lined up on the lawn. Austin's is a lovely old home that also serves the community as a restaurant and as bed and breakfast accommodation. The owners Robin and Steve are

extremely gracious and showed us through their beautiful old home and through Steve's mans shed, a great collection of car memorabilia, signs, his beautiful old ford, and their old Austin. Along the driveway stands the oldest Morton Bay Fig tree you are ever likely to see.

We all had a lovely meal and a very pleasant day. As Spring approaches, the weather, which has been extremely kind to us thus far this year, becomes more dependable and our numbers will increase. Come along on a Sunday or Wednesday Drive and enjoy a nice drive, good company, good food, discover new venues, and have a lovely day.





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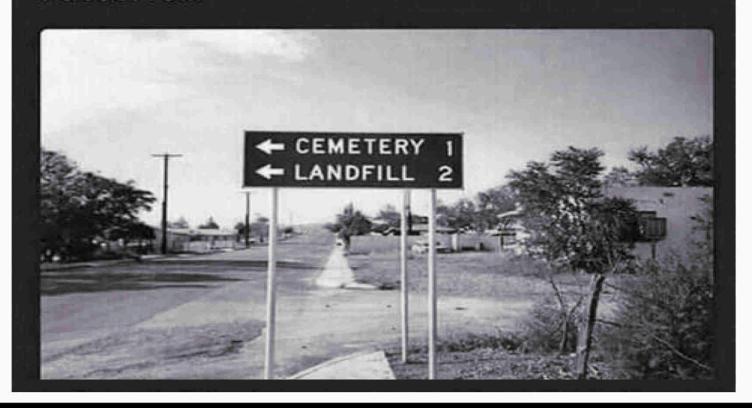


A lovely, still day, with blue sky was put on for the club Wednesday drivers. Eight Corvettes rolled out of Muzz Buzz Midland headed for Walyunga National Park. The park is on the Avon River, and has a nice picnic area with picnic tables, and BBQ's overlooking a pond. It is nice to be able to drive only a half hour out of Midland and to be in the bush. Don had his '63 split window out for a drive. He has just put the rebuilt motor back in the car and drove it to the meeting place for a short break in drive.

We managed to lose two Corvettes leaving town, but we all found our way to the park and we all arrived within a few minutes of one another. A pleasant picnic was had by all, along with good company and conversation.



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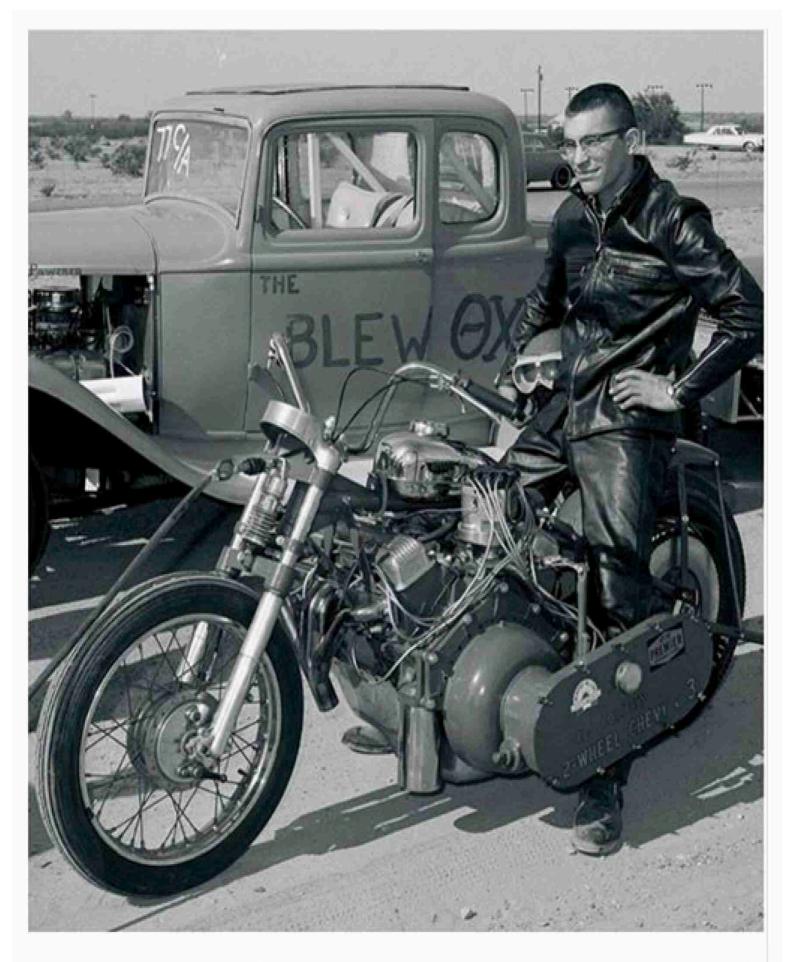
Christmas in July 2020

Corvettes of WA Christmas in July was attended this year by 44 members. We put on a nice display of Corvettes just outside the Optus Stadium. It is always a pleasure to see people enjoying our cars, posing their children by a Corvette to take photos, and the smiles as they walk amongst the various years of Corvettes. There was a very brief bit of rain, but the sun was shining on our cars most of the day. The view from the City View Café up near the top decks of the Optus Stadium was great. Inside Lois and Di, set up Christmas decorations, Bon Bon's, and the lovely table runners donated to the club by Di.

At least three members said it was the best Christmas in July food ever, and there was more than enough on the buffet. There was a nice variety of foods to suit all and the deserts of fruit and small pies were very tasty too. The buffet servers (due to current regulations members were served) stayed on duty to serve up seconds for any who wanted seconds.

This year Christmas in July Secret Santa saw most the participants bring a bottle of nice wine, or Baily's Irish Cream. In the end, despite a bit of 'stealing' almost everyone finished with a smile on their face and a bottle of something to take home. Door prizes of Tee shirts, hats, and lovely Corvette Calendars (donated by Natalie) were won by lucky attendees. Speaking of lucky attendees, Frank won the Christmas hamper basket. You do have to be 'in it to win it', and it was said Frank did buy quite a number of raffle tickets, but Frank does seem to have a bit of luck in our door prizes and raffles. That said, Thank You Frank and Thank All of You who regularly attend our drives, meetings, show & shines and social events. You who attend make the club successful and enjoyable to be a part of.





"Usually, a guy went for the fastest time on the track, or he tried to win the competition for the highest speed clocked that day," said Roger Meiners, a motor sports journalist and photographer. "E. J. wasn't looking to win anything. He just showed up and tried to make people go- Oh, my God!"

Right-hand-drive Corvette in doubt for Australia as GM stops development

General Motors has slammed the brakes on engineering work across its entire line-up during the coronavirus crisis.

The Chevrolet Corvette is in danger of not making it to Australia after General Motors in Detroit stopped engineering development of all vehicles during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

A report out of the US – based on a leaked copy of a secret internal General Motors document – claims GM's executive director in charge of program management, Michelle Braun, "recently issued a blanket order pausing all future car and truck development, including for the Corvette". While the stoppages are only temporary, well placed industry insiders believe there is "little to no chance" the Chevrolet Corvette will make it to Australia in the first half of 2021 as originally planned – and may not happen at all because it will be pushed down the priority queue as the company ramps up production after the coronavirus crisis.

At best, the right-hand-drive Corvette could make it to Australia in 2022 at the earliest – the US media report speculates – but that timeline is by no means guaranteed, say well placed industry insiders.

The latest generation Chevrolet Corvette was due to be the first ever factory-built right-hand-drive model. The right-hand-drive version was more viable this time around because the C8 Corvette is mid-engined and there were fewer obstacles to moving the steering wheel and driving controls from the left- to the right-hand side of the car.

The coronavirus crisis could not have come at a worse time for the right-handdrive Chevrolet Corvette program, which was in the middle of its engineering work ahead of the start of production late this year or early next.

Well placed industry sources in Australia believe the chances of Detroit going ahead with a factory-built right-hand-drive Corvette are now "slim to none".

"When General Motors comes out of this crisis, they will want to allocate their engineering resources to the vehicles that can deliver the biggest profits in the shortest possible time ... they need cashflow urgently," said the source with intimate knowledge of the right-hand-drive Corvette program.

The industry insider added: "Before the world hit the brakes (due to COVID-19), General Motors was still committed to going ahead with the right-hand-drive Corvette, even with Holden being axed at the end of 2020".

GM's plan, the source said, was to sell the factory-made right-hand-drive Corvette alongside other Chevrolet models such as the Silverado pick-up – converted from left- to right-hand drive locally – under the General Motors Specialty Vehicles (GMSV) banner in Australia.

While it is yet to be finalised, General Motors in Detroit was negotiating to rebrand Holden Special Vehicles as GMSV once Holden closed its doors at the end of 2020.

However, the coronavirus crisis has also delayed negotiations surrounding GMSV.

Meanwhile, CarAdvice has also learned General Motors and Holden only planned to sell very modest numbers of Corvettes – between 200 and 400 per year.

"Dealers were told initially they would be lucky to get one car each, and at the time that was said, Holden had 200 or so dealers," the well place source said. "At best, the plan was to sell 400 cars a year, that's only two per dealer."

Those close to the right-hand-drive Corvette program in Australia now fear General Motors may walk away from the project.

"Do you really think General Motors is going to allocate engineers to finish off the right-hand-drive Corvette, when those same engineers could be working on another vehicle for the US market that will deliver much bigger profits and sell in much greater volumes?"

CarAdvice believes there is a possibility General Motors could resume the right-hand-drive Corvette program at a later date or perhaps coincide it with the introduction of the high-powered variants that are due to follow in the coming years.

There is also a possibility HSV (or GMSV) could convert the vehicles from lefthand-drive to right-hand-drive locally, however CarAdvice understands the cost and complexity may weigh against such a program given the likely high price and limited sales opportunity for a niche vehicle.

CarAdvice understands the target price for the factory-built right-hand-drive Chevrolet Corvette was somewhere between \$120,000 and \$140,000, but a locally-converted model would be closer to \$200,000 by the time it was in the traffic.

Representatives for General Motors and HSV declined to comment on the future of the factory-built right-hand-drive Corvette for Australia.



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Submissions should be made in PDF, Word or RTF format with photographs in PDF, JPEGor 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.

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