

# John Hutchinson

1938 - 2008

Member of, The Victorian Clubman Builders Group

My first contact with John was by e-mail when he started the build on his car. Some time later, he indicated that he and some mates were riding from the Mornington Peninsula to the Flinders Ranges and would like to meet up with some Clubbie builders on the way back through Adelaide. Well, we accommodated them with a great drive one Saturday morning through the Adelaide hills. It turned out it was his first ride in a Clubbie and the grin was a mile wide the whole morning. At the end of the drive we sat down to a big breakfast in Stirling and swapped yarns about Bikes and Clubbie building. We kept in touch, and he and his partner Christine made it to Bright for the 2005 Roundup and then came over to Adelaide last year for the Clubman Nationals.



From time to time John had spoken of the deadly disease that had got hold of him, and at the time of the Flinders trip, he considered the sickness to be in remission. He was certainly very positive in his thoughts and all the time I knew him I never saw him any different in his outlook.

John had started a Blog about his build of the "Cancer 7" and over the next 2-2 ½ years he concentrated on the build and discussed the various stages of building your own car from scratch. This was a very frustrating time for him as his strength was continually whittled away to the point where he could only manage a couple of hours on the car each day.

He regularly brought me up to date with the build and I remember the great excitement when he started the engine for the first time. On an earlier visit to his shed he had proudly shown me over the rolling chassis and assorted body panels in the process of being finished and fitted. Even at that stage his craftsmanship and the quality of his build and stood out.



In June this year, I visited John and Christine to be very proudly shown over the finished car. And what a car! It's magnificent! The quality of the finish just jumps out at you and there was this light in his eyes that gave away how delighted he was to be able to show off the completed vehicle. We had a long chat over some hours, including lunch, and then he took great delight in showing me over the shed again and reminiscing on where the build was when I had last been there.

Unfortunately Johns health had deteriorated to the point where he was no longer allowed to drive and he only got to drive the car once, although Christine, and his friend Chris who helped him to finish off the car, made sure he got out in it as many times as his illness allowed.



John passed away peacefully on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008. He was one of nature's gentlemen and the Clubman fraternity is the poorer for his passing. I'm proud to say he was my friend.

Rest in Peace John.

Mike Laws.