



THE WORM REVIEW

May 2007

At Easter 1988 I drove up to Marysville. A few years before I had inherited my father in law's 404 and after retiring I had spent some time doing a minor restoration. The Peugeot pageant was in Melbourne that year and the concours and motorkhana were to be held out of Marysville. I can remember driving up the Black Spur road with a huge pair of driving lights almost filling the 404s rear window. I found out later that it was Nick and Glad in their rally 404 keen to pass.

We joined the line up for the concours. In the line up were a few 203s. These were the first 203s that I had seen for many years. The most impressive was Carolyn Edward's blue newly restored 203. I decided then and there that I wanted a 203. And you can see where that first encounter has lead me over the following 19 years. Carolyn still owns that 203. Recently Carolyn's son John rebuilt the engine and tidied up the engine bay. The rebuild included chrome plating the rocker cover. Very bling bling! I was able to help finishing the engine bay by supplying reproduction instruction stickers for the oil bath air cleaner.

In October 1988 I drove up to Bundanoon in NSW to observe the 203's 40th birthday. I was in my new 505 GTI wagon. I photographed a panorama of all the 203s lined up around the Bundanoon oval. In those days a panorama was made by using a scalpel to carefully cut several overlapping photos to fit together. These days a computer does it much better with a seamless panorama. I have reworked that 1988 panorama in Photoshop and it is reproduced at the bottom of the page. There are only about 6 cars in the line up that I know their present whereabouts. The 203 ute in the picture is now the much changed camper van owned by Hilma and Keith Bridge. Carolyn's blue 203 is next to the ute.



What a blast

Bob Pinkerton reports on his 403 special at the Phillip Island Classic.

Bob is from Western Australia. Some might remember his superb 403 sedan BOB403 that he drove over the eastern states some years ago.



"What a blast! Much faster lap time wise than I had ever dreamed of and I wasn't serious. Top speed at the end of the straight (entering turn 1) was 185 kph. It just wouldn't pull any harder than 6200 RPM. The cornering and braking surprised not only me but also some of the fast cars in my events. I had a bit of a play around the back of the circuit with Peter Giddings in the Lago Talbot. He was surprised that he couldn't pull away. He was faster down the straight.

"A couple of lessons learnt. 1: Make sure the radiator cap is correctly fitted. 2: Big left-hand sweepers are best negotiated in a taller gear at lower revs. By holding 3rd gear at 7000 + RPM through the last turn onto the straight there was a tendency to blow oil through the breather into the catch tank. About 1 litre in 5 laps. 3: Take your special tools to a meeting. My thin walled 12 mm. Ring spanner for tappet adjusting was in Perth. I puffed the head gasket on Sat. arvo but we managed.

"I must have impressed someone because I've been invited back to Victoria for the Historic Winton event in May".

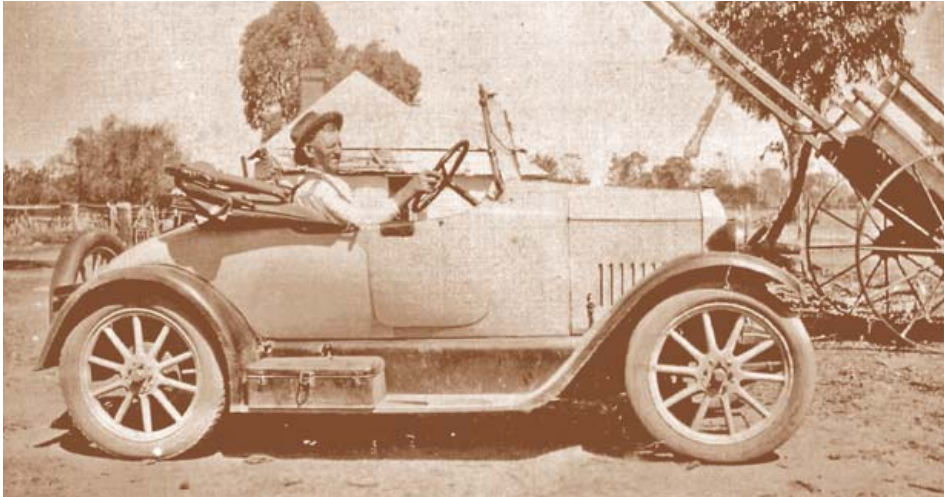


Carolyn beside her newly restored 203 in 1988.

Rocker

Do you know the French word for rocker? It is Culbuteur. Meaning in general use a somersaulter or a tumbler but in auto use part of the overhead valve gear. Not to be confused with culbuter which means to take a tumble or as a French teacher told me 'arse over tit'. I had asked for a translation of culbuteur but had misspelt the word.



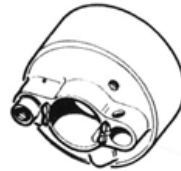


Peugeot 163 – Damien O’Doherty in Warrnambool is well advanced on the restoration of a Peugeot 163 from the early 1920s. This is a much bigger car than my 172 and has a 1500 cc long stroke engine. It has a worm drive. He tells me that he has had the engine running. Some years ago I was given this 1934 photo of Joseph Adams driving a 163 in north east Victoria by his grandson.

Paul Watson reports on Worms at Cowra

There was a fair representation of worms at the 2008 Peugeot Pageant, held at Cowra in central western NSW at Easter. Keith and Hilma Bridge brought their lovely 203C, which won the concours held on the morning of Easter Saturday in Edgell Park. (Cowra is famous for its vegetables, and Edgell once had a large asparagus cannery there.) The same car won the Peugeot Car Club of NSW concours earlier this year. Tom Burchell from Gippsland took his black 1964 403, which has some interesting modifications on the inlet side of the head. There were two 403 wagons – Bruce Jubb’s silver-grey concours vehicle and Michael Arahill’s Ampol Rerun wagon. Naturally, there were plenty of 404s, including the ex-Don Bailey car, which completed the Redex and Ampol Reruns has the words “I’m a two-timer” on the bonnet. Graeme and Suze Nicol were there in their 404 station wagon, but there was no sign of Hank Verwoert, who was preparing yet another 404 – a ute this time – for his ‘Lap of Australia’, which starts in Geelong on May 14.

For sale: I have two 203 covirs for sale. Also a 203 interior light lens. All new old stock still in their plastic bags.



Round Australia Clockwise

Hank Verwoert enthusiastically took over the running of the annual Worm Weekends when I had to retire. He must have developed the taste for organising events as he has run Worm Wander events leading up to recent Worm Weekends. He has now organised a grand event, a drive right around the perimeter of Australia in 56 days. Clockwise to test the cars with the strong head winds over the Nullabour desert stage between Adelaide and Perth! So far 17 participants, all in older Peugeots. Including two 403 station wagons and a lot of 404s. Preparation of vehicles is getting more anxious as the departure date nears. Hank has found a 404 baker’s van and is upgrading it to his well tried mechanical specification and also fitting out the van box to be a comfortable living quarters during the trip. The van box will be an interesting built in head wind across the Nullabour but a 2 litre motor should cope with that! Tony Nott and Annie Brown have an interesting fold away camper on the back of their 404 ute.



Hank's bakers van



The Brown Nott camping 404 ute

The Worm Drive Register is for all worm drive Peugeots in Australia. **Worm Review editor** is Gordon Miller. **203:** Gordon Miller 03 9807 3586 pwdr06@ultramode.net **403:** Paul Watson 03 9889 2721 paulandnola@bigpond.com **404:** Hank Verwoert 03 9783 2718 verwoert@netspace.net.au **Back copies** can be downloaded from <http://worm.rkweb.org>

