

NEWSLETTER

of the

Dandenong Valley Historic Car Club Inc.

January – 2026

VOLUME 52 - NO. 6



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DANDENONG VALLEY HISTORIC CAR CLUB INC.

Incorporation No. A0000748U



*** 2025/26 CAR OF THE YEAR ***

1937 Pontiac Silver Streak and Don Caravan - Ray Griffin

DANDENONG VALLEY HISTORIC CAR CLUB INC. (DVHCC)

is a member of

The Federation of Veteran Vintage & Classic Vehicle Clubs Victoria (FVVCVC) and
The Association of Motoring Clubs (AOMC)

The DVHCC Caters for vehicles manufactured prior to 31 December 1942.

Website: <http://www.dvhcc.com.au>

The next meeting will be
the General Meeting to be held at,

***Dandenong Agricultural Society Club Rooms
on 2nd of January 2026.***

Dandenong Show Grounds, Bennet Street, Dandenong.

Meeting commences at 8.00pm

***Don't forget the Closing Date for
February 2026 Newsletter is the
14th of January 2026.***

***Please get your interesting items in
well before that date.***

ACROSS THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hi Everyone,

Well it is New Years again and Jill and I would like to wish you all a very great 2026.

I was disappointed to miss the English Garden Party held at Ian and Heathers on the 7th of December last. I awoke about 8.00am with a really bad cold, a sore throat and a headache so I decided not to share it with you all and we stayed home.

Christmas is a very busy time for most of us, and for three weekends in a row I had two or three things to go to over the weekend. When I have two on the same day and at about the same time, I have found that I cannot split myself into two, to attend both. Add to that, not feeling well certainly altered our itinerary about a bit. The week before I had two to attend on the Sunday, one in Morwell and one in Traralgon. I wanted to go to the one in Traralgon but as I am the President of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc and it was their Christmas party in Morwell, I felt that I should go to Morwell. We had a lovely afternoon with more than 100 GHAC members and Santa gave presents to about 13 littlies. By the time I got to the do in Traralgon, it was just about all finished but I did make it.

I did get one message at the do in Traralgon, "that it looks like I have lost my White Scout Car". My eldest son, Geoff, has been looking after it and doing a few small jobs on it at his place since the Freedom of Entry to the City of Sale, a few weeks ago. I think he has been to every car show or car / truck get-together in the Latrobe Valley in recent times. I might have to go up to a 90 day logbook.

Today, Sunday, Jill and I attended a combined Orders Masonic Christmas luncheon in Bairnsdale with approximately 100 others. They had a Ham Raffle as well, but we were not as lucky as last year and missed out in coming home with one of the 18 hams. It was good to catch up with so many people.

Saturday saw us helping a local Car Club member celebrate his 70th birthday down in Lakes Entrance. There were about 18 of our Car Club members there as well and a live band and a song fest from the Nowa Nowa Mens Choir so we weren't worried about filling in the afternoon.

For this month's Newsletter cover I have borrowed a photo off the DVHCC's Facebook page of well known member. Leigh Howes. Leigh was up at Wedderburn for the machinery rally and as he is a great DVHCC member, I felt that he justly represented the spirit of our Club. It is the members who make the Club. The cars come second. So well done Leigh! I like your little mate too.

Fortunately the photo of Leigh was in Portrait style not Landscape and as I didn't have any others in Portrait to use for the cover, I chose this one. Please make sure that the occasional photo sent to me is in Portrait style for the Newsletter cover.

I must thank Gary S. for all the great photos he has sent recently. The English Garden Party and the Toy Run are two of them. Thank you, Gary!

More thanks goes to Sue Bates for the Dandenong Show report you will see on page 7, and to Kevin C. for the photos.

My thanks this issue, go to the following people who have sent things to me to put into this one or following issues. Les Thomas, Gary Stocking, John Jenkins, Jim Lang and Ian Clark.

Have a HAPPY and Safe NEW YEAR,

Cheers Rick 'n' Jill.

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Please refer to your club register for home phone numbers and addresses.

DVHCC Inc. Bank Details :-
BENDIGO BANK ONLY.

Name....Dandenong Valley Historic Car Club.
BSB :- ..633-000 ...Account No. 159 329 507..
Please ID payments to this account with your name.

President's Report, December 2025.

At our General Meeting night in December, to celebrate Christmas, we had a pizza night which was very well attended by the members. Santa had time in his very heavy work load to call in and handed out chocolate bars to everyone. THANKS SANTA, for putting a bit of Christmas spirit into the meeting.

Our English Garden party BBQ, had 40 members in attendance on a beautiful summer's day. My thanks everyone who helped out with the catering. The sweets were great not good for the waistline but who cares, it was Christmas. Don F. brought out the 1948 Austin for its first club run, and I believe it behaved itself on the drive over and back home. Well done, Don!

When you are reading this, it will probably be 2026. It only seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the year 2000. It seems that the older we get, the quicker the years go by. I know a couple of members who will be getting there OBE this year. Not only that, but CONGRATULATIONS to Irwin and Bev S. who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on the 18th of December 2025 as well.

Our Australia Day Car Show is on again so please tell everyone you know to attend. It is now the only Club fund raiser we have for the year. Your Committee is planning different events for you to attend during the year, so if you have any places of interest to go to, please let us know.

Heather and I and the DVHCC Committee would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.
Ian.

Minutes of General Meeting of the Dandenong Valley Historic Car Club held on 7th November 2025 at Myuna Farm

Apologies: Michael and Sandra Cogley, Amanda Eagles, Margaret Griffin, Marg Detez, Les Lucas, Aub Smith, Rick & Jill Cove
Ian handed their name tags to Tim and Rose McEgan.

Motion: The minutes of the November General Meeting published in the December newsletter be accepted as accurate.

Moved Ron Barnett Seconded Don Jones
Passed

Secretaries Report –

November/December 2025

Inward correspondence

- AOMC delegates meeting details by 2
 - AOMC Country Motor Australia Magazine
 - AOMC newsletter
 - AOMC Festival of Motoring Pre-bookings
- Close on December 7th, 2025
- Consumer Affairs Victoria – copy of our submission plus copy of payment receipt
 - Federation – Golden Oldies Tour 2026

Advertising Flyers

- GTHO Register magazine by 2
- FLINDERS MOTORING HERITAGE EVENT
- Lawless Classic Lubricants
- Autoequip by 4
- Rotary Club of Emerald - New Car Show in Gembrook - Sunday, February 22, 2025 by 2
- Antique tyres
- Retromotive magazine
- Bend Motor Sport
- Micawber tavern by 2
- Online autoparts by 7

11 Club Magazines by email

November/December 2025

Outward correspondence

- Corporate Affairs Victoria – annual submission
- Australian Taxation Office – tax return – posted on November 12 – calculated liability of \$735.80 – no response yet from the tax office

Motion: that the inwards correspondence is received, and outward correspondence approved for the month of November 2025.

Moved Paul McMillan Seconded Geoff Strahan
Passed.

Treasurer's Report –

Motion: to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of November 2025.

Moved Irwin Sinclair Seconded Frazer Carless
Passed

Federation Report: Nil.

AOMC Report: At the AGM the board was reinstated plus \$12,000 was donated to Kids with Cancer.

Editor Report: Rick asked for more articles please

Scoresby Picnic : Nil

Weekend Away: Please fill out entry forms and pay \$50 deposit to Heather ASAP.

Australia Day Car Show: Progressing well with the Tear Drop caravan people arriving the night before. Trophies have been organized.

Web Master Report: Nil

Past Events:

- Dandy Show – Ian thanked those that attended
- Bendigo Swap went well
- DFO – not so well attended

Future Events:

- Sunday Dec 7, Garden Party at the Clarkes
- December 13, Masonic Centre, car display 1pm
- December 17, Christmas Lunch Trios
- January 2 – General Meeting at DAS
- January 10 – Berwick Cheese Factory run
- January 25 – set up for Australia Day car Show
- January 26 – Australia Day car show

General Business:

- Sam Capes – wishes to have club materials relocated from his garage

Car or Parts for Sale:

- Peter Lafrank – FJ body parts in mint condition

Meeting Closed 8.40

Jim Lang - Secretary, Ian Clark - President



.....COMING EVENTS.....

2026

Friday 2nd January .

General Meeting at Dandenong Show grounds 8-00pm.

Saturday 10th January,

Berwick Old Cheese Factory Run on Saturday January 10th 2026.

Entry via 34 Homestead Rd Berwick.

Every second Saturday of the month the Old Cheese Factory holds a Farmers Market.

The Berwick Woodworkers Club also have their shed open for tours on these mornings.

There are cafes with coffee and cakes and other hot food stalls.

There will be allocated parking for club cars.

Cars are expected between 8:30 and 9:00am. The markets ends around 12:30.

Sunday 25th January 2026.

Set up for the Australia Day Car Show at SEMC. 270 Hutton Road Keysborough. (Time TBA.)

Monday 26th January 2026

AUSTRALIA DAY CAR SHOW.

South Eastern Masonic Centre.

270 Hutton Road, KEYSBOROUGH

Friday 6th February

General meeting at 8-00pm Dandenong show grounds.

Sunday 8th February

DVHCC Car Display at Meridian Lifestyle Community, 9 Twynam Rd, Clyde North, 3978.

Further details next month. (Gary)

Sunday 15th February

Twilight run to Andrew's Mushroom Farm. (More info from Len and Gary).

Wednesday 18th February

Twilight run to the Wandin car show. Details and address to follow. (Leigh Howes to organise.)

Saturday 21st February

Cars to be on display at the **BERWICK SHOW.** Enter Showgrounds between 9.00 to 9.30am.

Friday 6th March

General meeting at Dandenong Show grounds at 8-00pm

Sunday 15th March

Upper Yarra Museum open day, car display and to get the old car running again. We haven't been there for a Working Bee for a few years, so let's spend the whole day on it.

Thursday 26 until Monday 30 March.2026

DVHCC WEEKEND AWAY: 2026. BENDIGO Area.

Money to Heather please.

Happy
New Year



AUSTRALIA DAY CAR & MOTORCYCLE SHOW

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2026

Entry: Display Cars: \$20, Display Motorcycles \$10
(includes Driver/Rider & Passengers)

All vehicles and Motorcycles welcome (Standard or Modified)
regardless of age.

Spectators: \$5.00 (children free if accompanied by an adult)

Trophies

Food Stalls

Trade Stalls

Free Raffle

Presentations from 1.00pm onwards

Bring the Family

Time: 10.00 onwards

Venue: South Eastern Masonic Centre
270 Hutton Road, Keysbrough

Enquires : Ian 0419312304



Insurance for Motoring Enthusiasts



Trophies kindly
sponsored by
Shannons

IMPORTANT Please Note--The 2026 Bendigo Weekend Away.**Thursday 26 until Monday 30 March.2026**

DVHCC WEEKEND AWAY. *The Barclay On View motel has reserved more rooms than we will need. After the February general meeting, we will reserve rooms only for members who have paid a deposit. We can not in fairness leave reserved rooms that we will not need. Members who thereafter decide to attend, will need to deal directly with Barclay On View.*

DVHCC WEEKEND AWAY: 2026. Thursday 26 until Monday 30 March.

LOCATION. Bendigo

ACCOMMODATION. Barclay On View. 181 View Street. Bendigo. Ph. 54439388.

. Chosen due to price, adequate car parks and convenient location.

SCHEDULE.

THURSDAY Arrive late morning or early afternoon.

FRIDAY 10 AM. Bendigo Pottery. In this building are wine cellars, craft and antiques.

1 PM Leave for The Great Stupa.

4 PM Eaglehawk Garden Sculptures

5-30 PM Dinner at Allies Hotel.

SATURDAY 9—30 AM. Arrive Bendigo Tramways Depot.

6 PM. Dinner at the home of our host, Paul Tangy.

SUNDAY 9- 30. Chinese Museum.

6—00: Dinner at Car Club.

MONDAY Breakfast and depart.

NECESSITIES. BYO drinks. Picnic table and chairs. Nibbles for happy hour. A Florid shirt for Sunday evening.

THE GREAT STUPA is the premier attraction in Bendigo. Upon entry, visit the informative display room and see the short film. Collect a map showing details of attractions.

There is a canteen in the entry building .

After marveling at the interior of the Stupa, visit the monastery. Opposite the entry to the Stupa is a path that leads to accommodation and gardens. Turn right and pass thru the gardens. Follow the yellow brick path to the monastery. After 100m, take the yellow brick path to your left. At the end, pass thru the gate. In front of the monastery are 16 magnificent statues.

What does

1,893,456,000 seconds,

or

31,557,600 minutes,

or

525,960 hours,

or

21,915 days

add up too?

CONGRATULATIONS!

Beverley and Irwin Sinclair

on your Diamond or 60th Wedding Anniversary!

18th of December 1965.

From all your DVHCC Inc. friends.

Dandenong Show Sun 9th November 2025....by Sue Bates.

Blue sky & sunshine in Chelsea. Yes! We will get Mr Whippy out & go to the Dandenong Show, but as we were driving there were some dark clouds starting to close in.

We arrived just after just 9 O'clock. Ian, Leigh, Graeme & Michelle were already there. Soon afterwards John, Irwin and Joy & Lindsay arrived. With the weather looking threatening and with it spitting rain, the decision was made to put the tent up. We were parked under trees, opposite the Ladies & Gents. (Very handy if you were in a hurry!) Shortly after that Kevin arrived.

Under the shelter & out of the cold wind, we were able sit and watch the beautifully groomed horses, with their immaculately groomed riders doing their thing. After a few false starts Leigh had his engine running. His and the others chuffed away all day.

The weather cleared so it was time to wander around. After walking through the wide variety of food vans etc, which are obviously getting less & less each year, we arrived at the carnival arcade which was well supported with lots of young people on the many rides & playing the games. The Craft Pavilion was nowhere near as busy, neither was there the variety of displays! The Endeavour Hills Men's Shed had a delightful display of handmade, intricate wooden rolling pins, along with Christmas decorations etc, all at very reasonable prices,. As I came out of the Pavilion a gentleman was amusing the children, (and adults), with tricks etc. He had a mesh on a long stick producing a wide variety of bubbles of various sizes. Some were bigger than basket balls. It was so much fun chasing & bursting them! **(Some people never grow up, Sue!.ED)** Everyone loved the newly hatched chickens, then feeding the animals, which consisted of a wide variety of chickens & pet rabbits which were on display. Not to be missed were the sheep & working dogs.

Graham & I went back to the craft pavilion where they were serving very nice & reasonably priced (\$6.00), devonshire teas, yum!

Ian received the ribbon for the best car, Congratulations Ian well deserved.

All in all, with the slightly fickle weather and on occasions a cold wind, it was an enjoyable day. We all packed up the tent & headed to home around 2.30 pm with people still trickling in as we were driving out .

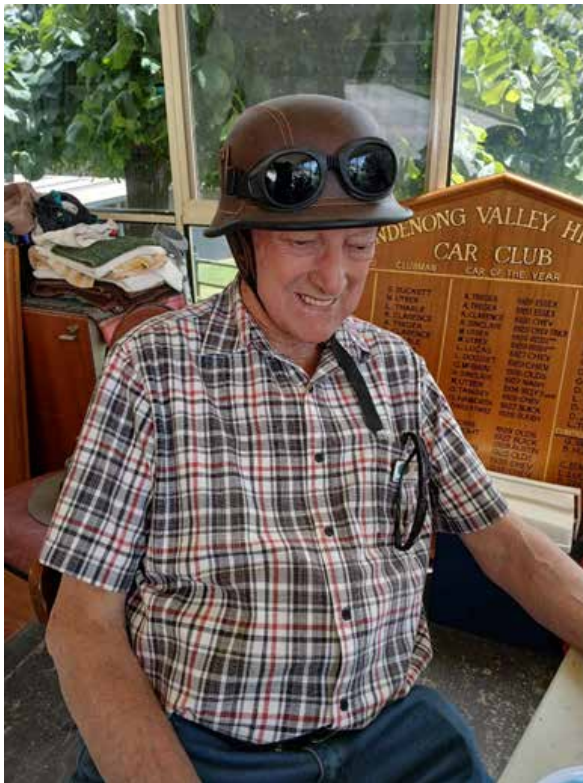


Attendees

Graeme Chard & Michelle Davis, 1973 Falcon. Graham & Sue Bates, 1926 Overland. Leigh Howes, 1946 Chevrolet Ute
Ian Clark, 1939 Chevrolet Ute. Irwin Sinclair, 1956 Cadillac. John Jenkins, 1936 Cadillac.
Lindsay & Joy Tharle, 1938 Plymouth P9 sedan. Kevin Clarence, 1934 Lagonda Rapier tourer

Dandenong Show Sun 9th November 2025.





An English Garden Party.. Christmas December 2025.



An English Garden Party.. Christmas December 2025.



A great Christmas Party was held at Heather and Ian's place on the 7th December 2025,

More than 40 members attended, most with their Club Cars.

Congratulations to Don Fliener and Margaret Hope who arrived in Don's 1948 Austin 18 on it's first DVHCC Inc. outing.

Jill and I were sorry to have missed it, but I spent the majority of the day in bed with a really bad dose of the flu. Cheers all!

Rick....ED



In 2025, if you see a long, snaking queue of people congregating outside a Melbourne CBD building, you suspect a limited-edition sneaker release, a new mobile phone event or a concert ticket sale.

But, in 1932, hundreds of people gathered outside Melbourne's M.U. – I.O.O.F. (Manchester Unity – Independent Order of Odd Fellows) building, on a prominent city corner, for the express privilege of riding on Melbourne's first escalators! Where were they? The place was on the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets (also known as 'Stewart Dawson's corner'), and the month was September. 'For days, hundreds of people congregated in and around the building...' reported, *Building: the magazine for the architect, builder, property owner and merchant*.

So, what was the reason for this depression-era gathering? Well, opening at the height of the 'Great Depression', in the year that Australian unemployment reached 32 percent, was a new free entertainment which enthralled Melbourne. Melbourne's Herald waxed lyrical, in an article entitled 'City has a magic stair', asserting that, *'If the pages of the Arabian Nights had opened, and the magic carpet floated down into Collins Street, Melbourne could not have watch with greater awe. For Melbourne is learning to escalate!'*, *'the oldsters and youngsters, the urchins and stray dogs have found it out. Today they all rode on it including grave men with lawyer's satchels, young men with self-conscious smirks, typists with high heels, carpenters with hammers in their belts'*. The article went on to describe 'four stages of escalating': shy, venturesome, confident and seasoned. In 1941, a different four types were identified as 'the do or die', 'the shuffler', 'the standing jump' and 'the splits'⁸.

Marcus Barlow, a devotee of skyscraper-style modernism, later responsible for Melbourne's Century Building (late 1930s), was the architect of the new building with Waygood-Otis (Australia) Pty Ltd responsible for the fit-out. The engineer involved with the escalator's installation was a Mr D.E. Coles and a detailed description of the escalators' mechanism was provided in *Building*. The Herald reported at the time, that the new escalators 'can bear 6000 people upwards at the rate of 90 ft per minute!' In the wake of the first escalator success, other escalators were soon planned in Melbourne.

By the time the first escalators were realised in Victoria, apparently 16 were already operating in Sydney, including an installation at Milson's Point Railway Station and at Mark Foy's department store. The harbour city's most popular moving staircases were the 1932 Wynyard and Town Hall stations wooden escalators. Western Australia stole a march on Melbourne in 1928, when drapery store, Charles Moore and Co. installed Perth's first escalator. Then, not long after Melbourne's first experience, it's been reported that South Australians first discovered the joys of the moving staircase in 1933 at John Martin's store in Rundle Mall. Apparently Queensland's Penney Store in Brisbane boasted that state's first escalators from late 1936. Later in WA, much was claimed on behalf of escalators that were 'entirely doing away with the fatigue of mounting steps' at Boans department store in Perth in 1949. The opening there also led to a flurry of escalator travel and travelers received a badge in memory of their trip.

Tasmanians are said to have first enjoyed escalators this same year, 1949, in Hobart's Charles Davis department store. Apparently, the ACT had to wait until the 1950s and 60s for Canberra to enjoy its first escalators, when the J.B. Young store in Kingston was renovated. Some debate has also existed around the date and place of the Northern Territory's first escalators. A contender is apparently Woolworths, corner of Knuckey and Smith Streets in 1968.

Forget playgrounds, in 1924, it was reported in the Evening News, on the 29 July 1924, that *'...all the kiddies of North Sydney went for an escalator joy ride. They went round and round down one up the other. The police and other authorities tried to stop them, but it was a hopeless task.'* It was reported in 'The Telegraph' on the 25th of November 1936, that In Queensland, young visitors to Penney's were expected to amuse themselves on the escalators while parents shopped: *'until the novelty wears off, the youngster will do the round trip, time and again'*. In a similar vein, in 1949 in Perth, children considered escalators the height of school holiday entertainment – and their parents took the opportunity to use the escalator as a babysitter and go about their own errands.

While many children and adults travelled the moving stairways with glee, there have always been the timid and beyond that sadly some who have come to grief around escalators. Among various minor through to fatal incidents over the years, in 1941, a claim for £249 in damages was made by a grandmother whose 3-year-old grandson lost a finger after it was caught in the Melbourne Myer Emporium escalator and later amputated. The child had been allowed to sit on the escalator and so a jury found in favour of Myer Emporium (Sun News-Pictorial, 23 October 1941, p 9). To the present day, despite early assertions that 'the safety arrangements are foolproof' (The Herald, 31 Aug 1932, p 27), there are still accidents around escalators. Melbourne's long, steep Parliament Station escalators have seen frequent falls, leading Metro Trains to design a 2018 safety campaign.

The author of a 1933 newspaper article confessed to an enduring nervousness about escalators, which they traced back to Charlie Chaplin's bumbling cinematic efforts in *The Floorwalker* (The Pioneer, 14 July 1933, p 4). The 1916 film contains a moving staircase sequence in which Charlie's character attempts to walk down the up-escalator to comedic effect.



England's first escalator, an inclined conveyor (at London's Harrods) was installed in 1898, where smelling salts and alcohol were offered gratis to revive those disturbed by their transportation experience.

The desire to 'streamline customer experience and movement was a strong driver for the introduction of escalators, which were largely rolled out in expansive railway station and shopping department store contexts. Escalators were used to regulate speed, leading to consistent movement (effectively controlling the varied paces of people of different ages, stages and abilities).

Escalators found their place in retail theory too, directing travelers to the wares a shop particularly wanted to promote. At one stage it was even envisaged by some that escalators might be the future of footpaths, in a time 'when all the streets of our large towns will consist of huge moving tracks on the escalator principle...' with 'junctions at the crossings, where you will simply step from one moving track to the other'

In terms of escalator etiquette, in her irreverent 2015 book, *Things I want to punch in the face*, Jennifer Worick cites 'People who stop at the top of escalators' as a particularly frustrating group of people and comments, 'the first working escalator was built alongside a pier at Coney Island in 1896. You'd think people would have learned how to use them by now'.³¹ In her book, *Amy's guide to best behavior in Japan: Do it right and be polite!* (2018), Amy Chavez also has 'a word about escalators', noting that traveling one side of the escalator to allow others to pass has been a widely understood norm that is now changing.³² Anyone traveling by train into Melbourne will certainly have witnessed the ire of commuters when unknowing tourists or novice city-goers try to travel two-abreast or stop and attempt to travel on the right-hand side of the escalator.

City commuters use them every day and most likely if you travel by train to State Library Victoria, you'll use one too. These days we take them for granted, but next time you see one, spare a thought for the escalator.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ECOMICAL OPERATION

- Remove switch key when leaving car.
- Apply brakes gradually—the car in rear may not have good brakes.
- Always set transmission brake before leaving car.
- See that the transmission brake is released before starting car.
- Keep all bolts and nuts tight.
- Change oil in motor when required.
- Consult oiling schedule and keep car properly lubricated.
- Keep battery supplied with distilled water.
- Keep the car clean.
- Drive carefully on slippery pavements.
- Keep tire pressure at 30 pounds.
- Keep cooling system filled.
- Do not race motor.
- Inspect gasoline supply before starting out.
- Do not tinker with carburetor adjustments unless you understand them.
- Do not step on starting button with motor running.
- Avoid engaging clutch with a jerk.
- Do not attempt to shift into reverse with car in forward motion.
- Do not crank engine by hand with spark advanced.
- Inspect engine oil level daily.
- Inspect car at regular intervals.
- Always insist on genuine Chandler parts.
- Patronize authorized service stations. You will be better satisfied.



Crispy Italian Almond Chews

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups almond flour
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- Powdered sugar, for dusting (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 325°F (163°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together almond flour, powdered sugar, and salt.
- In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until frothy (but not stiff).
- Add almond and vanilla extracts to the egg whites and stir.
- Pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and mix until a sticky dough forms.
- Drop tablespoons of dough onto the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 2 inches apart.
- Gently press a few sliced almonds onto the top of each cookie.
- Bake for 18–20 minutes, or until the edges are golden and the tops are slightly cracked.
- Let cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack. Dust with powdered sugar if desired.

Prep Time: 10 minutes | Baking Time: 20 minutes | Total Time: 30 minutes
Kcal: 130 kcal | Servings: 18 cookies

Tips:

Use superfine almond flour for the smoothest texture.

Store in an airtight container to keep the outside crisp and the inside chewy.

The following day dawned bright and sunny. Fred went off to have a shower and returned in a red and white Volkswagen. Yes folks, it was the ubiquitous Shelagh and Jim again. We cleaned out our van and re-organized it, then went up to the swimming pool for the afternoon. Four Iranians arrived and their swimming was on a par to their driving. Fred described it as 'sort of controlled drowning'. We had a meal and then headed downtown to Bob and Vallia's. We didn't make it. The van got very hot and was backfiring and cutting out, so we coaxed it back to the campsite and had a drink and a read.

Next day, following a bit of an overhaul of the engine, we headed into Tehran. The driving was all, and more of what we had been warned it was. Rather infantile really, as though some person had given a thousand irresponsible kids a dodgem car each and then told them to 'go and show those other kids how fast you are'. They pull out from side turnings, parking spaces and roundabouts etc., regardless of what else is coming. They change direction anywhere at any time, usually without warning. They never stick to one lane but chop and change all the time, hooting when they are overtaking, on either side, being overtaken, trying to overtake, or when they are stopped at a junction or traffic lights, regardless of whether the lights are for, or against, them. And to cap it all, at night, they either don't bother with lights at all or dazzle you with full headlights of green, blue, pink, yellow or red or any combination of the above.

I'll stop talking about the fine weather now as it's obvious we've finally hit the hot stuff. We had decided on an easy day today. Fred overhauled the van while I did some washing. Unfortunately, the swimming pool was emptied last night so we just had to sweat it out. We went to the camp bar with Shelagh and Jim then had a mixed meal in our van before retiring.



I love these bridges but. are they iust bridges...

...or some form of flood control

Everybody one speaks to has a different idea of which are the best countries and towns, which is the best route to take, and what sights are worth seeing. That's individuality. In the end one has to make one's own decisions.

Another day. Drove into Tehran and the van overheated again so we walked to the American Express office and exchanged some currency. Back at the van, one of our tyres had been let down, so we changed the wheel and headed back to the campsite. The pool had been refilled so we went for a swim. The new water was cold. An Italian guy, and his Danish wife, invited us to join them for a drink, which we did along with some other Italians. After another dip in the pool, we went back to the van and then were invited to a barbeque. A really enjoyable evening with English and American campers. One English couple who were smoking joints looked rather pathetic to me, as everybody else was enjoying the evening more and more, whereas they just flaked out. Still, it's up to them. We decided we would move on to Esfahan tomorrow.

I drove into Tehran today and soon realized their bark is worse than their bite. They try to dominate by hooting all the time, but it's best to totally disregard it.

The next day the priority was yet another check of the van. Fred did that, I just had another cup of tea. Our chores completed, Shelagh brought us another cup of tea. It's 12:00 noon and about 90 degrees in the shade; 110 in the van. The swimming pool looked inviting. We'll just have a quick dip. Lovely. The pool is somewhat warmer than yesterday.

Jim suggests a cup of tea would be nice as we've been sunbathing for 3 hours. In fact, two cups of tea with beef stock while reading in the shade of the van. I finish my book and start writing letters while Fred makes another cup of tea.

6:00pm; too late to start for Isfahan, we'll start tomorrow. I finish letters and we have a meal. I wash some clothes and start writing postcards and finally this journal. Fred's making a great palaver of getting into bed. It's just past 11:00, he's trying to tell me something. I'm about to start 'The Sound and the Fury'. NO; it's not the aftermath of Fred's cordon bleu bean feast, it's a book by William Faulkner.

What a nice relaxing day. Good-night everybody.



Road to Isfahan



Imagine this in Blue, Yellow and Green

Set off for Isfahan at 10:00am. Soon experienced overheating even though Fred had retarded the ignition 40 units. After a good stint we stopped. Replaced the N3 plugs with N5 and retarded the ignition a further 15 units and finally coaxed the old bus into Isfahan at 5:30. Rummaged around town until we found the Post Office and posted yesterday's mail, then found a campsite south of the town and, no surprise this time, there they were, Shelagh and Jim, who immediately produced cups of tea to wash down the dust. This was followed by one of our communal meals when Fred cooked up another one of his spicy specials and Shelagh cooked some tapioca with gooseberries.

The following day we went into Isfahan with Shelagh and Jim in their Volkswagen. First visited the Armenian Vank Church and Museum and then on to the Main Square (Maidan-e-Shah) with the Blue Mosque (Masjed-e-Shah), Ladies Mosque (Masjed-e-Sheikh-Lutfullah) and the Royal Palace (Ali Qapa). Had some honey flavoured ice cream while waiting for the Mosques to open at 2:00pm and then, after all this sight-seeing, had a good meal in a restaurant on the way back to the campsite. After a cup of tea, we set off for Persepolis; the birthplace of the Persian Empire. I am a keen viewer of archaeological programs and can't understand why I've never seen one on Persepolis, so I'm sure looking forward to this.



Shah's Palace. Rather drab compared to Mosques



Arabian Nights vase***

*** In one of the adventurous children's books; I think it was the Arabian Nights; or was it Sinbad the Sailor, anyway, some escaping heroes hide in some vases, and I could never understand this unless one was a genie, but they tend to dwell in lamps. That is until I saw these amazing items. Spectacular eh.

Unfortunately, I accidentally fitted a black and white film in the camera for this series of photographs. I apologise.Les T.

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