

# LAND ROVER OWNERS' CLUB

OF GIPPSLAND

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



**GIPPSLAND LAND ROVER**

5535 PRINCES HIGHWAY, TRARALGON (03) 51721100

**GIPPSLAND'S HOME OF LAND ROVER**

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## Lucas the Prince of Darkness

The Lucas motto: "Get home before dark."  
 Lucas is the patent holder for the short circuit.  
 Lucas - Inventor of the first intermittent wiper.  
 Lucas - Inventor of the self-dimming head-lamp.  
 The three position Lucas switch - Dim, Flicker and Off.  
 The Original Anti-Theft Device - Lucas Electrics.  
 Lucas is an acronym for Loose Unsoldered Connections and Splices  
 Lucas systems actually uses AC current; it just has a random frequency.  
 "I have had a Lucas pacemaker for years and have never had any trou..."  
 If Lucas made guns, wars would not start.  
 A friend of mine told everybody he never had any electric problems with his Lucas equipment. Today he lives in the countryside, in a large manor with lots of friendly servants around him and an occasional ice cold shower...

Back in the 70's, Lucas decided to diversify its product line and began manufacturing vacuum cleaners. It was the only product they offered which did not suck.

Q: Why do the British drink warm beer? A: Because Lucas makes their refrigerators

Alexander Graham Bell invented the Telephone. Thomas Edison invented the Light Bulb. Joseph Lucas invented the Short Circuit.

Recommended procedure before taking on a repair of Lucas equipment: Check the position of the stars, kill a chicken and walk three times clockwise around your car chanting: "Oh mighty Prince of Darkness protect your unworthy servant.."

## This month's cover; David Murray and family find snow in their Perentie at Mt Useful on April 11

### Land Rover Owners Club of Gippsland 2020-- 2021 Committee

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Webmaster	Alan Harlow	0419 530 117
Life Member's	Ray Massaro, Greg & Lois Rose.	

## Presidents Report

There is no Presidents Report this month, as our President is AWOL. Somewhere in the Simpson Desert.....



During his lifetime well known Qld trucking pioneer Eric Ballard drove just about every make of truck to every outback destination. Eric drove this Federal for Outback Transport on the Kimberley, Alice Springs, Darwin, Mt Isa run in the late 1950s, early 1960s.

Did you hear the one about the guy that peeked into a Land Rover and asked the owner "How can you tell one switch from another at night? They all look the same." - "He replied, "It does not matter which one you use, nothing happens !"

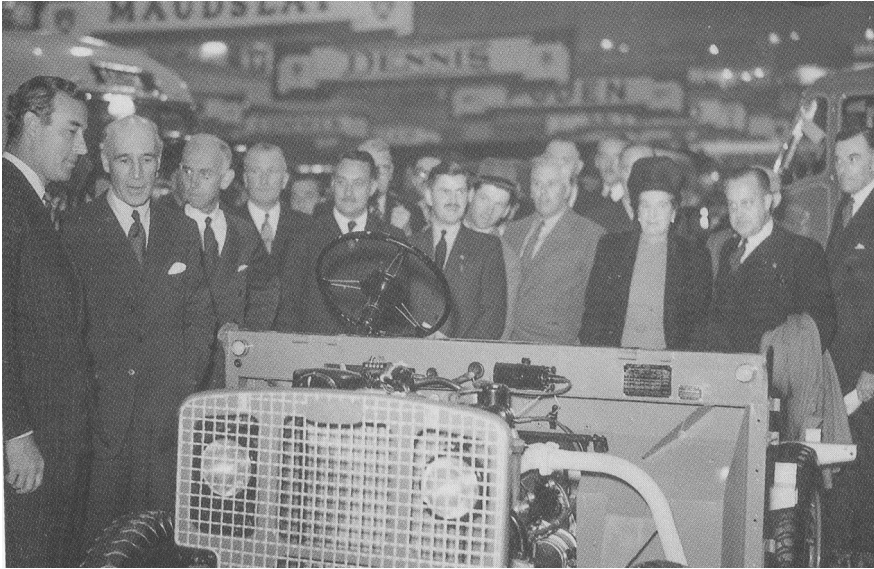


**WHAT, You rebuilt it without an Engineer's Report**



## Happy Birthday Land Rover

On April 30 1948, the Land Rover was shown to the public for the first time at the Amsterdam Motor Show.



On October the 1st 1948 at the first annual commercial vehicle transport exhibition at Earl's Court, London, Lord Louis Mountbatten is seen inspecting the engine of a "Rover-Jeep"

From the State Library of Victoria come these pictures of an early 80" Land Rover fitted with a PTO driven hay mower. The pictures were taken in the Alexandra district by Lindsay G. Cumming. <https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE1250024&mode=browse>



Pre-production L 09 at the Amsterdam Motor Show 30-4-1948



3DB announcer Don Kinsey back from a month-long trip through the outback to Darwin by Land Rover in 1963



## Jaguar Land Rover worker stole £82,000 in parts to support grieving family

He sold them on in a pub. A Jaguar Land Rover employee stole £82,000 worth of car parts to support his grieving family. Considered to be a 'loyal' servant of the car manufacturer, Patrick McCusker worked there for 17 years. But the 51-year-old stole more than 150 rear reversing cameras, which he sold on to a person in a pub for £20 each, reports BirminghamLive. Birmingham Crown Court heard that McCusker had been impacted by the recent death of his brother. He took on the financial responsibilities of his brother's family, including buying Christmas presents for his nieces and nephews. The thefts were also driven by his spiralling alcohol and gambling addictions, which he had turned to as coping mechanisms. Judge Sarah Buckingham described the case as 'tragic' and sentenced McCusker, of Rylstone Road, Quinton, Birmingham, to six and a half months in prison suspended for two years. He had pleaded guilty to a charge of theft by employee at a previous court hearing. McCusker was employed as a parts counter on the production line by DHL, which was sub-contracted by JLR. His thefts came to light on November 24 last year.

Prosecutor Andrew Tucker said: "It was noticed by staff at JLR that company property was going missing, in particular some rear car reversing cameras. The following day Mr McCusker was seen by members of management putting cameras in his pocket. "He was confronted and he admitted possession of 18 cameras he had on him at the time. He said it was a one-off to support his family. He was arrested and told police he wanted to provide his brother's children with Christmas presents."

Mr Tucker added: "He also had drinking and gambling problems. A man in a pub offered him £20 per camera that was stolen." Police raided McCusker's home and found a cardboard box which contained 161 cameras and a further 51 other car parts. All of the items were worth £11,000 to JLR, with an estimated value of £57,000 if sold to a dealer or £82,000 if purchased by the public. The court heard McCusker had previous offences for theft including stealing post whilst working for Royal Mail at a much younger age. Olivia Beesley, defending, stated he was 'remorseful' and that last November was a 'period of his life where mistakes were made'. "Up until this point he was a loyal employee, he's ashamed of his actions and ashamed of betraying his job, a job he came to love," she said. Ms Beesley stated McCusker was very close with his brother and initially sought counselling after his death before turning to drink and gambling 'as a form of self medication'.

She added: "He wanted to be financially supportive for the family down to the detail that they had Christmas presents. He knows this is a poor example for them and he's possibly done more to hinder them than help them. He is held in high regard by his friends and even his manager."

Judge Buckingham said: "In this tragic case you have shown genuine remorse and the consequences are going to follow you. At the age of 51 you are finding it hard to get work and you are doing everything to put things right. "There's nothing to be gained by imposing what would inevitably be a relatively short prison sentence. It is better that it is hanging over your head as a warning." McCusker must carry out 30 days of rehabilitation activity and complete 100 hours of unpaid work.



## UK output rises nearly 50% in March after COVID-19 hit rebound

Production still remains below average, industry group says. British car production rose by 47 percent in March compared to the same time last year when factories halted output midway through due to the coronavirus pandemic. Volumes stood at 115,498 cars last month, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). "Output was always going to be up but it remains below average, with some 11 billion pounds (\$15 billion) worth of production lost over the past year," SMMT CEO Mike Hawes said.

The sector also faces the challenge of a lack of semi-conductor chips and adjusting to new trading terms between Britain and its biggest export market, the European Union, the SMMT said. Automakers with production in the UK include Nissan, Toyota, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW's Mini brand.

In an SMMT members' survey, 91 percent said they were spending more time and resources managing UK/EU trade than in 2020. Six in ten large companies see the recovery from COVID-19 taking a minimum of six months while a third of those anticipate at least 2 years. "Companies are already having to absorb additional costs arising from our new trading arrangements with the EU, but must also invest in new technologies, new processes and upskilling the workforce," Hawes said.

## Prince William and Kate's Luxury Range Rover Is Going Up for Auction

If you've ever wanted to drive around like a royal, now is your chance, as Prince William and Kate Middleton's former Range Rover is being auctioned off by Bonhams next month.

The luxury 4x4 was originally given brand-new to the Royal Household in 2013, courtesy of Land Rover's VIP Department. It was then provided to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who used the SE Vogue model Range Rover as one of their personal cars.

The car was subsequently sold to a private owner in July 2020. The L405 Range Rover only has 38,420 miles on it, and according to the auction house, is in "excellent condition and drives very well." The car also comes with its full service history. The Cambridges' former Range Rover is just as



fancy as you'd expect of a car deemed worthy of royal use; it has a Baltic blue exterior and almond and espresso leather interior, per the release by Bonhams. It also has all the luxe add-ons you can imagine, including 20-inch alloy wheels, auto high beam assist and advanced park assist, as well as heated front and back seats, a panoramic glass roof and side steps. While cars used by the Royal Household usually have the vehicle registration numbers changed after they've been used by the family, this one is "a rare exception," per Bonhams.

All of the royals are long time fans of the British luxury car company; the late Prince Philip truly adored his Land Rovers, and before he passed away, even commissioned a custom-made Land Rover to carry his coffin at his funeral.

If you're interested in scooping up Prince William and Kate's erstwhile Range Rover, it'll cost you—the car is reportedly expected to sell for between \$42,000 and \$56,000 when it's auctioned off by Bonhams in Oxfordshire, England on May 22.

### **Meet the teenaged Indian girl who drives a 50 year-old vintage Land Rover**

Land Rover recently re-introduced the Defender in global markets including India and it has gained some major popularity. The Land Rover Series, the first off-road-spec from the British brand is an iconic vehicle and it has been around for decades. The first Land Rover Series 1 has launched over 70 years ago. They became a pioneer in off-roading and ruggedness. While there are not many working examples of the Land Rover Series 1 present in India, there is one that is driven by a young teenager.

This is a Land Rover Series 1 and it is one of the oldest models from the British luxury car manufacturer. A teenage girl has been using this vehicle for a long time now. We are not sure if the girl has a valid driving license but since she is not taking the vehicle to public roads, it is not illegal. Anyone can drive a vehicle without a driving license, however, it should be done on private properties like a race track or a farmhouse.

This vehicle is not in its prime condition. There are a few places where the rust is eating away the body of this vehicle. Rust can be a silent danger to your vehicle and it makes the body very weak and ruins it forever. Also, this does not get powered by the original engine. The Land Rover Series 1 is powered by a diesel engine from Mahindra Bolero. The original Series 1 only came with gasoline engine options. That is why this vehicle sounds so different from the original Series 1 in stock condition.



In India, the Land Rover Series I and the Defenders are very popular in the North-East part of the country and Darjeeling, West Bengal. Locals who own the old Land Rovers use it to earn money by plying them as cabs. However, the number of such vehicles has come down drastically in recent times. It is mostly due to the maintenance and the lack of spare parts of these vehicles. Probably that's why the Land Rover Series I above is powered by a Bolero diesel engine. However, there are still many who have the original stock vehicle in pristine condition in India

### **Here's Why The Land Rover Defender Won the 2021 Design Of The Year Award**

At this year's World Car Awards, the modern incarnation of the legendary Defender received the trophy for the best design of 2021. Considering the competition, it's a well-deserved honour for one of the most versatile SUVs on the market.

The World Car Awards can be considered the automotive version of the Oscars in terms of prestige. Every year, a jury comprised of 82 international automotive journalists from 24 countries get together and hand out several prizes, the most coveted of which is, of course, World Car of the Year.

This year that title went to Volkswagen's ID.4 while the Porsche 911 Turbo was crowned the best performance car. The trophy for the best urban car went to the Honda e, and the one for the luxury car of the year was lifted by Mercedes-Benz for its 2021 S-Class.

A fifth prize was handed out for the best design to the Land Rover Defender, which triumphed over the Honda e, Mazda MX-30, Polestar 2, and Porsche 911 Turbo. This award doesn't just go to the prettiest vehicle but recognizes those that are practical, versatile, and demonstrate the highest standards of technical innovation as well as design. The judges ruled in favour of the British SUV, signalling out its gorgeous design, on- and off-road capabilities, along with its customer





appeal.

Visually, the Defender's distinctive shape makes it instantly recognizable and appreciated by everyone. The exterior is a beautiful reinterpretation of its long-running predecessor that blends a retro-futuristic style with practical elements like the side-hinged rear tailgate and externally mounted spare wheel. The interior emphasizes simplicity and practicality without compromising overall refinement. Five-door 110 models offer 5, 6, or 5+2 seating configurations, while three-door 90s provide room for 6 occupants in a vehicle the length of a compact family hatchback. Moreover, structural elements and fixings usually hidden



from view have been purposefully exposed, paying homage to the original Defender. However, the most fitting tribute to the legendary 4x4 is its modern counterpart's off-road capabilities. The minimal overhangs provide excellent approach and departure angles, while the stiff D7x aluminum platform, along with the advanced all-terrain tech and state-of-the-art 4WD powertrains, ensure that the new SUV lives up to its name. Entry-level 90 models with coil springs have a ground clearance of 8.9 inches (226 mm), while the 90 and 110 with air suspension have a maximum ground clearance of 11.5 inches (291 mm). While these traits make it a dependable off-roader, the vehicle also provides a comfortable ride and smooth handling on paved roads. Depending on the market, it comes with a wide range of diesel and gas-powered engine choices, including a 518-hp supercharged V8. Additionally, those who want a more efficient and environmentally friendly version can go for a mild or plug-in hybrid variant. All these characteristics make the new Defender very appealing for those who want an elegant and capable SUV. Since its launch at the 2019 Frankfurt Motor Show, it has been met with universal acclaim by both the public and the automotive press. While the shortlist for the design of the year award featured some excellent vehicles, we can all agree that none of those are as well-rounded as the Land Rover Defender, which deservedly earned the prize.

### **Volkswagen warns on production as global chip shortage hits car firms**

Volkswagen is the latest company that has warned on the impact of semiconductor chip shortages on the car industry. The German automaker expects the global chip shortage to reduce production of vehicles in its main car brand in the coming months, but output at its electric car division is not expected to be affected.

Ralf Brandstaetter, CEO of Volkswagen said he thinks the "situation will remain tense." A fire at a factory operated by automotive chip maker Renesas Electronics and the Texas snowstorms have also hurt factory production, idling output, he added. Brandstaetter added the impact from the combination of factors could last for a few months and plans to make up for lost output as far as possible throughout the course of 2021. Global car firms have been struggling with chip shortages as the COVID pandemic led to increased demand in other markets such as smartphones and other consumer electronics.

The shortage is expected to last for some time as it can take up to two years to get semiconductor production factories up and running. Chips are also not easy to make, with advanced semiconductors taking up to six months to produce.

The world's largest chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing (TSM) dampened any hopes of the issues letting up soon by saying that the shortage could continue into 2022. TSM said it plans to invest \$100bn (£72.4m) over the next three years to increase capacity at its plants.

It joins a string of car companies that have halted production at car factories due to the computer chip shortage. Last week, BMW-owned Mini announced it would halt production for six days as it waits for more supplies. Jaguar Land Rover, the UK's largest car manufacturer, was plunged into fresh crisis as the shortage caused it to temporarily shut down production at two of its main plants. In April, Nissan announced that it would furlough around 10% or 800 employees at its UK plant in Sunderland amid the supply chain issues. The Japanese carmaker has asked affected workers to remain on furlough until the chip shortage lets up and production can be increased. The company also announced it is planning to halt production at some of its factories in Japan from next month.

Other carmakers have made similar moves. Last month, US car company Ford announced that it will cut car production due to the global chip shortage and said profits could be hit by \$1bn.

Renault and Honda also flagged similar plans, with the latter previously pausing production at its Swindon plant. General Motors warned that it could face a \$2bn profit hit.

The situation has been made worse as car companies are competing with technology companies, who have also experienced delays and shortages for the chips. The semiconductors are used by a range of computer companies such as Microsoft and Sony, the makers of the Xbox and PlayStation games consoles, as well manufacturers like Samsung which makes phones, TVs and refrigerators. Samsung's co-chief executive, Koh Dong-jin, who also heads its mobile business unit, said last month that there is a "serious imbalance" in the pecking order of who is getting the limited supplies of chips.

Last year Apple, the world's biggest buyer of semiconductors, was forced to delay the launch of the much-hyped iPhone 12 by two months due to the shortage.



## Why did Prince Philip's Land Rover carry his casket? The story behind the strange hearse

Those who tuned in for Prince Philip's funeral on Saturday may have noticed that the Duke of Edinburgh's casket wasn't carried to St. George's Chapel in a typical hearse. That's because the 99-year-old royal, who reportedly didn't want a fuss made over his funeral, requested his casket be carried in a vehicle more personal to him: "Just stick me in the back of a Land Rover and drive me to Windsor," Prince Philip reportedly quipped about his funeral arrangements.

The duke got his wish. His coffin, adorned with his naval cap, sword, a flag representative of his Greek and Danish heritage, and a spray of flowers chosen by the queen, was carried by eight Grenadier guards dressed in red. The guards hoisted and fastened Prince Philip's casket onto the back of the customized Land Rover. The Land Rover drove the decorated casket out of the Windsor Castle quadrangle with a procession of family members following close behind on foot.

Once the Land Rover made it to St. George's Chapel, eight uniformed pallbearers unhitched the coffin and carried it up the steps of the church.

According to Buckingham Palace, the duke picked out the Land Rover Defender TD5 130 that would bear his coffin 18 years ago and designed the chassis cab vehicle to his specifications. These included adding an open top rear section to carry his coffin and having the original Belize green colour repainted dark bronze green – a colour used for military Land Rovers and a nod to the prince's military background. The palace noted that Land Rover has maintained the vehicle since it was built in the company's factory in Solihull, England, in 2003 and collaborated with the royal household to prepare it for the funeral. The vehicle underwent its final changes in 2019.

The Land Rover is a sharp contrast to the hearses that have carried caskets at past funerals for royal family members. But British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the Land Rover, with its "unique and idiosyncratic silhouette," perfectly sums up the kind of person Prince Philip was. "He was above all a practical man, who could take something very traditional, whether a machine or indeed a great national institution, and find a way by his own ingenuity to improve it, to adapt it for the 20th and the 21st century," Johnson said.

American royal biographer Sally Bedell Smith called the Land Rover a "stroke of genius." "It is so much in his character that he would devise this," she told USA TODAY.

According to Buckingham Palace, the duke had a decades-long affinity for Land Rovers, using them throughout his adult life and granting a royal warrant – a mark of recognition to people and companies who regularly provide goods and services to the royal family – to the company 40 years ago.

The palace added that Prince Philip made several visits to the company's manufacturing facilities and accompanied the queen when she opened the company's engine manufacturing centre in Wolverhampton, England, in 2014.

In 2016, The Guardian reported that the duke hopped behind the wheel of a Land Rover to chauffeur then-President and first lady Barack and Michelle Obama, as well as the queen, to lunch at Windsor Castle.

"We are deeply privileged to have enjoyed a very long and happy association with The Duke of Edinburgh over many decades," Thierry Bolloré, Jaguar Land Rover's chief executive, said in a Buckingham Palace news release, adding that the duke would engage with hundreds of Land Rover employees during his visits. "The Duke was a truly remarkable man and will be greatly missed," Bolloré said.

Prince Philip's passion for Land Rovers was well known among his fans. Someone even paid respects to the duke after he died on April 9 by leaving a model version of a Land Rover outside the palace as a message of condolence.

