

# SNAKESKIN

## *Cobra Car Club of WA Newsletter*

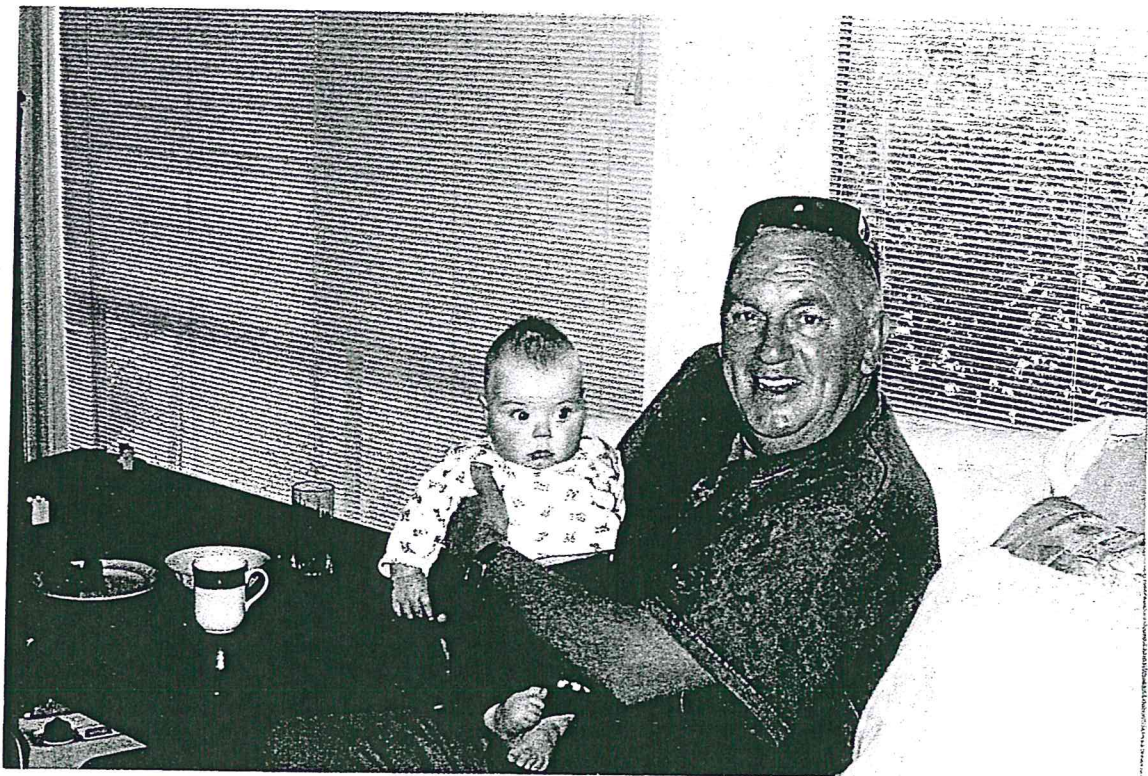
2006 March Edition

Volume 17

**THE 2006 VALENTINES DAY CRUISE**

**THE GRAHAM SACH MEMORIAL CRUISE**

**TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM SACH**



# Up Coming Events

April 9th

Chittering / Bindoon / Toodyay. Meet McDonalds Forrestfield. 8.00am

April 22nd /23rd

Wandering Brook Overnight Meet Ye Old Narrogin Inne 8.00am

April 26th

Club Meeting BBQ 6.30pm

May 13th

Mothers Day Run Breakfast/Lunch at Jarrahdale Meet Deep Water Point 9.00am.

May 24th

Club Meeting 7.30pm

June 11th

York Run Meet McDonalds Forrestfield 8.30am

June 28th

Club Meeting 7.30pm

## *Special Thanks*

Special thanks to Ron Meechin, Harry Mac, John Harper and Rob Keene for their contributions to this months magazine.

Oh and Dave Bennie for his endless supply of funnies to help me out.



## VALE GRAHAM "SPIN" SACH.

With regret we note the passing of one of our foundation members and former club President. Graham Had a hart attack and subsequently deceased on Thursday, March 2nd, 2006.

He became involved with the Cobra Replica scene after the meeting of Cobra owners and drivers on the South Perth foreshore back in 1994, and when Perry Lucas formed a group Graham was seconded as treasurer.

Some time later [1997] when it was decided to form a real club, Graham was elected as the inaugural President, a position he held on three occasions, as well as a term as a Vice President. During these early years our membership was only thirty or so and Graham tried hard to get members more involved in club activities.

With this in mind he devised the concept of the Best Clubman Award, a perpetual trophy to be given to the person voted the club's leading contributor, which continues to this day.

Graham later became involved in manufacturing Cobra chassis units, which after considerable efforts, were certified to Transport Department Specifications.

Although a bit of a Cobra diehard, he had possibly one of the longest uncompleted projects in the club, which he eventually lost interest in, and sold.

In the later years we have not seen so much of him, but his readiness to volunteer in club activities, and club runs, will be missed.

He earned the nickname of "SPIN" on one such autumn club run when deciding he was a bit chilly, reached across under the half tonneau grabbing a acket and pulling it towards him promptly caught the shifter in his British racing green beastie causing it to select reverse gear while belting down the road at 100 kays. This sent him spinning down the road and after completing several dizzying circles he came to rest in the middle of the black stuff unable to believe his luck. After settling his nerves he again caught up with the rest of the group however those present were sure he was riding higher in the seat than previously.

he club extends our sincere condolences to his wife Irene, Natalie, Andrew and Matthew and their families.

## *More thoughts of Graham Sach*

When we met at Graham's funeral I mentioned a funny anecdote concerning our friend and fellow enthusiasts, Graham Sach.

The club had arranged a cruise to have breakfast at the Mandurah Dome at 8.00am followed by a cruise out to Pinjarra and through some back roads ending up heading back to Perth along the South West highway.

Members had arranged to meet at the BP garage at 7.00am and head off at 7.15, sharp. About 7 cobras had turned up while the weather was brisk with a clear sky, and many hungry mouths looking forward to a feast. As you can appreciate, about a 1/2 an hour later we were all pretty hungry and still cruising along the freeway looking forward to the Dome. With Cobras in front, beside and behind the sight of such wonderful cars on the freeway was fantastic while the company of enthusiasts was even better.

Terry Lovell graciously rode shotgun and we both commented how hungry we both were. In fact, I am sure I heard Terry comment to Graham Sach, who was driving his green beast beside ours, that he could eat a horse! All of a sudden Terry asked me if I wanted some chocolate, and produced a kit-kat!

I had not noticed (due to the roar of engines) that Terry and Graham had been 'sharing' chocolates between both cobras on the freeway... I was stunned to think that an accident could have occurred, but from other road users it must have looked very funny to see people passing items between two fantastic cars (driving very slowly) on the freeway.

Graham was a kind man who would always support others.

*Ron Meechin.*



## WHITEMAN PARK & SHOW & SHINE 2006

Well it was Show & Shine time again and it was also the Classic Car Show again—this year our Cobra Car Club combined both events into one and the result was spectacular. The day was forecast to be 36 degrees which is hot, but we still had an excellent turn out of members and their Cobras.

I suppose the event started late Saturday afternoon with Dave and Jessie Kent setting up a home-away-from-home with their mobile home and gazebos—there were also a few members and friends who joined them through the evening to be able to stake out the “Cobra Territory” and protect it till reinforcements arrived in the morning. I believe they had plenty to drink to help keep out the cold night’s chill— although it is March???

Brian and I arrived in his Cobra with Dave Manson following in his “racing Cobra” around 8.30am, there were already 10 or 11 Cobras lined up for display and we promptly joined them. It didn’t take long for about another eight to arrive and fill up our well protected allotted section. Everyone was busy with last minute cleaning and polishing getting ready for the big day—our 2006 Show & Shine. Whitemans Park was packed with all kinds of cars from very old to the very new, all the car clubs had gone to extra lengths to make the displays attractive to all the visitors that would pass by during the day. As I wandered around the show, I noticed there were some excellent displays all set out nicely on the grass amongst the trees and the shade, there were also many little stores and shops set up to cater for the crowd. I bought a couple of nice Cobra hat badges and a few more cloth badges to add to my collection of ‘Cobra stuff’. No matter how many times I toured around the show, I still could not find one display that came close to our “Show & Shine”.

There were a total of 20 Cobras on show, most of them finished in all their fine detail, there were 2 unfinished and one that was a rolling chassis with an engine and gearbox—all of this combined, added to the massive interest in Cobras and the club’s display— so if you missed it—you missed something special. The cars were lined up on both sides in a “V”, angle parked and facing to the centre, coming together near the bus and gazebos, this format gave the visitors plenty of room to inspect all the cars. The display was packed all day with many people coming back 3 or 4 times just to look at the Cobras and ask many questions, along with the dream of having one, mind you, there were also many Cobra experts passing through who could tell the ‘real ones’ from the copies, nevertheless all the people going around the show were there because they like cars, which is very different to the Burswood picnicker’s who were just filling in a bit of time. Combining the two shows was a top call—and the member who proposed the change, to you a big well done and give yourself a pat on the back.



Dave Manson's Racer sporting all the decals, numbers and stripes from a bygone Cobra era



## 2006 SHOW and SHINE

Saturday night I had prepared the numbered windscreen stickers for voting and updated all the display cards so everything was uniform and neat on each car. Saturday afternoon Dave Manson volunteered his car to be turned into a replica race car and together we fitted decals, numbers, stripes and a few humorous touches to get the odd laugh from everyone—and it worked, his car looked a treat and got a lot of attention all day, thanks Dave before being brave and letting me have my way with your Cobra.

The quality in the finish of the Cobras was outstanding and made me feel very proud to be part of the exhibition and I was thinking to myself “Yep!! One day” - hopefully next year.

The judging was carried out by our resident Judge—Terry Lovell...Quote: “A very, very high standard, particularly in the 10 year old class made even more difficult to chose this year as it keeps getting better. One disappointment was an unclean engine bay by Brian Plank.”

This year there were many sections to be judged and prizes to be awarded for the winners of each category—the prizes were arranged by Roy James with many gift packs being sponsored by “Super Cheap” Mandurah —thanks Roy and “Super Cheap” of Mandurah

If you weren't listening!! - it was Roy James and 'SUPER CHEAP' from Mandurah.

Rob Keene was again the designer and selector of our trophies for the main awards—excellent choice again Rob—well done to you. Rob seems to have a hidden talent in the selection of such unique items. Time 3.15pm and it was time to tally votes and the judges sheets to allow our Club President Dave Kent to say a few words to everyone attending and start presenting trophies and prizes. Dave commended and thanked everyone for making the.....

### **'2006 Show & Shine a very special and successful day.'**

#### **The winners of the Supa Cheap gift packs were:**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Best paint over 10 years  | Keith Ennis                              |
| 2. Best paint under 10 years | Chris Reed                               |
| 3. Best interior             | Dick Hogen-Esch                          |
| 4. Best engine bay           | Dave Tadic (all the way from Kalgoorlie) |
| 5. Best under construction   | Graham Dowsett                           |

#### **The big awards went to:**

- |                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Best Cobra over 10 years | Keith Ennis |
| 2. Best Builder             | Roy James   |
| 3. Members Choice           | Ron McNally |

Dave also mentioned in despatches Dave Manson for allowing his car to be tarted up, also to myself for the bits and pieces I did to help the Show & Shine of 2006.

#### **The members who displayed their Cobras:**

Dave Kent	Simon Clemens	Dick Hogen-Esch
Ron McNally	Dave Bennie	Brad Tomlinson
Tony Varis	Rob Keene	Keith Ennis
Craig Costello	Ken Blackwood	Dave Tadic
Ron Meechin	Chris Reed	Joe Craig
Roy James	Dave Manson	Brian Plank
Kim Carter	Graham Dowsett	

**To you all—Well Done and Thank You.**

**Harrymac.**





## Valentines Day 2006

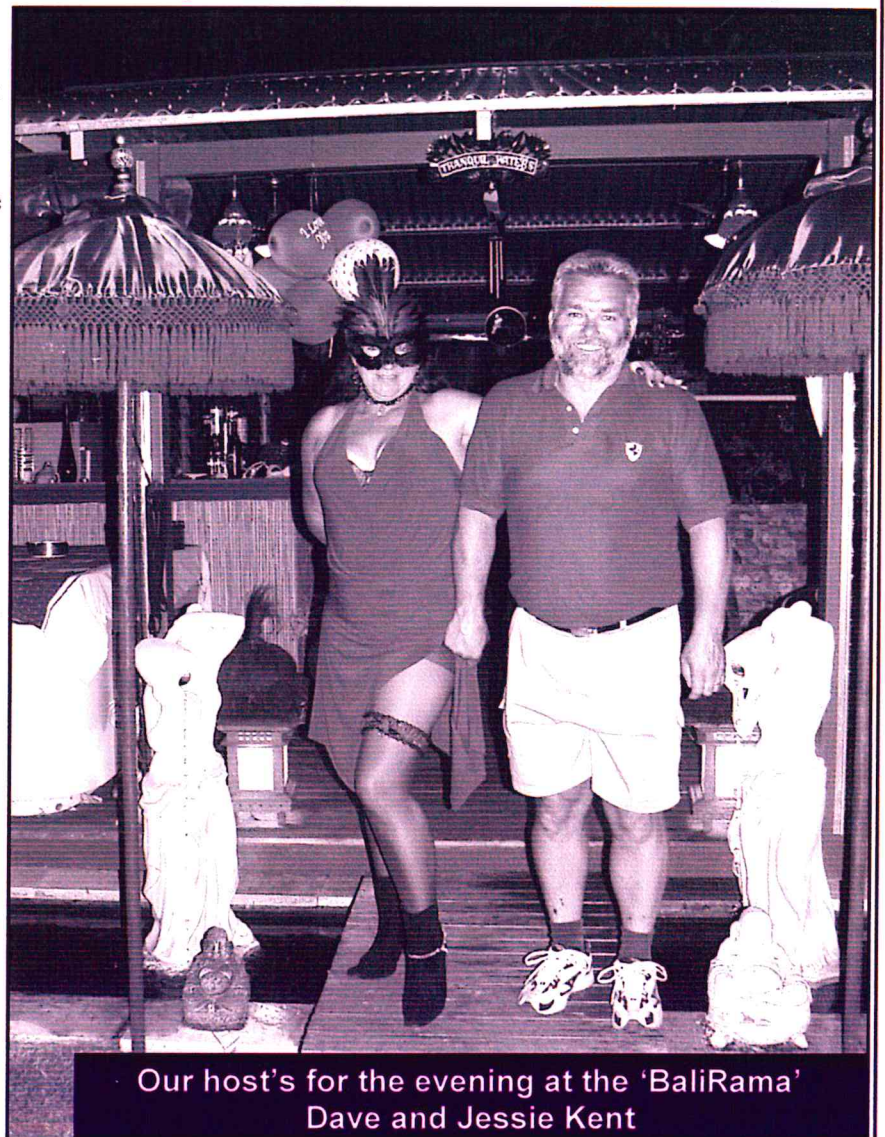


It was that time of the year again when lovers bestow gifts and flowers and chocolates and kisses and a bit of the old “nudge, nudge, wink, wink say no more”, to express their love and affection for each other. It was also time for the Cobra Car Club to have our annual romantic evening cruise with our loved one— to let them know we do think of them on Valentine’s Day and have them join us on a pleasant casual drive around the suburbs to see the sites of our beautiful city Perth, whilst whispering sweet nothings in each others ears and the thoughts of a very passionate and romantic time in the arms of our lover at evening’s end.

Coleen and I arrived at the Fraziers carpark in Kings Park at 6.15pm, there were already 8 Cobras and some sedans lined up, with almost everyone wearing red. Most of the red worn were shirts for the men and blouses or tops for the ladies, there were a few exceptions to the norm, Anne Relf wore a lovely red 2-piece dress and large red feathered hair clip. Jessie Kent wore short red dress, split all the way up to—well, I won’t tell you because if you were there you would know, she also wore black stockings and a red and black lace garter with a small gold heart charm high on her thigh and a very revealing halter neck top and this gorgeous red outfit was topped off with a fancy red feathered boa and black feathered mask. Suzanne Payne also dressed to the nines in a elegantly split red evening dress, with red hat and scarf. Long red gloves, red shoes and all highlighted with diamond necklace, earrings and bracelet ( I think they were diamonds). I only wore a small amount of red, I didn’t want to be showy for this event so I only wore a red tie— hang on!! Let me clarify that before you get the wrong idea, I wore a bright red silk tie with my black shirt and black 3 piece dinner suit minus the coat due to the temperature, Oh!! I also wore shiny red cufflinks and red jocks!!

While we were chatting and laughing about all the red outfits, two more Cobras arrived making a total of 10. The last Cobra carried a lady devil as passenger, complete in a red outfit of slacks and top, bright and shiny red hair , she even had red horns, I thought this was a strange romantic partner for the driver of the Cobra, because believe it or not—the driver was the “Pope” himself in his full flowing red gown with large gold trimmed white cross on front and rear, also wearing his very high red and white pope hat—was a sight to behold and the cause of much laughter amongst all those standing in the carpark—Well done Tony and Pat Varis. To all those who went to the extra effort—well done and thank you for the entertainment.

At 6.35pm Ron McNally held the drivers meeting and gave us directions for the cruise—it was going to be a long one and prior to leaving Pope Tony gave the crowd a blessing as we set out of Kings Park along Stirling Hwy, Riverside Drive, Great Eastern Highway, the Polly Pipe, Mitchell Freeway left at Reid Hwy Balcatta, North Beach Road left at the beach following West Coast Hwy all the way to Fremantle, meet at the War Memorial for a break where the men were given a gift of chocolate and flowers for their ladies. We headed south to Russell Rd, then inland all the way to Armadale and the “Kent BaliRama” - the cruise took us through 11 round-abouts and 43 sets of traffic lights that were also in the red mode most of the time!!, this was cause for the convoy breaking up into about three smaller groups.



Our host's for the evening at the 'BaliRama'  
Dave and Jessie Kent



# COBRA VALENTINE DAY 2006



32 at the Kings Park meeting



Coleen and Harry



Dick and Leonne



Suzanne and Rob



Ron and Nola



Dave & Jessie had done it again—perfect, with a whole lot of new statues, furniture, water features and many more Bali umbrellas to add to all the colour of the evening. I think they took a sea container this time to Bali, because suit cases wouldn't have carried all the new fittings for the BaliRama.

Coleen & I settled in with a couple of drinks then I started to take more photos of the Valentines and chat with some of the members. It wasn't long before the BBQ was fired up and we started to cook our meat, there were many salads on the side and bread rolls to go with the meal, this was followed by some fine desserts which I did enjoy—lots!!! Thanks Jessie. I also sampled a couple of Dave Bennie's special rissoles and they were excellent—just like Mum used to make in the olden days. Well, after a few more drinks, photos and laughing at something or someone, Coleen told me it was time to go, to which I said "You must be joking, we've only just got here" but it was 11pm and time just went so fast, I had only just settled and was about to start relaxing but it was time to go. With such a long run we didn't get to the Kent's till around 9pm, so by the time the men got drinks for their Valentines, then cooked the meal for their Valentines and looked after their Valentine's all night—it was all over. Valentine's Day next year should be for the men—modern women have turned this event around to be just for women—it is supposed to be for both sexes, however it seems the women expect it to be all for them. So!! Next year we will dispense with the chocolates and the flowers and the pampering—the women can do it for us men—their 'Valentines' - a few gifts suggestions would be spanners or sockets or perhaps some much needed car part for them to show their love!! Oh! By the way—don't tell the ladies it was my idea!!

The Valentine's Day dress up award went to "His Holiness" Pope Tony Varis" and his "Horny Devil" - Pat Varis—very well deserved and well done to you both again.

Me thinks we should buy our esteemed host Dave Kent a new red shirt for these occasions, because did you noticed he was wearing the same red shirt last year. Now, I don't know if he wears it just to stir up trouble with all the Cobra club members or maybe he hasn't yet noticed — "It's a bloody Ferrari shirt".

As I write this I reflect upon an anonymous letter read to the club at the February meeting.

It was from a disgruntled group who attended the Valentines Day Cruise. Complaints about length of the run, the break-up of the convoy, the lack of toilet breaks every half hour and regular stopping points to let the convoy catch up and re-group, also the problem of people getting sore backs from being in a car for so long a period. I believe the target of the complaint was our hard working Secretary/Club Captain Ron Mac. Ron has taken on the dual role in the club because nobody else wanted the job of Captain or Secretary. Ron has broad shoulders and if you didn't like a certain run or cruise, he's the sort of bloke you can tell him to his face and I feel sure of what his response would be—he would actually apologise to you and promise to make your next run better, but to put pen to paper, make it official and anonymous is a bit harsh. You cannot expect every run to please everybody—at best you will probably only please about 60%. Possibly next time your group get together, it is after a run you have enjoyed and you could again put pen to paper and congratulate the Captain for such a good job. Perhaps you could also get together and put forward one of your group as a nominee for Club Captain at our next election, after all—"its an easy job". If not, I believe the "Mother of pearl, four hole shirt button collectors club" are looking for members. I will keep it short, as I'm sure you don't want me to go on and on and on again.

Coleen & I thoroughly enjoyed the night and the company - however, I have a suggestion for next year's Valentine Day Cruise—we all meet a Pioneer World Armadale start the cruise around 6.30pm, we could cruise to the Armadale War Memorial give the ladies their chocolate and flower, followed by a cruise to the Armadale Tavern for some beer and wine, then cruise straight to the Kent 'BaliRama' down the road and .....

**"Lets Party!!"**

Harry McClymans

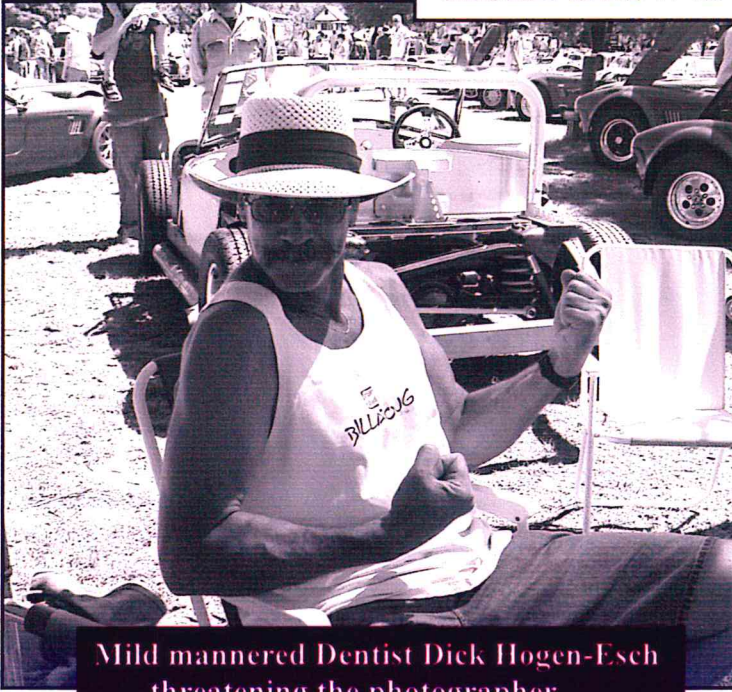
*( The opinion expressed is personal and not an opinion of the club or committee )*



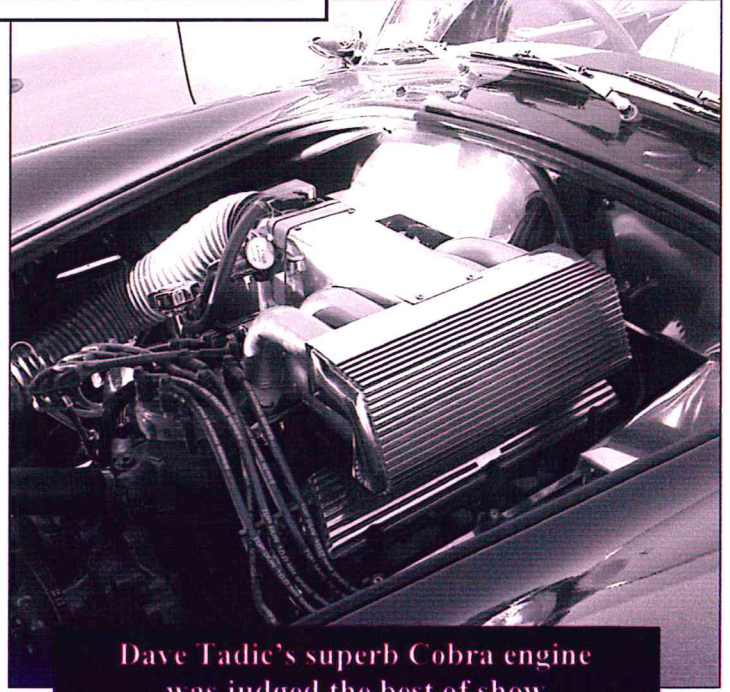
**Tony and Pat Varis arriving in the blue 'Pope mobile'**



**MORE SHOW & SHINE MEMORIES**



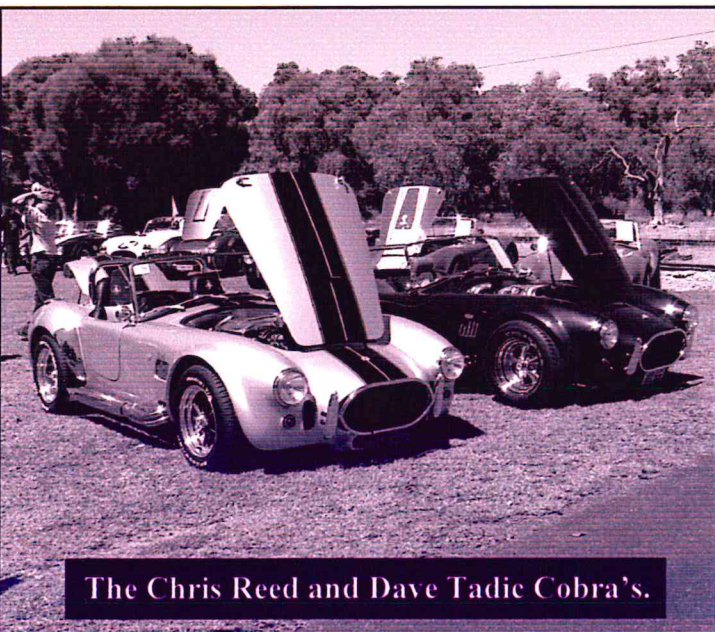
Mild mannered Dentist Dick Hogen-Esch threatening the photographer.



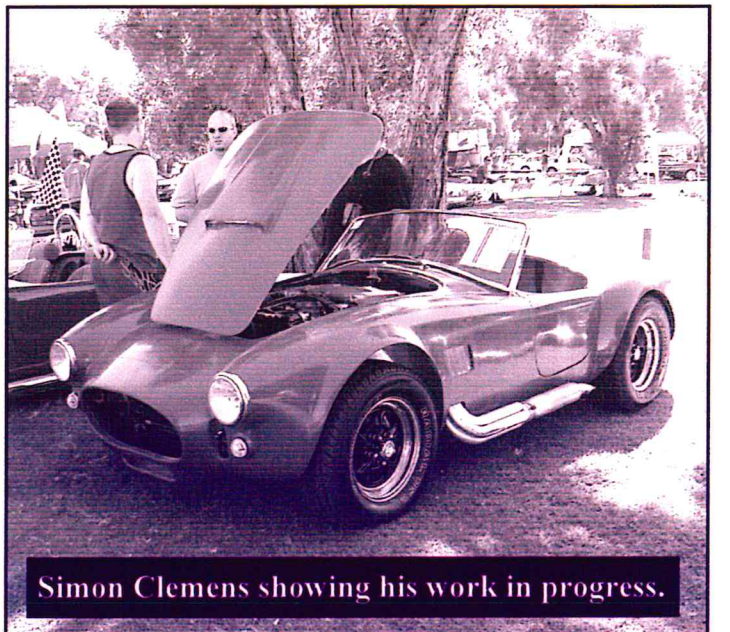
Dave Tadic's superb Cobra engine was judged the best of show.



Sunday at the Show and Shine.



The Chris Reed and Dave Tadic Cobra's.



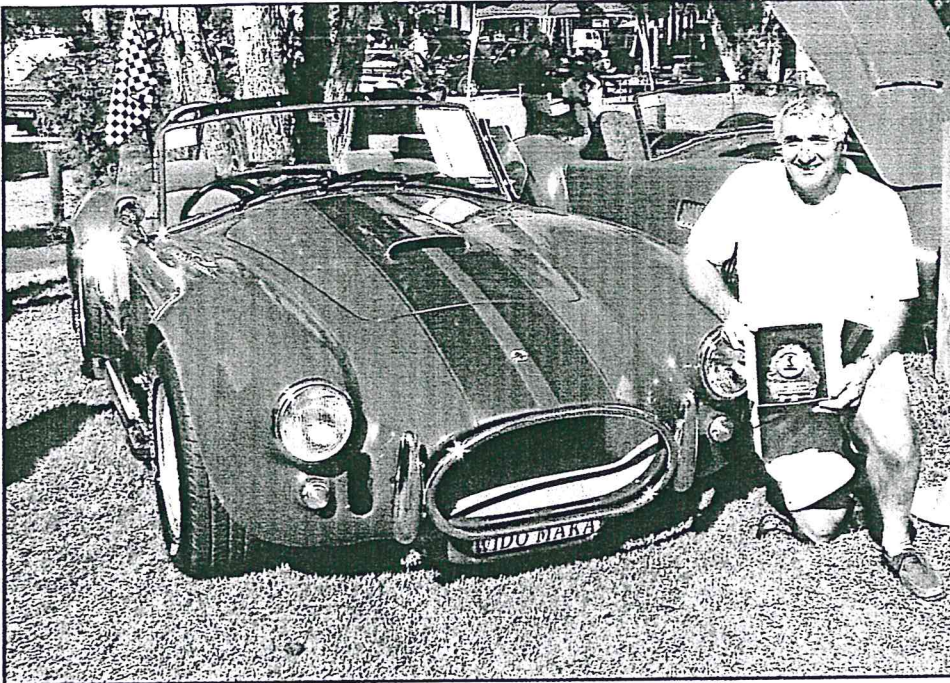
Simon Clemens showing his work in progress.



**SHOW & SHINE WINNERS**

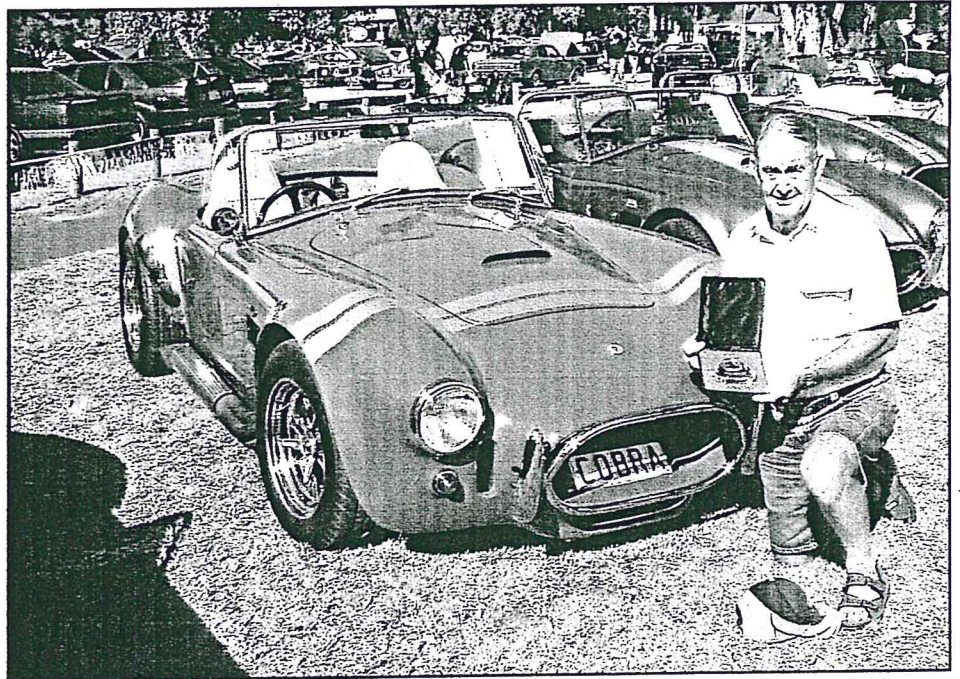
**MEMBERS CHOICE  
AWARD**

**Ron McNally  
1st**



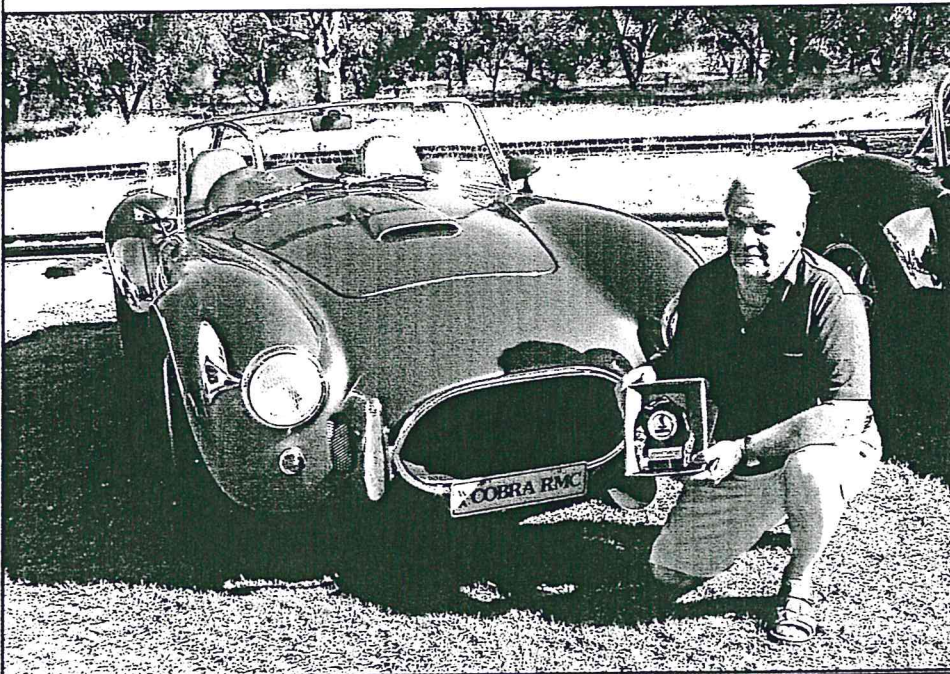
**JUDGED BEST  
COBRA OVER 10 YRS**

**Keith Ennis  
1st**



**JUDGED BEST  
COBRA BUILDER**

**Roy James  
1st**





## March 11th Run

### The Graham Sach Memorial Cruise

As news got round of the loss a very good club member and friend I started to get emails from club members saying how sad they were and that maybe we should have a club run in memory of Graham, so we have named the March run "The Graham Sach Memorial Cruise". Every year from now on the March event will be "The Graham Sach Memorial Cruise" and we invite you to come along to future cruises to honour a hard working founder of our club.

The plan was to meet at Deep water point at 5.30pm. I got there at around 5.00pm, with my niece Chelsea, as Dave was away working in Geraldton. When I came around the bend I saw Ron and Nola sitting on the lawn, Ron just looked at me with a big smile on his face and said "that is not a Cobra" and I said "I know it is still in the shed as Dave is away". Ron proceeded to inform me that was now excuse. Anyway he just teased me saying it was not good that the President's car was not on the road. I was saved by the sound of a Cobra. It was Rob Keene, he had come along just to say hi and pick up a pass for the car show. Shortly after the others started to roll in and we ended up with 6 Cobras and my Mini.

So off we went headed to the Freeway to Berrigan Dve on to Jandakot Rd, Warton Rd, Nicholson Rd, King Rd, Mundijong Rd and Safety Bay Rd to the beach front at Rockingham only to find that they had a live band on the water front and the place was packed so we found a car park down the road. Ron suggested that we go off to get our take away and then come back to the car park and eat under one of the gazebos. So we left Nola and Pat to look after the gazebo and we went in search of our dinner. That was fun as we could not find parking anywhere however we all managed to get our dinner and headed back to the car park to Nola and Pat. We all got stuck into our various dinners, there was chicken treat, fish and chips, mussels and all sorts of other delicacies which were all enjoyed. It was a good night as we could hear the music from where we were so we had entertainment as well. As my niece and I sipped on a nice hot cup of coffee some of the girls remarked to their men how come they did not get a hot drink as it was a bit cold and that would have warmed them up. Unfortunately the poor men did not see the sign I saw that said coffee to go. After we had all finished dinner we just sat and talked. It was a good to see some new couple's turn up, we had Ron and Nola, Tony and Pat, Alan and Ronnie, Craig and Lara, Paul & partner, Dave and Frank and Chelsea & myself. The subject of the car show came up and that was it, Ron got stuck into me again. He said "so Jess will your car be driven to the show or will it be on a trailer" and I said "driving of course Ron" He said "I bet you it will be on a trailer"



All in all we had a good run with good company and good food, what more could you want. I know Ron a Cobra to drive ha ha. Thanks everyone for making the Graham Sach Memorial Cruise such a memorable run. Lets see if next year we can make the Graham Sach Memorial Cruise a big one for Graham, he will be greatly missed by all as he was a good man who went out of his way to make the club what it is today, and he would always put his hand up if we needed a volunteer. When Dave and I first joined the club Graham was one of the first things I remember and how he greeted us with that big warm smile and that bubbly personality. He was full of ideas for the club and how we could all make it more fun. When we went on runs he was always up for a conversation if you had a problem He would be there to help you out.

**PROUD GRANDAD GRAHAM WITH ONE OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN**