

# Grumpy old man

Well, not really. Dave Parsons Snr has done quite a bit in his time in Braidwood. Looking after grumpy old men is just part of it.

Dave told Lyn Cram how it all came about

One day I was talking to Phil at Shoemarks and told him we were looking for a house. We just waited and four or five months later Phil knocked on the door one day, he said, "You still want to buy a house?" I said, "Yeah. What have you got?" He said, "I'll show you."

He brought me round and it was the one we're in now in Solus Street.

When we moved here I'd finished work basically, although I did a few odd jobs around the place. Then my son moved here from Bundanoon with his wife Judy and they opened the Eureka pizza shop.

That was twenty years ago. I remember the night they opened; we were in Goulburn. He rang up and said, "We need help." We got down there asap — I've never seen so many orders for pizzas. They were all round the wall.

Penny Shoemark was in the back kitchen washing up. There were people everywhere helping.

He ran it for quite a while, very popular, but now he's a builder. He's just finished the doctor's new surgery.

## The model car shop

Then my other son Daniel started his car model business. Many people said he wouldn't do any good when he moved into the shop down near the laundromat on Lascelles Street.

Daniel left school at fourteen, school and him just didn't work. Now, I'd put him in the really smart category. He runs his business better than I have run any of mine. With the computers he's got, he knows every piece of stock. A lot of his business is on the internet. He's got a really good website. He's top of the page on Google, which is good.

## Braidwood Motor Club

A few years ago I was talking to a friend who wanted to join the local car club, but his vehicle wasn't eligible.

We were talking one night over dinner with Carol and Daniel and Carol said, "Why don't you start your own club?" So we thought about and I said, "Okay, we'll do it." I put a note in the paper: 'Expressions of Interest, Meeting on Thursday night.'

We had twenty-one people front up at the club, and twenty put their money down on the night. That's how the Braidwood Motor Club started. We now have over sixty members.

The BMC runs an outing on the second Sunday of each month. Our meeting night at the Services Club is on the first Thursday of the month.

We often run to pubs, Majors Creek, Tarago — not always to pubs but they're always good for lunch. We went to Mogo Zoo last outing.

We've started now doing a midweek run for people who can't come on a weekend. The midweek session varies. It could be on a Monday, it could be a Wednesday, it could be Friday. It rotates so it gives everyone a chance to have a run.

Under the new RMS rules for historic vehicles you can now, providing the



A LINE-UP OF SOME OF THE 'BRITISH CHAPTER' OF THE BRAIDWOOD MOTOR CLUB, (BELOW) DAVE, DOG AND AUSTIN 1800.



club's joined up to this new system, drive for sixty days per year for any reason whatsoever, as long as it's recreational and you keep a logbook. On top of that you can use it on your club days.

But of course members can come on outings in anything, even in your brand new car. Come along if you're social and you enjoy motoring. It helps if you enjoy talking rubbish about cars.

## ... and another thing

I find a lot of people, I might get into trouble for saying this, but they always want to have a conflict about something that needs to be done in town. There are letters in the paper about weed spraying, "You shouldn't be doing it."

You know, they want a bypass. At seven o'clock at night out here you could lie in the middle of the road and nobody will run you over. Then there are complaints about the pedestrian crossings, about lost car parking space. But if the owners of the business or their workers didn't park in the main street, there would be more places for visitors to park.

Get over all the worrying — just move on. I think Braidwood is a lovely, lovely little town really.

DAVE AND DANIEL INSIDE THE CAR MODELS OF BRAIDWOOD SHOP.



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## Grumpy Old Men

Something else I started off was the Grumpy Old Men's Lunch. That came about because I think women are so good at networking. But men too need to be able to have people to feel comfortable talking to. We all have problems in life as well as good things. I think it's a wonderful thing to have a networking group of men now that can come and have a bit of a yarn.

We started in 2011. I rang a few fellas up and said, "Do you fancy lunch at the club on Wednesday?" We started with about ten blokes. We expanded and we've had up to twenty but of course it doesn't suit everyone.

The GOM lunch is on the second Wednesday of every month at the Services Club. It costs \$20. We have a Chinese smorgasbord most of the time, the banquet. If a bloke can come and have a drink and talk rubbish for two hours, he'll get on very well. It's not necessarily for old fellas. I know we call it Grumpy Old Men's Lunch, but not many of them are grumpy. We do, however, solve all the problems of the shire, the state, and the government — but nobody takes any notice of what we say.

It's good if some of the guys have problems, health problems, which they do because we can give them a ring and see how they're going.

A few of the guys have lost their partners, so they're on



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