

# CASTLEMAINE HOT ROD CENTRE

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The Voice of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre

## Inspection Program to Commence



*Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Board Members meet with Castlemaine Secondary College VET Automotive teacher Anthony Van Emmerik, Goldfields LLEN Project Officer, Gary Griffin together with Local VASS approved engineer Peter Turner and ASRF Victorian TAC Chairman Con Mantzaris to discuss equipment purchases for a joint vehicle inspection/certification and education program to be launched at the College.*

Funding for the purchase of extra equipment for the Castlemaine Secondary College automotive section has been secured and joint operations between the College and the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre look set to commence before the end of 2009.

Recently board members met with College's VET Automotive teacher, Anthony Van Emmerik and Project Officer for the Goldfields LLEN, Gary Griffin to assess the equipment required for the College's automotive trade curriculum and for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre's initial inspection and certification service. Also attending the meeting were ASRF Victorian TAC Chairman, Con Mantzaris and local VASS approved engineer, Peter Turner.

Following the meeting the College is to undertake a full equipment audit to assess what is already in place that can be used for the vehicle inspection and certification service and decide what new equipment will be purchased.

More meetings will then be convened to establish the working partnership operational parameters and to set a timetable for the introduction of the inspection and certification program.

This is an important step forward for the Hot Rod Centre

as it will see a dedicated workshop made available, on a cost for service basis, for the inspection and certification of all types of modified vehicles to VASS Approved Engineer standards for full Victorian registration, or for compliance with the Club Permit scheme administered by the Victorian TAC.

The funding will provide the equipment needed to carry out these services in a safe and efficient manner with suitable hoists, workshop tools and testing equipment all housed in the one workshop.

The trade training section of the Secondary College is within the College grounds but is accessible without having to proceed through areas used by students and will be available for use outside College hours.

Gary Griffin, the Project Officer for the Goldfields LLEN who is responsible for working with the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre to achieve this outcome is now preparing to go to the next level with applications for major funding being prepared for a full trade training centre to be established in conjunction with the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre.

These are major steps forward for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre and the Board would like to acknowledge the work done by Gary Griffin in achieving such great results.

## Chairman's Report 2009

It is now two years since we launched the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited as a stand alone incorporated company and it is now five years since we set out on this journey together. The fruits of our labour are now starting to reveal themselves and the excitement is building.

Since our last AGM there has been much progress, not all of it readily seen, but all of it important to the success of our venture. In the latter part of last year we identified a suitable site for the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre following an approach from a local property owner. Inspections followed and the Board generally agreed that it certainly was a near ideal site for the Centre. The Board has since held two meetings with the property owner and discussions are ongoing in a positive manner. Before we can pursue these discussions further we have a need to address planning requirements and this aspect of our operations is also progressing well.

During the first half of 2009 we have met with Mt Alexander Shire Council's Planning Department and have since put a full submission to the council with regard to our plans for the Hot Rod Centre and what might be required to allow it to be located at this preferred site. The response has been very positive and the Mt Alexander Shire Planning Department is working with us on a proposed submission to the Department of Planning and Community Development.

The Planning Department of Council also suggested we seek assistance from a professional town planning firm and, following a recommendation from the property owner, we have quite recently met with senior personnel from Tomkinson's in Bendigo. They have agreed to prepare a report on what is required to move forward with this process.

At the same time as all of this property negotiating has been going on, the Board has also been working diligently on getting our Community Enterprise Scheme with the Bendigo Bank up and running. This has taken more time than anticipated due to circumstances beyond our control, but happily I can report that our Agency Agreement is now in place and we are receiving monthly income transfers that are proving most beneficial to our account balance. Nevertheless the need to seek more pledges to support our project continues and the benefits will only grow as that list grows.

Throughout the past 12 months we have maintained and developed our contacts in the education area and these too are now bearing fruit. Considerable financial support has been gained for expansion of the automotive trade program at the Castlemaine Secondary College and this funding is to be used to equip the trade building with new tools and facilities. The Board is currently meeting with the automotive teachers and education officials at the College to develop the most suitable items of equipment for this expanded department. Once in place and operational this section of the College will also be available for the Hot Rod Centre to use to establish our inspection, certification and compliance

facilities. Planning in this area is well advanced and the inspection services should be up and running well before the end of the calendar year. I would like to extend the Board's appreciation to Con Mantzaris of the ASRF and VASS consulting engineer Peter Turner for their assistance with this part of our operations. More exciting proposals are being followed up with education providers and will be linked to our Marketing Program that is also close to being launched.

Wayne Street of Street Ryan and Associates has made application on behalf of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre to Rural Development Victoria for funding assistance that will enable us to proceed with our Marketing Development phase. This will see our potential partners approached on a professional level to fully investigate what roles they can play in the development of the Centre to a fully operational level. We expect to know the outcome of this funding application soon.

In March The Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre combined with Castlemaine Rods to mount a very successful exhibition as part of the Castlemaine State Festival. This exhibition attracted over 700 visitors during the Festival and resulted in many enquiries from the general public about the progress of the Hot Rod Centre Project. Support from members during this exhibition was outstanding and it was a happy, satisfying exercise for all involved.

It has been a very active, interesting and productive 12 months, but it has also been a period tinged with much sadness due to the passing of two of our Foundation Members. However the Board Members are greatly inspired by the desire of other Members of the company to step up to fill these vacancies.

At times it seems progress is very slow when we are participating in so much planning and negotiation on behalf of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre. However taking the time to reflect and write this report for 2008/2009 financial year has brought home to me just how dramatic our progress has been during that period. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to fellow Board Members for their tremendous support and hard work over this past year. Thank you also to our Foundation Members for maintaining their interest and support for the Centre and all of our Gold Members for financially supporting this unique project.

Finally a note of appreciation to the Mount Alexander Shire Council and all of our business partners who have ensured that the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Project progresses in a very professional manner. We couldn't do it without you.

I look back on our last 12 months of operations with a great deal of satisfaction and forward with a great deal of eagerness and anticipation.

Larry O'Toole, Chairman CHRC Limited



## AGM and Guest Speaker

The Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre AGM for 2009 was held in the Wesley Hill Hall on June 26, 2009 and was a resounding success. A good number of Hot Rod Centre members were in attendance at the meeting during which the Chairman summarised the past year's activities in his annual report (see previous page).

Two Board Members were required by our constitution to step down at the AGM with Rod Hadfield and John Lynch both offering themselves for re-election. There were no other nominations for the positions so John and Rod were duly re-elected to the Board for a three year term.

Two vacancies were also created for Foundation Members to join due to the deaths of two previous Foundation Members during the past year. Three nominations for these two positions were received. They were from Greg Wilson, Kym Raneberg and Len Souter. A secret ballot was held for the election with Kym Raneberg and Len Souter being the successful candidates.

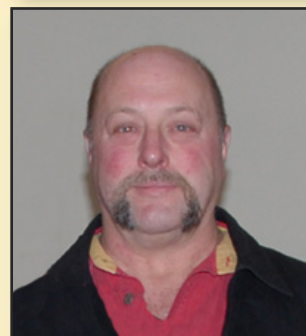
Only Foundation Members are eligible to stand for election to the Board of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre so it is good to see plenty of interest from gold members in becoming Foundation members when vacancies occur.



*Bryce Tonkin from Enviro Villages Worldwide was the popular guest speaker at the AGM.*

Following the main business of the meeting, members enjoyed guest speaker Bryce Tonkin from Enviro Villages Worldwide who spoke about their proposed Environmental Business Park at Maiden Gully and their environmentally designed buildings. Following his address there was time for questions from the audience and there were plenty. Obviously Bryce had caught everybody's attention with his very interesting address and the apparent synergies with the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre project that were further reinforced during his talk.

Bringing the night to a close was a generous supper supplied by members of the board and their helpers.



*Board Members Rod Hadfield (top) and John Lynch (above) were re-elected to the board of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre at the 2009 AGM.*

## Council Submission

The Board of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre has been anxious to present a full submission to the Mt Alexander Shire Council since new councillors were elected last November and a new CEO was appointed. This submission was designed to fully inform the council and its department officers of where the project is currently positioned and what is needed to move it forward.

With support from Mayor Philip Schier, the submission was presented to Council on April 28 and was very well received. It was based around our 12 minute audio visual presentation with a question and answer period afterwards. As a result of this submission the Council Planning Department has offered to sponsor a further submission to the State Government Planning Authorities to enable us to gain Special Zoning for the Centre once the location is finalised. Information and advice to support this submission is currently being collated and will soon be delivered to the Planning Department.

In the meantime the Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise scheme is now up and running and providing the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Project with a constant source of funding. Final negotiations with the local owner of the property, which we believe is most suitable for the Hot Rod Centre, are also now under way.



## Future Meeting Dates

The next General meeting of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited will be Friday October 16, 2009, Friday February 5, 2010, Friday April 23, 2010 and the AGM will be Friday June 25, 2010. All of these meetings will be held at the Wesley Hill Hall Castlemaine commencing at 7.30 pm unless advised otherwise.

For further information call (03) 5472 3653 or (03) 5472 4116.

## A Similar Project

A chance reading of a tourist booklet by Chairman Larry O'Toole while on a recent interstate trip revealed a project in Tamworth NSW that has many similarities, apart from a Retirement precinct, to the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Project.

Known as the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre it was largely funded by the local Tamworth Regional Council. The following description comes from their website.

Tamworth Regional Council has built the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre adjacent to the New England Highway near the Longyard precinct in Tamworth at a project cost of \$30 million.

The design is best described as like a horseshoe with outer buildings ringing the stadium. The stadium is designed on two levels and features: an indoor arena of 40m by 80m with tiered seating for 3360 in this stage concourse area that can hold exhibition and trade sites; and various areas associated with the management of the centre and events.

Underneath the stadium there are undercroft stock holding yards for 200 head. Outside, the landscape is dominated by the stables and the arenas. An education/training building provides a lecture and demonstration theatre with tiered seating for 44, plus a veterinary room and related facilities. In the grounds are: campdraft arena; two outdoor competition or warm up arenas; horse sporting fields; undercover cattle handling yards for 400 head; outdoor exhibition, trade and field day areas; showjumping and dressage area; exhibition lawn areas; additional areas for future development of show society facilities; conservation areas for recycling, storage and environmental processes; special parking areas etc.

The NSW State Government in May 2007 approved the TRC business plan for the centre's construction - Federal and State government grants of \$10.268million, council cash and



reserves of \$8.093 million and council loans of \$10.52 million. Initially, the council had driven a seven-year campaign to get the project off the ground. The Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre represents the final success of a decade-long community quest which recognised the value of the equine and livestock industries and a desire to increase the region's stake in future growth and development of those industries. Equine and livestock events are worth more than \$45 million annually in the Tamworth region.

For a more in-depth look at the Tamworth project see their website: [www.aelec.com.au](http://www.aelec.com.au)



## Pledge Form

Let your actions speak louder than words. Let's not wait for others to make our good ideas happen.

I want to be part of Powering Castlemaine an initiative of the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre Limited in partnership with Bendigo Bank and Bendigo Community Telco.

### Banking

Do you currently bank with Bendigo Bank?  Yes  No

Would you like your account linked to the Powering Castlemaine Project?  Yes  No

I would consider transferring banking business to Bendigo Bank.  Yes  No

### Supporter Details

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to CHRC. PO Box 1080, Castlemaine Vic. 3450