

Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club

Mentoring Scheme

In 2003 the SCHVC and Eden Marine High School collaborated to run a mentoring program for year 10 students. Initially the mentoring program was targeting boys that were at risk of dropping out of school, often from single parent families. The scheme has since expanded to all year 10 students, with several female students expressing a desire to learn mechanics. The inclusion of female in the mentoring program is being considered by Eden Marine High School in 2026.

The PMLC has several ladies that have volunteered to be mentors should EMHS permit female students participate in the mentoring program in 2026 going forward.

In 2025 a dedicated workshop was set up in the Auto Haus to enable the students to have a space where they could be mentored. The workshop was set up with the assistance of local businesses and banks that have assisted with materials and finance.

The students attend the club in pairs on a Tuesday and receive instruction in most aspects of vehicle restoration and maintenance. Club members act as mentors, passing on their trade and life skills to the students.

In 2009 the students converted a 1955 Morris Minor to Battery Electric Operation. In 2025 the students began a restoration of a VW country buggy, gained welding skills, and had the opportunity to conduct engine repairs to a 2011 Isuzu D Max.

In 2022 I joined the SCHVC and shortly after began mentoring students in mechanics every Tuesday. This is an extremely rewarding opportunity to pass on life and trade skills to the next generation. The mentoring program encourages students to complete their schooling with some of the participants going on to apprenticeships in the local area. Since 2003 it is estimated that over 180 students have completed the mentoring program at SCHVC.

In June 2025 Lion Gordon Matthews retired from the automotive industry and joined the student mentoring team, where he is passing on valuable life skills and mechanical experience to the participants. There are

currently six SCHVC mentors volunteering their time to pass on technical and life skills to the year 10 participants from Eden Marine High School

Below is an extract from the EMHS participants from 2025.

FB post- EMHS Wellbeing Hub Learning, Teamwork, and Cars: Our Experience with the Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club Mentoring Program

We recently had the opportunity to take part in the Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club mentoring program, and it was an experience we won't forget.

This program was a great way to unwind from the stresses of school while learning about cars, their history, and how the car club operates. It became a valuable learning curve for all of us as we faced unexpected challenges and worked together as a team to solve problems.

Our main project involved dismantling an old VW Country Buggy. We took apart the engine, transmission, floor, and steering components. Things went smoothly until we needed to remove the floor and deal with rust underneath. To do this, we had to place the car on its side using a rotisserie frame that helps rotate the car for easier access. However, we ran into issues when we found the rotisserie needed servicing & missing some parts, which we had to locate and repair.

Throughout the program, we learned essential skills such as welding, grinding, sanding, dismantling, and reassembling vehicle parts.

We also want to thank Ron Doyle Motors for donating parts to help us fix an Isuzu D-Max, another vehicle given to our mentoring program. The Isuzu was a challenging project, but with determination, we nearly finished it before time ran out. Unfortunately, we lost a bolt inside the engine and had to remove it before completing the repairs.

The program concluded before we could completely finish the D-Max, but the journey was incredibly rewarding. We are grateful to our mentors, who share their mechanical knowledge, supported us through challenges, and made the experience fun.

We also sincerely thank Total Tools for donating tools to the program, and the Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club for providing us with a welcoming workspace.

This mentoring program not only taught us mechanical skills but also the value of teamwork, problem-solving, and perseverance. We look forward to future projects and continuing to learn more about the fascinating world of vehicles.

FB article written by 2025-year participants of the EMHS Wellbeing Hub SCHVC Mentor Program.

FB post- Michael Hollands MP. March 2025

One of the Sapphire Coast's best-kept secrets—an impressive group of passionate, resourceful individuals with a strong sense of camaraderie and purpose! Through their mentorship, drive, and commitment, they are making a real difference in the lives of youth in our community. 💙 Together, they are shaping a brighter future, one young life at a time.

Lion Anthony Bassett

