

# MEET THE VIC'S WEEKEND

*Organised by Neil & Rob*



This year was our turn to host the annual **'Meet the Vics'** weekend, which ran from the 14<sup>th</sup> till the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Our base this time was at the Discovery Parks site at Hahndorf. This gave us a central location for the activities. Interestingly the most common Vette for the weekend was the C6 with 5 Z06s in the pack. The oldest car to make the trip across the border was a C2 convertible.

Things kicked off Thursday afternoon with the usual car park banter and a couple of drinks. A BBQ dinner at the park kicked us off for food. The chefs, Serge, Rob and Tim did a great job. Unfortunately the weather didn't play it's part with a rather chilly breeze forcing most in doors early. As usual we rearranged the furniture and Jim kindly checked the tables with this spirit level before dinner. We were split into two groups at the park one on the east side of the lake and one on the western side.

Friday saw some new arrivals from across the border. We set sail in convoy to the Southern Vale regions. As usual with car runs, things didn't go to plan and we lost 5 Vettes at the first corner. Cat herder Rob rounded them up at Mt Barker and they rejoined us at Echunga. We then proceeded through Meadows, McLaren Flat and onto McLaren Vale. Our first stop for the day was at D'Arenberg Cube. A strange place but well worth the visit with millions of dollars worth of Salvador Dahli art on sale. Ross and Arthur were convinced to bring out their respective C36 C6's, to meet us there. Coffees and wine tasting were conducted by most.



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From the Cube we travelled through Kangarilla, Meadows (again) and Strathalbyn down to the Lake Breeze Winery at Langhorn Creek for lunch. We managed to lose another couple of the pack along the way. A wayward cyclist was blamed for this event. I made a mandatory club U-turn as my GPS decided I had arrived when I hadn't. The food was well worth the journey, everyone made their own way back via various points of interest on their own.

Dinner was at the local Chinese in Hahndorf, the majority decided to catch the local bus in and out of town. Apparently we set a new record for the pickup at the stop with 27 getting on board. The food was great and plentiful, I know Christeen brought home enough for lunches at work this week!!

Saturday was forecast to be HOT and windy so not a good day to be driving the C3 around so a modern airconditioned bus was a very attractive alternative. The bus arrived ready for the 8.30 departure but not before Catherine and Jims esky was secured in the locker under the bus. This would come in handy later in the day when Neville (our bus driver) stocked it with ice and bottles of water.



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We left the park with 28 passengers and on the way to the Barossa Valley, the captured audience was given a history of the Barossa Valley, its founders, settlements and churches. We drove past the new Lyndoch oval to show where next years Gather Round will host 2 games and what \$42 million dollars will look like.

The bus then headed to Bethany and on the way a history lesson was communicated to the captured audience. One of the scheduled stops was the church and cemetery at Bethany but it was a case of stop and look from the bus.

We had a stop at the Menglers Hill lookout where everyone stretched their legs and took in the view, some even strolled through the sculptures below the lookout. By now the wind had picked up and it was getting warmer.

We paid a visit to Kuchels where we looked at trucks and vehicles being restored – a departure from our historic tour.



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It was an easy drive to Seppeltsfield where some of the “Ladies” took a great interest in the Seppelt family mausoleum with some trying to workout whether to intern their husbands under the floor or in the structure itself.

We spent time wandering through Seppeltsfield winery which everyone enjoyed. The lunch stop was at the Tanunda Hotel and thankfully we had opted to eat inside rather than outside, the meals were good and most wandered next door to the museum which we had organised to open just for us.

We boarded the bus and proceeded to take in more historic churches and graves with Mark the only one deciding to exit the bus at some of these attractions (it was definitely cooler on the bus).

Some of the attractions were closed due to the heat including the Yalumba Winery who had a private function happening, we then moved on to the Herbig Tree at Springton which was on our way back to Hahndorf.

Everyone exited the bus at the Herbig Tree and discussed where the stove may have been in the confined space in the tree, especially with 2 adults and 2 children living within. Once the family started to expand (16 children at last count) they decided to build a two roomed hut nearby.

The commentary was provided by Mark but delivered by Rob, as there were a few people hard of hearing and even though we had a microphone Mark is softly spoken and everyone wanted to know what we were seeing.



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Everyone enjoyed the tour and the commentary but were pleased to get back and have a rest before dinner.

Neville did a great job of driving and his skills were tested when we dropped some passengers at the top of the park where the roads were not meant for a large coach and someone parked their Ford Ranger with the rear restricting the roadway so a bit of forward and reversing saw the bus get around and exit this area. Thanks to Mark for organising the trip and the fact sheets on our stops.

Buses seemed to be the order of the day as many of us made use of the bus system again for dinner at the Old Mill at Hahndorf, I have to say that the local bus drivers were great going out of there way to give us a door-to-door service and were very friendly. Again the meals were very good and the service excellent.

Sunday saw us make the huge journey from Hahndorf to Birdwood via Mt Torrens. No one got lost on this trip! As usual we displayed the cars on the rear lawns of the National Motor Museum and were given free entry for the day. One of the volunteers was super excited to see us and have pictures taken with the cars. Many made the stop a coffee opportunity.

A few of the Vics departed from Birdwood electing to make the journey homeward from there. The rest of us headed into Mannum for lunch at the Pretoria Hotel. Unfortunately we couldn't get group parking and found spots where we could. We took up two large tables inside the dining room. Late in the afternoon we all started to drift off, having re-established old friendships and made some new ones.

Many of our club members made the opportunity to attend selected events rather than the complete weekend.

A full round up of pictures is available on the club website

