



Part 3: Who's Who in the Zoo

WILLIAM (BILL) SHERRIFF

Born:	1927 – Life Member No. 8
Profession:	Retired Army Captain - Life Member
Cars/Bikes:	Datsun 1600 (268,989 miles) now Nissan Pulsar mit power steering
Best Result:	Presentation of life membership in the club which was totally unexpected, a privilege to join such illustrious company
Most Memorable Moments:	Putting Road & Rally stencils into rubbish by mistake and starting one issue all over again



It was during the presidency of Arthur Mason in the early 60s that Bill Sherriff was asked if he would assist in the production of Road & Rally. Having already known Peter "Bridges" Britnell, Bill agreed, and the material was duly delivered to his Army office in St. Kilda Road by Paul Burgoyne. Bill became official editor in July 1976, and produced the magazine at home, apart from a year in Darwin and two tours of Vietnam. He retired from the Army in 1980.

Some of the Niddrie locals thought Bill was a man to avoid, because every month, outside his home was a police motorcycle, a police car, or a bus full of police members! One of his many surprises, and a scoop for the club, was his arrival at the "End of Event" function in 1980, at the airport. He had 100 copies of the latest Road and Rally tucked under his arm, and calmly announced that the majority of the official results were printed on page 9 of the 20 page issue, two hours after the results had been posted on the notice board at the Travelodge, Tullamarine!

Bill's statement floored everyone, even the advertising manager of TOTAL and all others at the official table. Every month he would return from Mildura (or some place) to produce the magazine, and every month, to the dismay of his late bride, Pat, it would be spread over most of the lounge room floor!

Over the years Bill received many items of appreciation and the first was the Arthur Mason memorial trophy which was presented to him in 1984. He had been invited to become an Associate Member of VPMSC in 1964, and was made life member No. 8 in March 1980.



*Bill's favourite place – guess where?
He claims that someday he will return there.
In colour it's magnificent!*

Bill won the Arthur Mason Memorial Trophy in its first year of existence, and just to prove it was no fluke, won the trophy twice more in a row. The real 'trifecta'. After being connected with Road & Rally for so many years, he decided to have a rest after producing his final issue of 64 pages in July 1988, run off on his trusty Roneo machine, now lying idle, with nowhere to go!



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Of the numerous letters he received, one was from Bob Degg, Secretary of the Victorian Police Amateur Sports and Welfare Society, which said, in part, "The Victorian Police Motor Sports Club has long been recognized as one of the most active, innovative and well run police clubs. The integral part of achieving such success is an effective means of communication, and this is exactly what you have achieved. If only some of the other clubs would follow example, life would be easier for one and all. God knows where some of your jokes came from Bill, but I think I'll miss them. Well, most of the time, and I expect you will still find a grapevine to hang them on in the future."

Our Bill sometimes goes under the handle or non-de-plume of "Wilgeosher" and has been known on many occasions to write letters to the editors of various newspapers around the country. Bill's 15" manual typewriter is still in use, if his fingers that are pointing in all directions with knuckles of steel are any indication! A read of the Road & Rally excerpts (all picked by 'Wilgeosher') as typed by him on the trusty 15 inch carriage typewriter is well worth the time. Bill's humour is the only dry thing about him, as those of you who know him will testify. To illustrate our point, unbeknownst to young Bill (he's closer to 100 than he is to 50) we photographed his typical midday meal. He puts Paul Hogan to shame, only because Paul talks in the singular. "Throw another shrimp on the barbie." Without comment, we will allow you to see the picture of Bill's typical feast for yourselves.



Bill's typical luncheon feast.

Another little-known fact about our Bill is that he is an honorary captain in the "Carabinieri," which is the Italian equivalent of the FBI in the United States. On an annual basis, the president of the Carabinieri, (from time to time, whoever he might be) visits Australia for the various state divisions' annual dinners. Our former CCP, Sinclair Imrie (Mick) Miller, is the patron of the Victorian branch, and as you would expect of our Bill, a picture tells a thousand stories.



A member of the Carabinieri, John Jackson, with patron S.I. Miller M.V.O., O.St.J., A.O., Q.P.M. and our Bill at the Victorian State Division dinner. Note: Bill claimed that his medals were "on a tilt" because of his partaking on the night of several glasses of Coke.



An elderly man consulted a physician and said he was deeply troubled. "What is your problem?" asked the doctor.

"Well doc, after the first, I'm very tired. After the second, I feel all in. After the third, my heart begins to pound. After the fourth, I break out in a cold sweat, and after the fifth, I'm so exhausted I feel I could die!" Utterly amazed, the doctor stared at him and said "How old are you?"

"Seventy-six."

"Well at seventy-six, don't you think you ought to stop after the first?"

"But, doc, how can I stop after the first; I live on the fifth!"