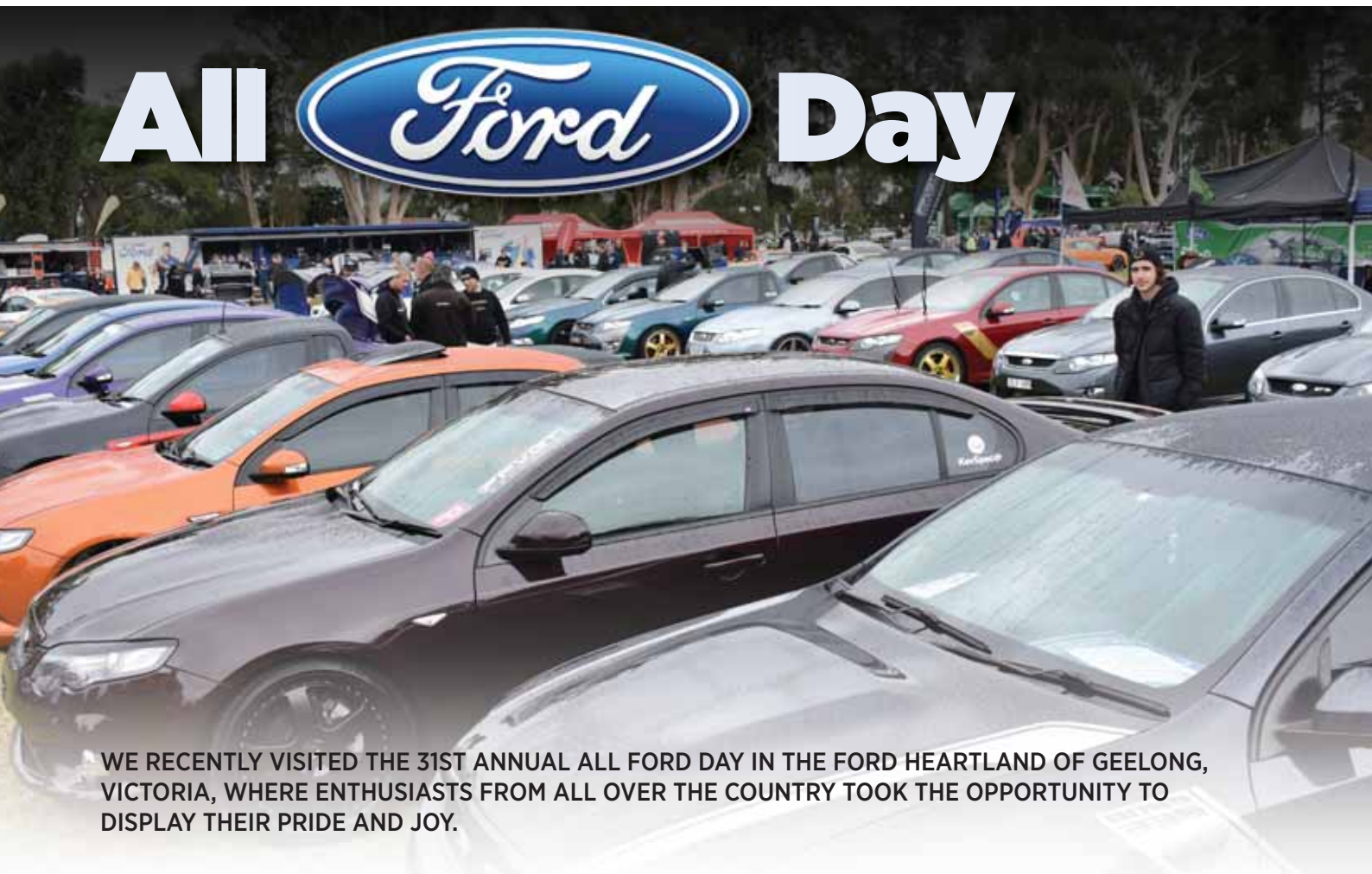




# All Ford Day



**WE RECENTLY VISITED THE 31ST ANNUAL ALL FORD DAY IN THE FORD HEARTLAND OF GEELONG, VICTORIA, WHERE ENTHUSIASTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY THEIR PRIDE AND JOY.**

From the outset, it was clear that Ford enthusiasts are indeed a passionate group, as the persistent drizzle did not deter over 1,500 exhibitors from putting on a great show. Organisers did a fantastic job facilitating the exhibitors and accommodating the fans who turned out in droves.

My first impressions were of passion and excitement on full display

as the sights and sounds of dyed-in-the-wool Ford fanatics, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, and families covering three generations all came together to celebrate their love for the Blue Oval.

This year, the plethora of “Ford Clubs” that were out in force really stood out. Whether it was the Ford Muscle Car Club of Melbourne, the Ford

Owners Club of SA, Mustang Owners Club of Victoria, or the FGX community, everyone had a story to tell, and they were only too willing to tell it.

With Ford in the blood, whether it was the exhibitors or the visitors, passion for the brand was unmistakable. Kids were engaged in wiping down dad’s pride a joy as the inconsistent weather kept them busy; Ford experts



Mustangs into the horizon.



The 1963 Falcon Squire.

were on their hands and knees getting up close and personal with anything on four wheels that caught their eye; and, of course, the competition was well underway from the outset.

However, let's not forget why we were all there: the cars – and several of them caught my eye.

- Ron and Mandy Debeen's 1934 3-Window Coupe, with its 402 V8 Chevrolet Dart block, Patriot alloy heads, Edelbrock manifold and Holley carbs generating 496HP, riding on Foose Nitrous 18" wheels.
- Don and Robyn Close's 1963 Falcon Squire, which is a full bare metal rebuild, including quarter panels and a new floor. It was modified with an XF 6-cylinder fuel-injected motor, electric windows, central locking and an electric tailgate.
- Nat and Paul Glass' absolutely beautiful one-of-a-kind 1971 V8 Track Red XY Panel Van with a 351 Cleveland motor, 4-speed top loader and 9" diff – what a tribute to the great Aussie GT.
- A great example of the Ford Tickford Experience T Series. According to the then managing director, David Flint: "Tickford helped add further refinement, safety and confidence to the T-Series, delivering outstanding dynamics."

There were so many other standouts on the day, including the prototype of the all-new Ranger, more Mustangs than you could count, and some wonderful examples of hot rods from the 1920s and 1930s. I could go on all day, but best if I let the pictures do the talking and let you judge for yourselves.

Perhaps I'm getting old – well,

I am getting old! – but it's always the vintage Fords that catch my eye, and there were so many on show in 2022. There were those that are fully restored through to those that are just at the beginning of the restoration journey. What was evident throughout the day was that beauty is well and truly in the eyes of the beholder, and there was something for everyone at the Eastern Park in Geelong.

So, as another great day came to a close, I am convinced that everyone was a winner, notwithstanding the competitive aspect of the day. The exhibitors, the sponsors, the enthusiasts and, of course, the general public who, like me, grew up during the glory days of the Blue Oval. Everyone involved in making the 31st All Ford Day a success is to be congratulated – what a great event!



The 1971 V8 XY Panel Van.



The '20s and '30s were out in force.



The prototype of the all new Ranger.



The Tickford T-Series.