

# ON THE MARQUE



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AUGUST 2018

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# ON THE MARQUE

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## MG CAR CLUB HUNTER REGION INC

FOUNDED 1987

AFFILIATED WITH MG CAR CLUB UK

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*Can you help??*

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Committee members welcome your phone calls, but please call before 9.00pm

The opinions of correspondents, individuals and advertisers in this magazine are not necessarily those of the MG Car Club Hunter Region

## **What's On**

### **August 2018**

- ♦ **Wednesday 8th—Midweek Gathering** 12 noon  
Lochinvar Hotel, call Kay to book 49514125
- ♦ **Tuesday 14th—Committee Meeting 6.00**  
**Annual General Meeting 7.30pm**
- ♦ **Wednesday 15th—GEAR Meeting @ Wakefield Park**
- ♦ **Sunday 19th—Clubman Run—Depart Clubrooms @10am**  
PHOTO Run—see page 7 for details
- ♦ **Thursday 23rd—Tuning Run—Meet Maccas Hexham for departure**  
@ 10am for run to Chichester Dam BYO picnic lunch

### **September 2018**

- ♦ **Thursday 6th—Square Riggers Natter** 12-2pm Café Inu Carrington
- ♦ **Sunday 9th—Muster Run to Buladelah** details page 10
- ♦ **Tuesday 11th—Committee Meeting 6.00**  
**Club Night 7.30pm**
- ♦ **Wednesday 12th—Midweek Gathering** 12 noon  
Bank Hotel East Maitland, call Kay to book 49514125
- ♦ **Sunday 16th—Clubman Run & Annual Presentation**
- ♦ **Thursday 27th—Tuning Run—Meet Maccas Hexham, depart 10am**

### **October 2018**

- ♦ **Thursday 6th—Square Riggers Natter** 12-2pm Café Inu Carrington
- ♦ **Fri 5th-Sun 7th—Y Tyme in Canberra** see page 17
- ♦ **Tuesday 9th—Committee Meeting 6.00**  
**Club Night 7.30pm**
- ♦ **Wednesday 10th—Midweek Gathering**
- ♦ **Wednesday 10th—GEAR Meeting @ Wakefield Park**
- ♦ **Saturday 13th—Annual Concours—Lambton Park**
- ♦ **Sunday 14th—All MG Hillclimb—Ringwood**
- ♦ **Sunday 21st—Clubman Run**
- ♦ **Sunday 21st—MGCC NSW Annual Concours**
- ♦ **Thursday 25th—Tuning Run—Meet Maccas Hexham, depart 10am**

### **November 2018**

- ♦ **Sunday 4th—Save the date, big announcement to come**
- ♦ **Sunday 4th—Ringwood Hillclimb**
- ♦ **Sat 10th & Sun 11th—MG Racing VIC @ Sandown**
- ♦ **Tuesday 13th—Committee Meeting 6.00**  
**Club Night 7.30pm**
- ♦ **Wednesday 14th—Midweek Gathering**
- ♦ **Sunday 18th—Clubman Run**
- ♦ **Sunday 18th—Sydney Concours**
- ♦ **Thursday 22nd—Tuning Run—Meet Maccas Hexham, depart 10am**
- ♦ **Fri 23rd, Sat 24th, Sun 25th—Supercars in Newcastle**

## ***From the Editor***

***Bev Jones***

AGM time is here again and that means it's time for me to retire from the position of editor. Yes, this is my last edition of On the Marquee. After 3 years it is time to step away from the keyboard and hand over the template....if the new editor wants it!

It has been a pleasure to have been able to communicate with so many of our members. Through taking on this task I have made contact both in person and via email and phone with many people that I may never have interacted with.

I would also like to thank those who have contributed to our magazine in the form of articles and photos, not to mention encouragement and suggestions. It is so important to have input from our members! I really do appreciate your contributions.

Stephen has been an amazing help over this period too. He has sourced information, written articles and been my chief proof reader, not to mention putting up with me stressing about filling the magazine and getting it out to members on time. Oh and I didn't mention envelope stuffer and mailing assistant. Thanks you all so much.

There is still plenty for me to do with work, and our wonderful club, not to mention family including our two beautiful granddaughters who I plan to spend more time with. I will still be around for runs and events, even a National Meeting or two or more! Who knows, I may even write an article or contribute some photos for the magazine!

It's been a pleasure to contribute as editor for these past three years, please support the next person who takes on the role.

***Safety Fast!!***



***Muster Run — Sunday 9th September***

***For lunch at the Plough Inn Hotel Buladelah***

Hunter Region are to co-ordinate with Brian Madden Ph 0490 328 310 for local details those from Forster to Port Macquarie are to contact John Fletcher Ph 0407 704 853. Bookings are essential. See John's article page 10 for more info.

***Membership Renewals are now OVERDUE!***

Completed form and payment advice should be sent to Greg Jenkins at [gregjenkins204@gmail.com](mailto:gregjenkins204@gmail.com)  
Payment by EFT, cheque or with cash at the club night.



Photographic & History Observation Touring Outing

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# PHOTO RUN

## Sunday 19th August

We will be starting at the Clubrooms at 10am with an easy observation run through Newcastle, stopping for a morning coffee break and ending at the Central Coast for lunch. There will be a series of pictorial questions to answer along the way. The questions will add some history and interest to the drive and not add stress to the driver and navigator!

More information will be provided at the August monthly meeting or contact Elliot Burns on 0478 41540



## Midweek Gathering



*Meet at the venue for a 12 noon lunch*

**8th August—Lochinvar Hotel**

**12th September—Bank Hotel East Maitland**

**10th October—Swansea Workers Club**

**14th November— Lake Macquarie Yacht Club**

*Don't forget to phone Kay Bowden to reserve a seat! 49514125*



## *Tuning Runs*

**August run to Chichester Dam  
BYO Picnic Lunch**

Departure is 10am sharp from McDonalds Hexham, but check the magazine each month just in case a special run has been planned

For more information call Austin Blanch 0434 143 242

It's been an interesting month. Bev and I took a run up to Tamworth to pick up a mates TF to rebuild. The best sort, someone else pays the bills. Anyway, the drive up was scary. Not because of other road users (or my own driving) but how dry and barren it is. As soon as you pop over the Liverpool Ranges it goes from dry to **DRY**. We drove past the golf course at Quirindi and it had dirt fairways and the tiniest hint of green on the 'greens'. Very depressing with no rain on the horizon. Maybe the club should see what we as a group can do to help some farmers out.

The TF I picked up from Tamworth is almost as depressing as the weather out there. It is supposedly a semi restored car. The workmanship I have found and have to fix borders on, no it is downright incompetent and inept. No professional would do this work and no amateur that professes to 'maintaining the breed' would lower themselves to this standard. If you have no idea what you're doing, don't do it. I know there is only one way to learn but some people shouldn't be allowed to ever pick up a spanner or pliers, just like others shouldn't be allowed to drive. It'll keep me busy in the shed for a while. I hope it doesn't lead to alcohol abuse. *(Can I put that on the bill?)*

In 'On the marque' last month there was an article on Jeff Redman's cream & brown TA. Jeff had 'tagged' the inside of the driver's door when he'd restored the car in 1978. This was pride in workmanship. When I rebuilt 'Myf', my race Midget, I was proud to have a chassis plate made with details of her restoration.



One of our members Rob Dunsterville, has enquired about organising a social get together for 'Square Rigger' owners. That isn't sailing boat owners if you haven't worked it out. Pre MGA sympathizers are welcome. The first Thursday of the month is the proposed date, initially at Café Inu at Carrington. This highlights what our club should be. If you want us to be something more than we currently are to you, do something about it and put your hand up. As long as it is MG related we'd be happy to support your efforts. 4 'T' types and 9 enthusiasts turned up for the first gathering.

Its time to put your hand up for a job on the committee. I know for sure that if no one takes over as Editor from Bev, then I can guarantee there will be no magazine in September. Hint hint!



We as a committee and club are going to do some work on the J Van. It has been a very long time since she has seen a good going over, so a few interested members are going to refurbish the brake system, give the motor a good service and tune, and maybe some new tyres. The old ones aren't worn but they're just 30 years old and rock hard. This should ensure that we get another 30 years' service out of the old girl.

I received an email a few weeks back for one of the other MG Car Clubs in Australia looking at trying to put together an MG Register. Currently the Victorian MGCC has a register of a lot of different models but there is an interest in a national data base. It's not big brother keeping track of you, but a way to record a cars history so owners in the future can know where their MG has been. I think it's a great idea and wouldn't have a problem placing my MGs and name on it.

If you have any questions about the constitution changes, call a committee member. I look forward to seeing some hands in the air when it comes to nominations at the AGM. Be there or be nominated.

To finish the club year remember, **"If you own a home with wheels on it and several cars without, you just might be a redneck"** – *Jeff Foxworthy*...Hmmm, thank heavens I don't own a home with wheels on it, though now it's a grey neck. There no red left!

Steve Jones



July Tuning Run participants at Draytons Winery

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 14th August - 7.30pm**

As well as elections for committee positions we will be voting on the updates to the constitution. If you have not received a copy please contact the Secretary.

The MG Muster was inaugurated four years ago, as a reflection of a sad date in the MGB history, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1972. A white MGB was wheeled off the Zetland Sydney production line, the last of 9,000 units built in Australia. There was a black drape covering the bonnet of the car which followed an undertaker walking ahead also dressed in black, a solemn occasion. The head lights were on and the car was followed by past models of MGs all with lights on as part of a funeral procession. Production may have stopped but the car didn't die. There are still thousands around turning the heads of onlookers.

Past MG Musters have all been held in November as recognition to this act in the MG marque history. This year because of calendar complications with car clubs participation in the event, it will be held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September. Car clubs invited to participate (MG owners only) are from Port Macquarie, Taree, Great Lakes Forster, MG Car Club Hunter Region, MG Club Newcastle and the Sydney MG Car Club. This is a combined participation event with the bulk of the cars coming from Taree, Forster and the Hunter, the numbers will be fewer from the other clubs because of distance.

Sydney have been invited to make a weekend of the event with a visitors' program involving Saturday lunch at Hexham, visit to Fort Scratchley then an overnight stay at Forster. The venue for this year will be the Plough Inn Hotel Bulahdelah for lunch. The car park will be exclusive to MG cars for a public display. Car owners from the Hunter Region are to coordinate with Brian Madden Ph 049 0328310 for local details cars owners from Forster to Port Macquarie are to contact John Fletcher Ph 0407 704 853.

Brenda and I were fortunate enough to participate in the Lost in the 50's car museum visit. Great organisation Wendy! The weather arrangements were perfect and the location for lunch was picturesque. The museum's visiting crowd was huge, the owner couldn't believe the support shown by the visitors. A great display of YANK tanks and things of motoring memorabilia and milk bars as we older generation members remember. The tanks were impressive but not my cup of tea, a seven metre long vehicle to transport just two people is a bit overdone in my view. My pick was a red six cylinder Mustang not the V8. The Mustang was not designed as a muscle car, as the youth of today seem to think. The car was a low budget family car and the big seller in the early days was the six cylinder.

Things started to go sour when design turned to power. In my view the modern Mustang is not a patch on the original. Modern technology, power with less comfort space with high cost, give me an original any day.

Have Wheels Will Travel!





## President's Run

June Clubman Run



## Morning Tea at Morpeth Lunch at Drayton's Winery





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## All British Day

Back in the later months of 1988, a group of members rescued a 1954 Morris J Van from the wilds of outer-suburban Sydney. The idea was that the van would make a great vehicle to cart our gear around and what a wonderful advertising tool for our club it has been.

As I've been flicking through some old club magazines I came across a couple of articles which tell some of the story of its rebirth.

### On the Marque – March 1989

Those of us who have been closely involved with the re-build in the project's inception have found it to be a rewarding experience. A couple of weeks back the van moved under its own power for the first time in 10 or 15 years! This game and sturdy little workhorse certainly caught the imagination of those present during the test-run afternoon, and quite a queue formed to sample the delights of driving this near vintage commercial vehicle.

All those who have contributed to the van's reconstruction should be congratulated for the continued high standard of workmanship. The finished job, not too many months away, should be a credit as well as an asset to the club. All body repairs are nearing completion, mechanicals checked out, all wiring replaced, brakes totally rebuilt and the preparation for painting has commenced.

An interesting discovery during the paint stripping was the emergence of the familiar dark blue and silver lettering, proof that the old dear was an ex-NRMA Road Service Van.

Cost to the club of rebuilding the van has been kept commendably low through generous donations of goods and services by many Newcastle business houses.

Shock absorbers from Ron Bowers

Battery from Hunter Batteries

Paint from Dulux

Brake repairs from one of the area's leading brake specialists who wishes to remain anonymous.

However we still need tyres...4 good useable 600 x 16" tyres would be greatly appreciated. Painting, the final phase of the project, has now commenced and if this proceeds to plan.... Watch out for the first appearance of the van in a few months hence!

### On the Marque – July 1989

For those of us involved in the Club's Morris J Van project, Monday June 11<sup>th</sup> 1989 was a very satisfying day.

After more than eight months of body preparation including a major steel re-



placement programme, panel beating and filling, the main body section received its first application of paint, comprising etch primer and high density undercoat. The Dulux 'Two Pack' system comprising the use of two reactive components to give a chemical set rather than the time honoured acrylic lacquer technique has been chosen because of its more rapid application and claimed superior finish.

Painting expertise has been largely supplied by Col Bailey and Jeff Redman who have both put in considerable hours over recent weeks overseeing final body preparation prior to painting. The ongoing spate of wet weather has proven to be an annoyance during the body preparation, but thanks to Wayne Routley's excellent garage very little moisture damage has occurred during the body preparation period.

Thanks should also be given to the many volunteers (too numerous to mention) who have assisted with paint stripping and panel preparation. Nearly forty years of accumulated paint build up required a good many Saturday afternoons to remove! Prior to the external painting the interior was prepared and sprayed with ivory enamel, the light colour enhancing one of the main features of the Van, its roominess!

In addition to the body preparation, work is also drawing to completion on the drive train, electrics and braking system allowing the project to move into its final finishing phase with the Van hopefully available to assist with Club activities in the next few months. Many thanks again to our sponsors, particularly Dulux whose products we are now using "by the bucket full".

The last major decision to make concerns the choice of colour. After many long sessions reviewing colour combinations, the final choice appears to be Hornby Green with black mudguards, green wheels with brown and cream signwriting.

We should know in the near future if the above choice has been the right decision. It is also pleasing to learn that the Canberra Centre has also decided to rebuild a Morris J Van as a club service vehicle and we wish them well with their project.

*The articles about the J Van were written by Robert Gibson who was the "J Van Co-ordinator".*

*Right: There was a note with the article about a past member, Alan Blevins who actually manned an NRMA Road Service J Van back in the 1950s. He had supplied a photo of his J Van which looked just like this one which is housed at the Australian Motorlife Museum in Wollongong*





### **An icon is born or reborn!!!**

Clockwise from top left: The J Van as retrieved from the scrub. 'not dead, merely resting', Wayne Routley on the crank handle with Robert Gibson closely observing, young members Megan Jones and Seone Woolf (now aged 30) enjoying a 'drive', Wayne hard at work, Project Manager Robert not sure what he is going to do next! "What do you think Wayne? Should we keep it?"

## ***Annual Presentation Day*** & ***Clubman Run***

Sunday 16th September




# Annual Concours

Saturday 13th October

## All MG Hillclimb

Sunday 14th October

Why not make a weekend of it and attend both events? The Concours will be held in Lambton Park (weather permitting...we do have a second date pencilled in if not.) If you are not a Hillclimber you can always come along and watch the action at Ringwood Motorsport Park. For more info contact Gary Piper or Steve Jones

*It's  Tyme in Canberra 2018*

It's on again in **2018**, the MG Car Club Canberra Inc. invites

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## **Wanted: MG PA engine or parts.**

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**Pair of Steel Car Ramps** — give away. Call Robert 4934 2829

## **Wanted: Diff centre to suit MG Midget.**

5.375:1 ratio required (out of Morris GPO Van).  
Steve Jones 0412 495234

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If you want your ad to run longer or the item is sold, please notify the Editor



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## **MG Car Club Hunter Region**

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

#### **Meeting Opened 6:35 pm**

**Present:** Stephen Jones, Frans Henskens, Greg Jenkins, Bev Jones, Gary Piper,

**Apologies:** Wendy Croker, Denny Bowden, Ian Ashton, Alan Andoni, Jeff Lauff

**In attendance:** Brian Madden,

**Minutes:** Accepted, Gary Piper, seconded Bev Jones

#### **Business Arising:**

Nil.

#### **Reports:**

President:

- Thanks to the Bowdens for cleaning up the Clubhouse – “we normally have to clean up bull dung after meetings, the Bowdens kindly cleaned up bird droppings before the meeting!”
- The President's Run had 25 participants – all but one car made it, and that within sight of the destination caused by dirty fuel.

Vice President:

- Who let the bird in???

Treasurer:

Secretary

- Agenda for AGM. Committee reports. Vote to accept the revised Constitution. Declare positions vacant, then nominations for President, after which the new President conducts rest of meeting.

Club Captain:

- Clubman Run for July is on 22<sup>nd</sup> to Lost in the 50s Museum. Wendy & Gary Croker are organising.
- August Clubman Run to be organised by Elliot Burns.

Sporting Director:

- As per magazine.
- All MG Hill Climb attendance is still under discussion with MG Car Club Newcastle – there still will be a hill climb on 14<sup>th</sup> October, perhaps with a special invite for MG cars.

Public relations:

Nil.

Committee Member:



Nil.

Regalia

- Will do stocktake prior to the AGM and have it up to date for then.

Magazine Editor

Nil.

### **General Business:**

- Committee voted to swap to the new website as prepared by Andrew Gowans. Moved Gary Piper seconded Greg Jenkins, passed unanimously.
- There is a need to get the Honour Board up to date – Steve & Greg looking into getting it done.
- Team Hunter shirts are available to members who act as support crew. See Steve Jones re cost and ordering.

### **Meeting to Close 7:15 p.m.**

### **Next Meeting**

6 p.m. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.



The advertisement features a collage of car-related images: a close-up of an MG engine with its distinctive octagonal badge, a Land Rover grille with its oval badge, and a Triumph TR2 front grille with its shield-shaped badge. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Thank you to those who have contributed to this edition of "On the Marque"  
Please submit your contributions via email to [smbbjones@optusnet.com.au](mailto:smbbjones@optusnet.com.au)  
It would be great to have input from more of our members!

**Deadline for the September edition will be**  
**Thursday 23rd August 2018**



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