

# ON THE MARQUE

PRINT POST APPROVED PUBLICATION 100003064



Written and Published by MG Car  
Club Hunter region Inc.

**NOVEMBER 2020**



**MODERN** *CLASSIC CARS PTY. LTD.*

***Enhance      Improve***  
***Refine***



Brakes, Gearboxes, Suspension,  
Alloy heads, Wheels, Electronic  
ignition, Electric power steering,  
Cooling, EFI Systems, Roll bars, Seats,  
Exhaust, Fibreglass panels, Gauges,  
Limited slip differentials, Air  
conditioning, Engine conversions,  
Complete car builds

2A Arab Rd Padstow NSW 2211

Email : [sales@modernclassiccars.com.au](mailto:sales@modernclassiccars.com.au)

Tel : 02 9774 2169

[www.modernclassiccars.com.au](http://www.modernclassiccars.com.au)



*The Australian home of*

**FRONTLINE**

Developments



# MG CAR CLUB HUNTER REGION INC. FOUNDED 1987

AFFILIATED WITH MG CAR CLUB UK  
AFFILIATED WITH MOTORSPORT AUSTRALIA



POSTAL ADDRESS  
PO BOX 503  
WALLSEND NSW 2287

CLUB ROOMS  
68 ELDER STREET  
LAMBTON NSW 2299

[www.huntermg.com](http://www.huntermg.com)

Face Book ; HUNTER REGION MG CAR CLUB

# ON THE MARQUE CONTENTS

5	<b>YOUR COMMITTEE</b>
6	<b>WHAT'S ON</b>
7	<b>NEW MEMBERS BADGES</b>
7	<b>HISTORIC PLATES REGO CHECK</b>
8	<b>FROM THE EDITOR</b>
9	<b>PRESIDENT'S REPORT</b>
11	<b>TOY RUN &amp; TROPHY PRESENTATION</b>
12	<b>NORTH ARM WHEELS</b>
13	<b>JOINT MG CC NEWCASTLE &amp; MG CC HUNTER REGION 90 YEAR MG CAR CLUB CELEBRATION</b>
19	<b>"MGB GT" ASH TRAY REFURBISH</b>
20	<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER REPORT</b>
21	<b>SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT</b>
23	<b>SPORTING DIRECTOR REPORT</b>
27	<b>"A" MOMENT IN TIME</b>
32	<b>SQUARE RIGGERS NATTER</b>
33	<b>CLASSIFIED FOR SALE</b>
34	<b>REGALIA CHRISTMAS SALE</b>
35	<b>COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JULY 2020</b>
38	<b>DISCLAIMER</b>
38	<b>INDEX OF ADVERTISERS</b>
38	<b>MEMBERSHIP YEAR AND HISTORIC REG.</b>
38	<b>DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE</b>



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

## **Your Committee**

### **President**

Stephen Jones  
024952 3486  
0412 495 234  
sbmbjones@optusnet.com.au

### **Vice president**

Denny Bowden  
0249514125  
0402 476 631  
dennis.bowden@bigpond.com

### **Secretary**

Frans Henskens  
0419 561 448  
henskens@henskens.com.au

### **Treasurer**

Greg Jenkins  
0439 450 606  
024956 6624  
gregjenkins204@gmail.com

### **Club Captain**

Jeff Lauff  
0413 971 154  
jlauff55@dodo.com.au

### **Sporting Director**

Gary Piper  
0419 490 936  
gspiper@internode.on.net

### **Public Relations**

Ian Ashton (Asho)  
0429 592 823  
iashton7@bigpond.com

### **Regalia**

Wendy Croker  
0417 041 850  
wendy.croker@yahoo.com.au

### **Committee Person**

Gary Croker  
0419 236565  
garycroker47@gmail.com

### **Social Secretary**

Anne Pettigrew  
at.rose.villa@gmail.com

### **Editor**

Graham Haywood  
0424 394 807  
024954 6558  
ghaywood6@bigpond.com

### **Website**

Stephen Jones  
024952 3486  
0412 495 234  
sbmbjones@optusnet.com.au

### **North Arm Wheels**

John Fletcher  
0407 704 853

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



## **What's On**

***MG Car Club Hunter Region sponsored and supported activities.***

### **NOVEMBER 2020**

- ♦ ***Thursday 5th—Square Riggers Natter—12pm to 2pm Inu Café***
- ♦ ***Tuesday 10th—Committee Meeting 6.00pm at Club rooms***  
***Due to social distancing regulations in force there can be NO general club meeting at the club rooms***
- Wednesday 11th — Midweek Run 11.30 am—3 pm at "Junction Inn" Raymond Terrace. Registration with Kay Bowden 02 4951 4125 is ESSENTIAL.***
- ♦ ***Sunday 22nd—Clubman Run— Toy Run & Club Presentation members to declare their interest due to SOCIAL DISTANCING and person numbers restrictions. The run starts at 10.00am at club rooms. See page 20.***
- ♦ ***Saturday 28th to Sunday 29th—HSRCA Racing at Sydney Motorsport Park.***

### **DECEMBER 2020**

- ♦ ***Thursday 3rd\_Square Riggers Natter—12pm to 2pm Inu Café***
- ♦ ***Saturday 5th—Club Plate Registration***
- ♦ ***Tuesday 8th—Committee Meeting 6.00pm at Club rooms***  
***Due to social distancing regulations in force there can be NO general club meeting at the club rooms***
- ♦ ***Sunday 20th—Clubman Run— members to declare their interest due to SOCIAL DISTANCING and person numbers restrictions. The run starts at 10.00am at club rooms.***

## ***HISTORIC PLATES REGO CHECKS***

**Saturday 5th December**

**9.30am until 10.30am @ Caltex Maryland  
Minmi Road, Maryland**

**Bring your rego papers and \$10  
For more information call **Denny Bowden**  
4951 4125 or 0402 478 631**

## NEW MEMBERS NAME TAGS

The following NEW MEMBERS can collect their club badges when attending a club function such as “Club Run” or “Tuning Run” and hopefully in the near future “Club Meetings”.

The club badge is then to be worn during any club function so that other members can identify you and your integration into our social membership can be smoother and quicker.

Martin / Melanie Campbell

Trevor / Janine Clifton

John / Anne Marley

Jo / James / Izzy Muddle

Vince Nicita

Warwick / Ronnie Nichols

Phil / Glenys Powell

John / Astrid Perdriau

Alan Priest

John Ray

Laurie / Kris Sullivan

Ian / Carol Tracey

Peter Thomas

Clayton Thomas

Charles Unwin

Andy Webmaier

### ***HISTORIC PLATES REGO CHECKS***

**Saturday 5th December**

**9.30am until 10.30am @ Caltex Maryland**

**Minmi Road, Maryland**

**Bring your rego papers and \$10**

**For more information call Denny Bowden**

**4951 4125 or 0402 478 631**



Unfortunately as we still have to have safe distance we still would not be able to conduct general member Club Meetings.

To follow on with the front page theme of “MG wheels” this months photo is of an alloy wheel on a club members RV8 car taken by Andrew Gowans at a morning tea stop during the pre COVID– 19 club-man run to Tea Gardens.

The combined meeting with MG CC Newcastle was a great success see page for photos. A total of 35 cars and 22 of them from our club.

All cars formed a line and sedately drove around the Ringwood Hill-climb track. I now can say I have driven on the track even if it wasn't in haste to complete a good transit time.

Gary Piper has been able to obtain some excellent photos of racing cars on the Wakefield race track near Goulburn that were taken by Phil Sim from the “GEAR” club. See page 23 for his Sporting Report and the accompanying photos.

I am impressed with the results of our member Charlie Head on the refurbishment of his ashtray in his immaculate MGB GT. A somewhat simple small component but excellent result so much that I too am going to give it a go! See page 19.

The Square Riggers Natter meeting on the first Thursday of every month at the “Inu Café” at Carrington from 12 noon until 2pm is well worth the effort to attend. See page 32.

An interesting report on the life of a Team Hunter MGA is on page 27.

### **Progress with my MGB**

I have started a tidy up of my “B” and had the rust in the doglegs on both sides removed and replaced with steel repair panels by member John Morton. While watching him do some of the work I realised that I don't have the skill and I appreciate his fine workmanship.

But the MG CC 90th celebration were coming up so I got to it with several rattle cans to at least cover the primer so the car would be half presentable.

**Graham Haywood**





**Around the bend – the ravings of your President.**

The HSRCA Spring Historics at Wakefield Park is just a week away as I sit here tippy typing. There will be a full report in the next edition of 'OTM'. Hopefully it will be a positive account of the Team's efforts with Asho and Matt Blanch joining me on the track. The forecast is not good with a week and a half of rain. It is due to stop raining for our trip home. That should more than double the horse power of the little MG. I'll have to be wary of tortoises crossing the track. Don't laugh, I've saw one at Oran Park one race meeting and judging from the rivers that run across Wakefield in heavy rain, it's a definite possibility.

I decided it would be good to give Myf a quick run up on my Dyno just to check everything over. I strapped her down securely and pushed the revs to 7000. That's 1000 short of the rev limiter but quite enough for my nerves. 7000rpm in 4<sup>th</sup> equates to 175kph... in my shed. Everything looks ok at this point. I did a short video of the run. It's on YouTube. My daughter sent me a video of my 7 ½ month old granddaughter watching the video, transfixed to screen and quite excited by it. We may be safe with yet another generation in love with MGs. The car will be almost 70 years old before she can take it for a run. I hope I'm still around to see that.

I was reading the October 'Australian Motorsport' (CAMS) magazine and found an interesting article. The Queensland Government has pledged \$40 million to build a new Motorsport track and entertainment facility in Toowoomba. Total cost \$175 million. This is not being built in Brisbane, but in a country area. It is refreshing to see a political party that can see past the state's capital.

A new second track at Bathurst that has local and State Government backing (though I don't know if the State is actually throwing any money in the kitty) is due to start construction early next year. \$52 million will be spent on the 4.5km course that is adjacent to the Mt Panorama circuit on its Western side.

Why is it such a problem in the Hunter? For the tens of millions of dollars that go back into the community at every motorsport track every year, it should be a no brainer. I think I just worked out the problem.

Speaking of Australian Motorsport, they have just launched a mobile phone app. This will keep all your motorsport and officials licences on your phone. No more hard copies.

Now will the organising clubs accept an electronic phone Car Club membership card as well?

I've been getting around these last few weeks enjoying MGs. I went up to Tamworth to say giddy to John Colville and his TF. Both were well and I checked over the TF and fixed a few gremlins whilst I was at it. The weekend after it was to another town starting with T, this time Toronto (or as the locals say, Rono).

An old mate and MG owner, John Norris is slowly resurrecting his late dad's rubber nose B. Ray Norris bought the car in 1986 when it was just 7 years old from a RAAFy that had brought it back from a posting in the UK. The B saw good service for many years but has been laid up for several years now. Now the fun starts.

First an oil and filter change as well as a new petrol pump. The petrol in the tank was old and nasty so John was left with the job of getting fresh fuel for the next attempt. Unfortunately she didn't want to live so a freshen up of the distributor was needed. Parts organised and fitted and with some 'start ya bastard' she coughed. The petrol pump didn't want to prime and it seemed the problem was inside the tank. I pulled the pick-up/ sender out and the crud on every part was disgusting. The internal filter was totally blocked. After a cleaning and re-assembly she coughed again but still didn't want to speak.

I turned my attention to the HIF4 SU carbies. They were unbolted and the float bowl cover and needle with dashpot removed. Oh what a mess (see the pictures). It's going to be a total strip, clean and re-pair. That'll take a few weeks. More to come.



The Tuning run was fun again with a new road for many of the participants. We normally break from these over the hotter months. Keep an eye on the website about November's.

Austin and Sue will be away so it will come down to me. Either way, if it's on we'll be starting at Hexham at 9.

I've been thinking that next year's Tuning Runs we might go Royal. That will mean we'll be travelling to a pub with 'Royal' in the name.

I have 11 on the list but there are some locations around 2 hours away... if you travel on the speed limit (that's all we ask).

Enjoy the festive season and I'll see you on the road again soon.

Steve



## Toy Run & Trophy Presentation

Hello Members, the date of our **Toy Run and Trophy Presentation Day** has changed and is now **Sunday 22nd November.**

It is important due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions that you please contact Ian Ashton or Captain Jeff of your planned attendance of this important annual Event.

If for some reason you are unable to make the Toy Run and would like to donate a toy or toys to disadvantaged girls and boys cared for by the Salvation Army please drop your toy donation into Ian's home at **12 Yuruga Street Warners Bay** before the 22nd November.

We look forward to seeing a huge response to this important Event in our calendar year.

Still all quiet on the North Arm Wheels front, so last month I made a point to attend a club event, the celebration of 90 years anniversary of the formation of the MG Car Club UK. It was good to catch up with MG Car Club Hunter Regions members along with all the Covid 19 story telling. I have done some more research, this time to do with Governments and Politicians. A bloke by the name of Donald Trump was the reason for the research and I came up with the following quotes.

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm and three or more is a Government. By John Adams.

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity, is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. By Winston Churchill.

Giving money and power to Government is like giving whisky and car keys to teenage boys. By P. J. O'Rourke, a Civil Libertarian.

I don't make jokes, I just watch the Government and report the facts. By Will Rogers.

In general, the art of Government consists of taking as much money as possible from one part of the citizens to give to the other. By Voltaire (1764)

No man's life, liberty or property is safe while the legislature is in session. By Mark Twain (1866)

Talk is cheap, except when Government does it? Anonymous.

The only difference between a Tax man and a Taxidermist is that the Taxidermist leaves the skin. By Mark Twain.

A Government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have. By Thomas Jefferson.

Lord the money we do spend on Government. It's not a bit better Government than what we got for one-third the money twenty years ago. By Will Rogers

What this country needs are more Unemployed Politicians. By Edward Langley (Artist 1928-95)

Funny the afore sayings go back centuries but nothing has changed in the nature of Governments. By John Fletcher

Have Wheels will Travel

## **MG CC UK Ltd 90 yr CELEBRATION**

Morning tea break at Raymond Terrace alongside the river in the park where we were met with some members whom elected to drive direct



from home instead of meeting at the club rooms and drive in convoy. Unfortunately we temporarily lost some cars due to traffic lights but they knew the destination so re-joined later to still enjoy morning tea.



To meet the Covid requirements we broke off into small groups to travel from the club rooms and also to enjoy our morning tea we kept social distance as can be observed from the photographs.



On arrival at the Ringwood Hillclimb we were met by 'MG CC Newcastle' officials whom were handed a full manifest of drivers, passengers and their details to ensure tracing, should the worst occur and a positive result of COVID testing after our event!





All cars were then marshalled in line from the start point of the hill-climb and after ensuring all preregistered attendees were present a short introduction and explanation of proceedings was broadcast via loud speaker. Then the procession started around the hill climb track in single file with 35 cars in attendance of which 22 cars were from the MG CC Hunter Region. After completing a full round of the A3 course the cars were assembled on the grassed parking areas that is normally used by competitors.









## **"MGB GT" ASH TRAY REFURBISH**      **Charles Head**

A year ago I purchased a can of crackle paint to repair my ash tray which has been rusting for the past 30 years, after I gave up cigarettes every month following a club run.

Club runs have been fewer due to this dam virus so I decided to remove the ash tray and paint it as one of my car projects for the month.

Every one should know I am the worst painter, because I always put it on too thick, so I would put it aside worrying to start the task because of possible failure.

After reading the instructions on the can they said you have to put it on thick and I thought THIS IS THE PAINT FOR ME go for it!

Finally finished with new hand made plated springs fitted.

Maggie said I should have taken photos of before, after & in between, with the left hand beautifully painted, because the spray button was very different to other paint cans.

Anyway all I have is the finished product with 2 days drying & an hour in the oven just before the Sunday roast.

I'm very happy  
Charlie Head



New crackle paint

Finished product with  
new plated springs



Inside new crackle  
paint no springs



## **Public Relations Officer Report...Ian Ashton**

The 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of the MG Car Club of England was held at Newcastle MG Ringwood circuit on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October in conjunction with Newcastle MGCC. Twenty two Hunter MG's and crews attended the event on a beautiful sunny Spring day.

Hunter MG Car Club is looking to host the next major MGCC celebration on a larger scale possibly in 2025 for the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

So members, the Annual Toy Run and Trophy Presentation day is Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. We will be leaving MG headquarters at 10am and heading to Blackalls Park for morning tea followed by lunch and our Trophy Presentation.

Please byo everything for morning tea and lunch (yes there is a bar b que on site) and don't forget your unwrapped toy for a boy or girl (or both). It would be appreciated if you would register your attendance by contacting me or Captain Jeff before the event on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. If you are not coming but would still like to donate a toy please drop it off to our place at 12 Yuruga Street Warners Bay and I will deliver it to the Salvation Army.

Our monthly Thursday tuning runs are back on track, so why not give your car a run and come along....please make sure you register by contacting President Steve or Austin Blanch. Remember that your attendance at any MG Club official event gives you points toward the annual point score and trophy presentation.

Please continue to support our Club sponsors whenever possible. Our most recent sponsor Tyrepower on Oakdale Road Gateshead is always ready to look after your tyre and mechanical requirements whether it is for your MG or your daily drive. Simply introduce yourself and show your membership card for the best deals.

I have a number of new member unclaimed badges which I will have with me on Clubman and Tuning runs (or in my absence see Captain Jeff). So come along and simply ask for your member badge.

Stay safe and enjoy your MG or sports car with friends.

Your Pro with the mo..Asho



Other reports in this magazine will have mentioned the Club run on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October when we joined with the Newcastle MG car club to celebrate 90 years of MG car club UK.

It was perfect weather driving to Raymond Terrace for morning tea, and then on to Ringwood through some very pretty countryside driving (more or less) in convoy. We then lined up and after a couple of announcements, all the cars present (including 22 from our club) drove around the Hill-climb track in slow procession.

At one of the traffic flow control points, the marshall was very excited to tell me that he used to own my MG!!!! He just happened to be one of the main organisers of the day – Ken McLeod (Register Captain MGCC Newcastle). It was really great to meet him and learn some of the history of my MGF.

So it just goes to show that if we get out our beautiful MG'S, as Gary Piper always says "Drive them, don't hide them", you never know who you might meet! Especially as our Club alone currently has 198 members! I personally am looking forward to the easing of Covid-Safe restrictions, when I will be able to organise some social events (other than a 'masquerade ball') and meet more of our members.

So please continue to watch this space!

Anne Pettigrew







# Tyrepower

GET THE **POWER** OF AUSTRALIA'S **BIGGEST INDEPENDENT**

## TYREPOWER GATESHEAD SPONSORING MG CLUB HUNTER REGION

**As summer approaches get your  
MG ready with Tyrepower!**



Exclusive  
Offer

Please ask for our quality  
Technician Dave, and our store discount  
associated with MG club members.

MG Club Members special discounts apply

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Slips | <input type="checkbox"/> A/C Regas                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rego       | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty diagnostic work |

## TYREPOWER GATESHEAD

7/18 Oakdale Rd, Gateshead NSW 2290

Opening Hours: Mon to Fri: 7.30am - 5pm, Sat: 7.30am - 12pm

Email: [gateshead@tyrepower.com.au](mailto:gateshead@tyrepower.com.au)

[tyrepowergateshead.com.au](http://tyrepowergateshead.com.au)

**PH: (02) 4946 2698**



Motorsport continues to roll on & "Team Hunter" members have been out there competing in events.

Steve & Bev Jones were on their way to the October "GEAR" event & unfortunately had a trailer failure. The good news was they were both ok & both tow car & race car were undamaged. They had the trailer towed back home by "NRMA" & continued down to Wakefield Park & flagged on the day.

Matt Blanch & I had a less eventful trip down to Wakey & got to run on a wet day with a greasy slippery track. I still haven't found out if the new tyres are any good in the dry as my last three events have been in the wet.

The event saw a total a total of 76 starters turn up which was very pleasing & as usual a great variety of historic cars competing.

The mods that Matt & Austin had recently carried out on Matt's "B" seemed to be working well with the car sounding sweet, crisp & looking very quick. Ready for the coming "HSRCA" Spring Historics event at Wakefield Park.

Matt managed to have 2 spins on the day though this is more commonly known as "finding the limit".



My "B" was running really well & even though I found the limit twice on the day I thought it was the best I've driven in the wet. In the last event I had a good tussle with another "MGB" & a "Gemini" coupe , very enjoyable indeed.

Next "GEAR" event will be on December 2 at Wakefield Park & will be the last "GEAR" event for 2020. Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions the usual Christmas party will not be held.

Thanks to the GEAR committee & Wakefield Park crew for putting on another great days Motorsport, also thanks to Steve & Bev Jones for

flagging , also my logistics manager for the day, Steve Turner who also flagged on the day.

The next event “Team Hunter” members Steve Jones , Matt Blanch , & Ian Ashton will compete in will be the “HSRCA” Spring Festival on October 31 November 1 at Wakefield Park. Good luck to them & I hope they get a dry track to run on. Will have a full report on this event in the next mag.

Next event after the Spring Festival will be the “HSRCA” Summer Festival to be run at Sydney Motorsport Park on 28-29 November & I believe Evan Redman & Austin Blanch will also be having a run in this event .

What a great article on the Redmans TC. That car is what I call a truly historic “MG” with a very interesting history . Thanks to Evan for providing the information to Steve.

“MGCC” Newcastle will be running regularity teams Hillclimb open to all cars on Sunday 6 December at Ringwood Park. Would be great to see a couple of teams from “Team Hunter” competing in this event. For more information on this event contact myself or Steve Jones.

### **Coming Events**

October 31 - November 1 “HSRCA” Spring Festival Wakefield Park.

November 22 “MGCC” Newcastle Hillclimb Ringwood Park. Course A5.

November 28-29 “HSRCA” Summer Festival Sydney Motorsport Park.

December 2 “GEAR” Wakefield Park.

December 6 “MGCC” Newcastle. Teams regularity Hillclimb Ringwood Park.

Remember drive them don't hide them , enjoy your MG I know I do.

Stay healthy , stay safe





Top Photo Matt leading an MG Midget during the racing.  
Lower photo Gary leading a 1969 Cortina during Regularity Racing  
Photographs taken and supplied by courtesy of Phil Sim from  
GEAR Club



Gary Piper leading Milano GT, Gemini Coupe and MG Midget leaving the track at Wakefield Pk 2020.

Photograph taken and supplied by courtesy of Phil Sim from GEAR Club



Matt Blanch on waiting grid prior to going out on to the track at Wakefield Pk 2020

I have been requested to write about the history of my MGA up to the present time. Due to the fact that it's been some time since I purchased it, I had to do some calculations to work out how long I've had the car.

Let's see, sons current age 47 then deduct 4, because that's how old he was when we picked up the car, together from a fellow at Thornton whom I purchased it from. Mmm, I've had it longer than I thought!

The car was in poor condition mechanically, damaged at the front but it did have some new body panels fitted as the car had been previously rolled. It was certainly a car of the early sixties. Everything that was possible to be chromed was chromed. Tappet cover, side plates, fan, pulleys, oil lines, coil and brackets, oil filter canister, bonnet catches and bonnet stay and to top it off the instrument dash was chromed and of course it was fitted with the mandatory billiard ball gear knob.

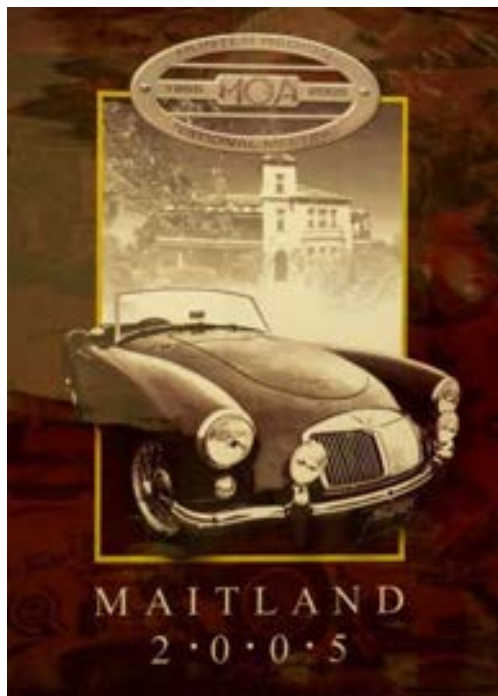
In rebuilding the car, the aim was to restore the car back to original. In those early times there was only old stock parts that you might be fortunate enough to find, no new parts were being manufactured, not like it is at present. I think it was more enjoyable in the sense that you would go to swap meetings hunting for those elusive parts or perhaps a fellow MG owner might have a part you could buy or borrow to copy.

I remember tracking down an original exhaust manifold from a garage in Sydney and finding window side curtains which I needed from an upholsterer across the road from that garage. I got the upholsterer to recover them and cut the Perspex myself to complete them.

I copied an exhaust system from Jeff Newey (who just so happen to have a new original one in his possession). The car only had a roof frame so a vinyl roof had to be made. This was done by a local upholsterer including recovering the seats and door trims. A new floor was made and so it goes on.

The car was kept like this for some time but as you can guess, the sporting side of things began calling.

What happens with concours cars is that it is usually downhill from the point of the rebuild if you want to use them.



The adjacent poster from the 2005 National Meeting in Maitland shows the MGA in standard form.

Jeff Redman drove the car to Nobbys to an organised photo shoot, the results were later used for the National Meeting poster.

I had been involved with cars and modifying them for many years previously, so it was inevitable that the MGA would come under some scrutiny as the competition side of things began to show up short falls when a standard car is pushed hard on the race track.

### **Modifications done to my “A” are as follows;**

#### **Suspension.**

The “A” has been slowly developed over time, beginning with the front suspension.

MGB arms and stub axles replaced the originals, the reason being that they are stronger and have heavy kingpins that are not prone to failure as the original, swivel type kingpin “A” suspension.

There is also a bonus in that they come with disc brakes (the 1500 MGA has drums).

I have also modified the MGB axle spindles (dropped them) which raises the roll center and provides some dynamic camber gain.

With stiffer lowered “Eibach” coil springs, upgraded shock absorbers and sway bar to finish off the front end.

Initially the original wheels were replaced with “Dayton” 72 spoke 6”



wheels for safety, but I eventually replaced these when competing with knock-on “Performance” mag tubeless wheels.

Brake pads are “Hawk” competition pads and rear brake shoes, drilled drums and a 10psi line residual valve.

The original rear leaf springs have been replaced with tapered single leaf units which I machined to obtain the right spring rate. “Koni” adjustable telescopic shock absorbers and radius arms were also added.

### **Engine and transmission.**

Engine is a 3 bearing 1800cc MGB motor fitted with “Cosworth Lotus” pistons, “Argo” conrods, steel main center bearing cap, full race camshaft, tubular chrome moly push rods, lightweight cam followers, roller rocker gear, all bolts are “APT”, variable camshaft sprocket, crankshaft scraper, baffled sump, modified oil pick up and oil pump, oil accumulator, alloy lightened flywheel, engine balanced, geared starter motor, full race modified head.



Carburation is by a dual throat side draught “Weber” and large bore exhaust headers are fitted.



Ignition is electronic with modified advance curve, upgraded coil and leads. Radiator is a "D" type core with overflow tank and retains original engine fan. Oil cooler is thermostatically controlled and there's a high-volume fuel pump.

Just to summarize the motor, it is very tractable and is fitted with a rev. limiter set at 6200 RPM.

### **Gear box/differential etc.**

The gearbox is a close ratio, straight cut, 5 speed, made and supplied by Quaife. The clutch is a light weight competition unit using a puck clutch plate and roller throw out bearing arrangement. Differential is fitted with limited slip diff center. To put the power to the wheels, En40 uprated axles were used as the original axles were twisting at the spline ends.

### **Body Work**

The body has not been altered in any way except the fitting of a roll cage. This is bolted to the chassis rail and stiffened with cross bracing.



Driver's seat is an upholstered aluminum "Kirky" seat with full race harness. A wood rim steering wheel with quick release (which when

removed gives improved access) finishes the interior.



The windscreen is a factory competition type screen. This was offered as an optional fitment from the factory 'Special Tuning' department



The car is a joy to own and has been driven hard.

It has given Sue and I some great memories including lots of runs with my son.

We drove to Tasmania with a luggage rack on the boot holding our suitcase, endured snow and heavy rain.

We'd drive to racing events, compete then drive it home. These include Eastern Creek, Wakefield Park and numerous hill climbs, motorhomas and track days.

It's a little harder now days as the low windscreen means that the roof won't fit anymore.

Now I'm thinking of changing-modifying the old girl!!!

It's a never ending story that always leaves a smile on the face.



## SQUARE RIGGERS NATTER



Square Riggers Natter meetings are on at the usual location "Café inu" on 43 Denison Street in Carrington.

Lively conversations on our interest in MG cars, including the square riggers, are conducted over lunches and liquid refreshments.

Lovely sitting out in the sun (when it is shining) yakking away and enjoying a beer and lunch.

Come and join us you will be welcome.

# FOR SALE

## FOR SALE.

New wiper arms for MGB GT. These were recently bought from MG Car Club UK and suit Right Hand Drive cars. (Mine is originally LHD so I can't use them). \$50 for pair.

Hazard switch 6 terminal with round connections. Also new from UK (mine has flat connections). \$15

Contact **John Stuart. 0408622674.**

[johnstuart65@bigpond.com](mailto:johnstuart65@bigpond.com)

## For sale.

Two Bridgestone Turanza ER30 tyres. 225/60 R15 96V.

They have only done around 100 kms.

Would like \$150 for the two

Robert Devereu      Phone 49342829

## FOR SALE

Horizontal and Vertical

### MILLING and DRILLING MACHINE

*(this machine is not a toy!)*

Geared Head  
including Plinth and Swarf Tray

Lots of new tools (never used)

Metrology Equipment  
plus Tool Cabinet for storage

**\$4,200.00 (or near offer)**

Enquiries: 0416 291 753

*(Not Sundays please)*

## FOR SALE

3.5 TONNE CAPACITY

### SCISSOR LIFT HOIST

Lifting blocks included

Drive on, drive off

Minimum height: 150 mm

Maximum height: 1 metre

240 volt operation

**\$3,500.00 (or near offer)**

Enquiries: 0416 291 753

*(Not Sundays please)*

## **MG Regalia Christmas Sale**

Looking for Stocking fillers?

A small selection of MG Regalia will be available for purchase while we enjoy lunch following the Christmas Toy Run on Sunday 22 November at Blackall's Park.

Cash or card payment will be available.

<b>MG Apron – black or navy</b>	\$5
<b>Hunter MG club baseball cap – maroon</b>	\$15
Tote bag with MG logo	\$10
Hunter MG club cloth badge	\$5
“T’d rather be driving my MG” sticker	\$1
MG Key Ring	\$8
MG Sport Socks – white	\$5
MG logo mouse mat	\$3
Hunter MG windscreen sashes	\$20

## MG Car Club Hunter Region

Minutes of Committee Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Meeting Opened 7:01 pm

Chair: Denny Bowden Minutes: Frans Henskens

Present: Denny Bowden, Frans Henskens, Greg Jenkins, Jeff Lauff, Ian Ashton, Wendy Croker, Anne Pettigrew, Graham Haywood.

Apologies: Stephen Jones, Gary Piper, Gary Croker.

In attendance: Nil.

Minutes: Of previous meeting approved moved Graham Haywood seconded Anne Pettigrew.

Business Arising:

Have not yet donated the \$500 for the National Meeting.  
Concours cancelled for this year.

Reports:

*President (Stephen Jones):*

N/A.

*Vice President (Denny Bowden):*

Sunday was a marvellous run. We had 22 cars and 39 people from MGCCHR.

*Secretary (Frans Henskens):*

Membership renewals to date: 60 single and 68 family. Membership cards have been sent by mail/email to all renewing members

*Treasurer (Greg Jenkins):*

*Club Captain (Jeff Lauff):*

A big thank you to Denny for stepping in and organising the Run last Sunday.

*Sporting Director (Gary Piper):*

Matt Blanch & I competed in a GEAR event on Wednesday 7 October at Wakefield Park. The event saw a total of 76 entries & was run in wet slippery conditions which made for an interest-

ing day's driving. Matt's car performed very well & recent modifications appear to have worked well.

HSRCA Spring Festival will be run on October 30 - November 1 at Wakefield Park, Team Hunter members Steve Jones, Matt Blanch, & Ian Ashton will be competing in the event.

Next event will be the HSRCA Summer Festival at Sydney Motorsport Park where some Team Hunter members will be competing.

Good to see Team Hunter members are an active group of people.

*Public Relations (Ian Ashton):*

November Toy Run and Trophy Presentation is now being held on Sunday 22nd November. Leave Clubhouse at 10, head out to Blackalls Park for morning tea, thence on to lunch using the **Park's BBQs** – all BYO. Please register intention to attend with Ian Ashton.

*Regalia (Wendy Croker):*

Running short of Club shirts. May need to order some more for next year to provide a variety of sizes.

*Committee Member (Gary Croker):*

N/A.

*Social Secretary (Anne Pettigrew):*

Wrote to Heddon Greta drive-in. Also raised the possibility of inviting other car clubs in the region to participate. Response received:

We currently cap capacity at around 200 cars.

We normally screen Fri-Sat-Sun and are open to the public on those times. We have the option of allowing you and your group to enter early and allow the public to join later.

We run many outings for car clubs.

We screen movies up to the end of November. After that we have dance school performances most nights until Christmas. We open Boxing day and screen seven nights per week until the end of January.

Do you have in mind when you would like to run your event and how many you might expect? Also, is it a club run or a fundraiser?

Just reading through further, happy to organise something for February but we would not normally have closed



screenings on a Friday or Saturday so perhaps Sunday night might work?

Anne Pettigrew to ask details such as minimum vehicles required.  
Ian Ashton to canvas other local car clubs to gauge interest in attending.

*Magazine Editor (Graham Haywood):*

N/A.

General Business:

Lease document will be signed for next 3 years with 3-year option.

Discussion of Octagon Award – which is for a Club member who is not on the Committee and performs substantial service for the Club.

Meeting Closed 8:17 p.m.

Next Meeting

7 p.m. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## ***HISTORIC PLATES REGO CHECKS***

**Saturday 5th December**

**9.30am until 10.30am @ Caltex Maryland**

**Minmi Road, Maryland**

**Bring your rego papers and \$10**

**For more information call Denny Bowden**

**4951 4125 or 0402 478 631**

## DISCLAIMER

Technical tips and methods suggested herein are the views of the person submitting them and the club cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of these whatsoever. Persons following these tips and methods must make sure of their personal safety when applying them.

## *Index of Advertisers*

Modern Classic Cars  
Tyrepower Gateshead  
Shannons  
Sportsparts Pty Ltd.

Inside front cover  
Page 22  
Inside back cover  
Outside back cover

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP ENDS JUNE 30 NEW YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP STARTS 1ST JULY

HISTORIC REGISTRATION REQUIRES FINANCIAL  
MEMBERSHIP OF A REGISTERED CAR CLUB SUCH AS  
MG CAR CLUB HUNTER REGION

Applications for renewal or new membership can be accepted  
now.

Thank you to those who have contributed to this edition of "On the Marque"  
Please submit your contributions via email to [ghaywood6@bigpond.com](mailto:ghaywood6@bigpond.com)  
It is great to have input from members as well as committee members!

**Deadline for the December edition will be  
Thursday 26th November 2020**



“NO ONE KNOWS YOUR  
PASSION LIKE SHANNONS.”



Shannons insurance is for motoring enthusiasts just like you, with features like:

- Choice of repairer ■ Agreed value ■ Multi-Vehicle & Multi-Policy discounts
- Limited Use & Club Plate cover ■ Laid up cover ■ One excess free
- windscreen claim per year ■ Total Loss Salvage options ■ Home Contents
- Insurance including \$10,000 enthusiast cover for your collectables & tools
- Towing & storage costs as a result of loss or damage ■ Pay by the month
- premiums at no extra cost

Call Shannons on 13 46 46 for a quote on your special car, daily drive, bike or your home, and speak with a genuine enthusiast.



SHARE THE PASSION

INSURANCE FOR MOTORING ENTHUSIASTS | CALL 13 46 46 FOR A QUOTE | SHANNONS.COM.AU

Shannons Pty Limited ABN 91 091 092 636 is an authorised representative of AN Limited ABN 48 005 297 807, the product issuer. Some benefits only apply to comprehensive vehicle cover. Shannons has not taken account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Read the Product Disclosure Statement before buying this insurance. Contact us for a copy.



# Sportsparts Pty Ltd

*Parts and Technical advice  
for pre 1980 MGs*

- Specialists in original and reproduction MG parts for over 30 years.
- Buy your parts or accessories from us and get free and comprehensive advice on the best way to fit them.
- Visit our store or take advantage of our fast mail service. Our normal trading hours are 9.00am to 5pm but may vary if we have to visit customers or suppliers. Please call beforehand to ensure that we are at the shop to provide the parts you need.

## PROMPT MAIL ORDER SERVICE

Detailed catalogue  
available \$5.00



**Sportsparts Pty Ltd**  
10 Myrtle Street,  
Normanhurst NSW 2076

PO Box 2  
Thornleigh NSW 2120

Phone 02 98751144  
Fax 02 98751906

[www.sportsparts.com.au](http://www.sportsparts.com.au)