

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CLUB

On a fine cold July Sunday, Dennis and Gail McGavigan were driving to Perth from Mandurah to attend the Annual General Meeting. Dennis had restored his 1955 46R (two-door hardtop) and members were looking forward to seeing its arrival at the VCC Clubrooms in Forrestfield.

On the way Dennis had called into a garage and bought some transmission fluid. Further on when crossing a railway track in Kargotich Road, the bonnet flipped up and wrapped itself over the top of the car (as they do in this situation)! Apparently the secondary spring on the safety catch had broken at some time and the hinge had given way, leading to the freedom of the bonnet. Doubly devastating for Dennis was the fact that the car was just about ready for the Queensland Nationals.

A naturally disappointed Dennis rang to say that he was heading home and wouldn't be attending the meeting. At this time he didn't know that he had been nominated for life membership along with Les Woodruff which was another reason everyone was hoping Dennis could make it to the meeting.

Tony Howe who is usually has a repository of parts and knick knacks, unfortunately did not have anything to help at this stage. However, he knew someone who did have the relevant hinges.

A call was put through to Jason Pages in Albany on the Tuesday and Jason confirmed that he indeed did have some '55 hinges. These were packaged up and were in Dennis' hands by the Wednesday morning. No criticism of Australia Post here.

Glen Hodda (an ex-Buick club member) is a member of the Peel Branch of the Veteran Car Club and also their vehicle examiner. Glen works with a team of panelbeaters and had Dennis' car in the shop and everything was attended to by the end of the week. So from the day of the disaster to everything being fixed and put right took less than a week.

This sort of action probably couldn't have been achieved with a modern car let alone a 1955 Buick which needed new hinges! The speed at which members rallied around to help Dennis was remarkable and reminded us what being in the Buick Owners Club of WA is all about! Well done guys.

At the time of writing the '55 is still in Glen's shop but is having some minor tweaks sorted out before it heads off to the Queensland Nationals.

L M Haime (WA Buicks)



Before.....



And After!