

# ON THE MARQUE

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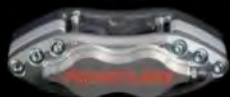
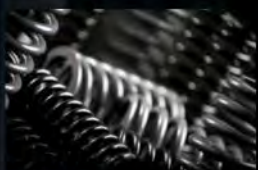
**Club Members Cars parked during breaks in November 2022 and April 2023 Tuning Runs**

**Written and Published by MG Car  
Club Hunter region Inc.**



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# ON THE MARQUE CONTENTS

1	FRONT PAGE
2	“MODERN CLASSIC CARS” ADVERTISEMENT
3	MG CC HUNTER REGION CONTACT INFORMATION
4	“ON THE MARQUE” CONTENTS
5	YOUR COMMITTEE
6	WHAT’S ON
7	NEW MEMBERS BADGES
7	MID WEEK GATHERING information
8	MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
9	FROM THE EDITOR
10	PRESIDENT’S REPORT
12	SPORTING DIRECTOR REPORT
14	GAYDON MOTOR MUSEUM
15	MID WEEK GATHERING
16	SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT
17	APRIL TUNING RUN REPORT
17	MA BAKER INVITATIONAL CAR DISPLAY DAY
18	SQUARE RIGGERS NOGGIN & NATTER
19	PRO REPORT
21	MGCC NATIONAL MEETING 2023 REPORT
24	NATIONAL MEETING RESULTS TABLES
25	“MOXHAM GARAGE” ADVERTISEMENT
26	EURO MOTORFEST FLYER 2023
27	“REPCO” ADVERTISEMENT
28	“TYREPOWER” ADVERTISEMENT
29	“ABINGDON MOTORS” ADVERTISEMENT
30	DINKY CARAVANS
33	DISCLAIMER
33	INDEX OF ADVERTISERS
33	DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2023 ISSUE
34	FOR SALE
38	COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
42	CLUBMAN POINT SCORING SYSTEM
43	“SHANNONS INSURANCE” ADVERTISEMENT
	BACK PAGE “SPORTSPARTS” MG SPARES ADVERTISEMENT

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

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



## **What's On**

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

### **MAY 2023**

- ♦ ***Thursday 4th — Square Riggers Natter 12pm to 2 pm Inu Café***
- ♦ ***Saturday 6th — Lake Macquarie Autumn Fair — marshall on Creek Reserve Rd, between Fourth & Fifth Streets at around 7:30 for a 7:45 entry.***
- ♦ ***Tuesday 9th — Committee Meeting at club rooms 6.00 pm  
Club Meeting at Club rooms 7.30pm***
- ♦ ***Wednesday 10th—Mid Week Gathering—11.30 am for 12 Lunch***
- ♦ ***Sunday 21st — Clubman Run — TILLIGERRY MOTORAMA —  
Meeting at club rooms for convoy to event. Contact  
Howard White if attending on 61 468 335 419***
- ♦ ***Thursday 25th — Tuning Run—Meet at Maccas car park  
Hexham for 9 am departure. Contact Austin Blanch  
on 0434143242 to register***
- ♦ ***Friday 26 to Sunday 28th — MG Racing at Phillip Island Vic.***
- ♦ ***Sunday 28th — MG Car Display at BOORAL Village Markets @  
9.00am until 11.00am—meet at 12 mile Creek Rest  
area at 9.30 drive as convoy to Booral.***

### **JUNE 2023**

- ♦ ***Thursday 1st — Square Riggers Natter 12pm to 2 pm Inu Café***
- ♦ ***Saturday 10th to Sunday 11th — HSRCA SMP***
- ♦ ***Sunday 11th — Mid Coast Motorfest Tuncurry***
- ♦ ***Tuesday 13th — Committee Meeting at club rooms 6.00 pm  
Club Meeting at Club rooms 7.30pm***
- ♦ ***Wednesday 14th—Mid Week Gathering—11.30 am for 12 Lunch***
- ♦ ***Friday 16th to Sunday 18th — Goodwood Festival of Speed***
- ♦ ***Sunday 18th — Euro Motorfest—Honeysuckle foreshore***
- ♦ ***Tuesday 20th — GEAR SMP—Amaroo***
- ♦ ***Thursday 22nd — Tuning Run—Meet at Maccas car park  
Hexham for 9 am departure. Contact Austin Blanch  
on 0434143242 to register***
- ♦ ***Sunday 25th — Backup day for Euro Motorfest if bad weather  
for Sunday 11th.***

Changes to arrangements published in “On the Marque” will in future be advised on both the Web page and the Club’s Facebook page. Members are advised to check them for such changes as the date/time of each event approaches.

## **NEW MEMBERS NAME TAGS**

The following NEW MEMBERS can collect their club badges when attending a club function .

The club badge should be worn during any club function.

Martin / Melanie Campbell

Terry / Janeen Clifton

John / Astrid Perdriau

John Ray

Andy Webmaier

Kevin Bailey

Mark / Karen Hodgen

Jo Barbaschow

Christine Hobson

Jacob Alley-Sonter

Martin Evald

Linda Claydon

Craig Hunt

Bill Pike

Darren Hooper

Tracey Hooper

Marty Elbro

Lisa Eastlake

Scott Brooks

Jason Lay

Peter Davies

Bruce Whitten

Dianne Whitten

Patricia Carter

John Needs

Lisa Needs

Eddy Wedmaier

Hilary Davies

Hong Yan

Kevin Bailey

David Carter

William Hilton

Cheryl Moran

## **Mid Week Gathering May Kay Bowden**

Mid Week Gathering Wednesday **10th May 2023**

venue : .Pelican R.S.L.

Location : **1 Piriwal Street Pelican Parking at rear of hotel**

Time : approx, 11.30am for 12.00

Please let Kay Bowden know if you are coming or Denny Bowden on 0402 476 631.

Thank You, Kay Bowden

**Dear Member of the MG Car Club Hunter Region,**

**Membership Renewals are due by end of June 2023.**

1. Those on historic registration **MUST RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY 30th JUNE** because current membership of an approved car club is a necessary condition of their vehicle's registration and insurance.

2. There are three possible renewal fees as follows:

Single Membership (Full or Associate) is \$60

Family Membership (Full or Associate) is \$70

Student Membership (over 18 and full-time student) is \$25

**3. PDF of *On the Marque* by email is included in Membership. The last printed copy will be published in June 2023 - after that members are welcome to print off the PDF version at, for example, Officeworks.**

4. When renewing it is NOT necessary to complete a Membership Application/Renewal form. If Membership details (e.g. email or postal address, phone number, vehicle details) have changed please advise the Secretary Frans Henskens by email ([henskens@henskens.com.au](mailto:henskens@henskens.com.au))

5. Payment should be made by EFT as follows:

BSB: 062-817

Account Name: MG Car Club Hunter Region

Account Number: 0090 3262

Description: Name(s) of renewing Member(s)

6. After payment has been made please send an email with payment details, i.e.

date and amount of payment,

renewal type either:

Full Single/Family,

Associate Single/Family, or

Student

to our Treasurer Greg Jenkins ([gregjenkins204@gmail.com](mailto:gregjenkins204@gmail.com))



**The last printed copy of *On The Marque* will be published in June 2023.**

Congratulations to all of our representatives whom attended the MG Nationals. Andrew was rewarded with a 2nd in concours for MGA. Our President Steve and his wife Bev did very well in the speed and motorkhana events as well as concours for her Midget and represented our club with distinction.

Elliot Burns also did well in concours with his MG YT Tourer.

The last Tuning Run was well supported and the photograph of 3 white MGA's together is worth noting on page 17.

Our Mid Week Gatherings have continued to be well supported so thank you to Kay Bowden for your continuing efforts.

Both our new PRO and Social Secretary have exiting news about proposed coming events in their reports that I believe will be well supported by our members.

Membership fees will become due in June as our membership year is based upon financial year and fees will remain as \$60 for single, \$70 for family.

I sincerely hope that when I can get my MGB back on the road I will be able to also enjoy the great MG experience driving on runs with like minded members.



### **Progress with my MGB.**

The long awaited application of "Glacier White" top coats, 5 of them, to the body of my car was successfully completed by our Vice President Denny with his experienced steady hand with the spray gun. All I have to do is complete the wet sanding of the primer surfacer on the doors, bonnet, front mudguards and the boot lid before they receive the top coats as well.

Enjoy reading this issue.



### **Ravings of your President.**

The Australian MG National Meeting for 2023 has been run and won. The locations were superb, events well run and I still feel it is reasonable value for money if you take the whole 5 day event into consideration. More on that, and how 'Team Hunter' went later in this article and another wrap by 1<sup>st</sup> time Nat Meet participant, Andrew Gowans.

**2024 National Meeting news:** Next year we will all be heading to Tamworth as the MGCC NSW hosts all the MG clubs of Australia there over Easter. For those that didn't get to the meeting last year in Lake Macquarie, this will be your last chance for a while to have a short trip to attend this celebration of the little car that is so much a part of your life.

The Concours will be at Bicentennial Park on the Peel River in central Tamworth, the motorkhana will head to Gunnedah Airport, and the Sprint will be run at the Oakburn Park Motorsport Complex. There are great roads in that area for the touring events. The theme night will be a B&S Ball (break out your boots, flanos and akubras... and that's for the girls).

It will be a great weekend. If you've never been, here's your chance. Initially you may think the price is expensive, but almost everything (there is one free night) is included from registration through to the farewell breakfast 5 days later. Meals and competition included. It is a superb way to enjoy your car and catch up with all the friends you haven't seen since the last Nat Meet. This is an event that has something for every taste.

-Back to this year's National Meeting, of course I ran my GoPro in the Midget for the hot radiator events, though technically the Midget never got off running temp. They are up on my YouTube channel GriffinRacingMG making this 116 in-car videos. Andrew will have posted the links on the Hunter MGCC web page. I have always found it extremely helpful to see a car similar to mine on a track when I'm trying to learn it. There seems to be no videos of MGs going around the West Circuit at The Bend. There are now.

Looking at the Team Hunter results, Concours: Andrew took 2<sup>nd</sup> in his MGA, Bev got 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Elliot 4<sup>th</sup> with the Y Tourer.

In the Observation run, Elliot and Maryann again got 4<sup>th</sup>.

In the Motorkhana I managed 2<sup>nd</sup> in class and Bev 4<sup>th</sup>.



In the Sprint at Tailm Bend (west circuit), I got 3<sup>rd</sup> and Bev 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the 'overalls' we didn't fare very well due to the low number of our club members that attended. Last year we almost took out the 'Nuffield Oceania Trophy', this year we were 8<sup>th</sup> out of 11 clubs with 4.8 points (the winner Queensland on 13.67). In the 'Wratten Trophy' we were 9<sup>th</sup> with 127.7 points with the winning club Victoria on 1202.3 points.

A sterling effort by the 3 cars and 5 participant that represented Hunter Region from our clubs 223 MG owning members.

-I have always, over my 44 years of MG ownership, found concours' to be highly subjective. I've competed in local, state and national events and done a lot of judging both at club and national meetings (not this year as I wanted to check out the display) over many years. When I looked at the cars in our class this meeting, then over the judging result sheet, I agreed with most points allocated, but was dumbfounded by other scores. I really don't know what they were looking at and how they scored them, but it wasn't the cars I was looking at.

In my opinion, a set of clear instructions on how many points are taken off for originality items would be a good start. The bigger the conscious decision to modify away from original (for performance or aesthetic reasons) the larger the penalty. The Concours should be about, and our clubs motto is, '*Maintaining the Breed*'. At the end of judging, the judges need to stand back and say, did the car that most represents how this model left the factory (not the dealer) win the class. All the cars in the class cannot get identical points in originality.

Outsiders looking at the overall winners should have clear insight into how these cars were originally presented.

I have my race MG and modified MGs, but I try when I do modifications, that are period correct. I'd be horrified if one of these won a concours over a very original car.

Give me a car, a stop watch and my ability any day. There is no personal predisposition, just the time on the results sheet.

Excuse me while I climb down...

Coming up in the next few months will be something for everyone. Short drive, longer drive, social and a bit of motorsport. It's there for you.

Jonesy



## **SPORTING DIRECTOR REPORT**

***Gary Piper***

Firstly well done to all the members who made the long trek to Adelaide for the "MG Nationals". Congratulations to those who were place getters in the various events, well done!

Thanks to Steve Jones & Andrew Gowans for their reports in the mag.

Wed April 18 saw a "GEAR" event at "Pheasant Wood Circuit" at Marulan. The event saw in excess of 60 cars competing in near perfect weather conditions. As usual there was a great mixture of historic vehicles including several MG's, amongst these was a replica K3 race car & a very quick MG TC.



It was the first time that Austin Blanch has competed in a meeting at "Pheasant Wood Circuit" but after the first couple of events was doing some respectable times and drove well all day.



With my "B" still being in bits (slowly getting the parts to complete the engine rebuild) I scrutineered and manned the start / finish line for the afternoon events.



Thanks to Lisa and the "GEAR" committee for their efforts in running a great days historic Motorsport. Also thanks to the "Pheasant Wood" crew for their help on the day, the condition of the venue is a credit to them.



On Saturday June 10, Sunday June 11 the "HSRCA" will run the Sydney Classic on "Sydney Motorsport Park" at Eastern Creek featuring "Heritage Touring Cars", "Early 5 Litre Touring Cars", "2 litre



Super Tourers", along with various types of open wheelers, regularity, Super sprint



events and also "Victorian MG Racing" competing.

If you like watching historic cars race this event will be worthwhile having a look at.

### Coming Events

Sat 10 Sun 11 June "HSRCA Sydney Classic" at "Sydney Motorsport Park".

Tues 20 June "GEAR" "Sydney Motorsport Park South Circuit".

Sunday 25 June "MGCCN Hillclimb Ringwood Park" course A3.

Remember drive them don't hide them enjoy your MG.

Cheers Gary



## PHOTOS FROM GAYDON MUSEUM UK

### BRITISH MOTOR MUSEUM

The following photographs are available by courtesy of member Don Noble .

#### 1957 MG EX181 speed record car

This is the last MG record car built by the engineers at Abingdon, designed purely for straight-line speed. It is unique in that it places the driver ahead of the engine with his feet in front of the wheels.

The supercharged MGA twin-cam engine is mid-mounted and drives through a Riley RM-series gearbox to the chassis mounted differential. The chassis is tubular with MGA front and de Dion rear suspension, with quarterelliptic leaf springs. The body shape was arrived at by extensive wind-tunnel testing and is quite claustrophobic for the driver.

In 1957, with a 1500cc engine installed in EX181, Stirling Moss achieved a record speed of 245.6 mph on the Utah Salt Flats. To keep Moss on course on the otherwise unchanging white salt flats, a black line of old engine oil had been drawn for several miles, which had to be renewed for each run.

Two years later, with the engine slightly enlarged to 1506cc, the American driver Phil Hill recorded a speed of 254.9 mph. This was despite him being almost suffocated by petrol fumes which were being sucked into the confined cockpit. This run by EX181 was the last successful MG speed record attempt and has not yet been beaten in terms of speed for the amount of power produced.

Engine:  
4 cyl, 1506cc

Top speed:  
255 mph (410 km/h)

Power:  
300 bhp

Coachwork:  
streamliner

Price new:  
not quoted

Registration mark:  
none

Accession number: 1980 L63



## **MID WEEK GATHERING APRIL 2023**

Another great social gathering organised by Kay Bowden was held at "The Bank Hotel East Maitland



The location for our meals, the excellent service and the usual enthusiastic conversation ensured a good time enjoyed by all.



This is going to be a short report in length, but with BIG news about two social events! So please get your diaries out NOW.

Members would read elsewhere about the upcoming opportunities to show off our beautiful MG's:

Sunday **21<sup>st</sup> May** - the Clubman Run to **Tilligerry** for their Motorama;

Sunday **28<sup>th</sup> May** – a display of MGs at the **Booral Village Markets**; and then

Sunday **18<sup>th</sup> June** – our very own **Euro Motorfest** at Foreshore Park in Newcastle

Sunday **25<sup>th</sup> June** – the back-up day for Euro Motorfest, in case of bad weather the previous week.

But then ... in July ... on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (i.e. our regular Clubman Run Day) ... will be a run to the beautiful Lochinvar Hotel for our annual celebration of ... **Christmas-in-July** on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July**.

Unfortunately, the lovely pub in Morpeth is currently closed and up for sale, so I had to look for an alternative. The staff at Lochinvar Hotel have been very helpful and are organising the same traditional Christmas meal for the great price of just \$28-00 per head (payable on the day), with drinks extra.

Numbers are limited at maximum of 30, and I will need to give final numbers one week in advance. So, if you are wanting to attend, please speak to me at Clubnight, or you can email me to

[at.rose.villa@gmail.com](mailto:at.rose.villa@gmail.com).

The other fabulous event that Andrew Gowans and I are organising is on **Saturday** (yes, SATURDAY) **16<sup>th</sup> September**, it is a very special luncheon at the Old Maitland Inn at Rutherford to celebrate 100 years since the first MGs were sold in the UK.

This will be a run-with-a-difference then a sit-down lunch! Numbers will be limited again, but with a maximum of 60. More information will follow in later newsletters as to exact costs and accommodation options for those members not living in the Hunter Valley. But the important message is to keep this weekend free!

I hope that all members will be as excited about these events as your Committee is, and will come along and support them!

And, as usual ... keep watching this space!

Anne Pettigrew  
Social Secretary



What a great Tuning Run we had.

The photograph is of the participants lined up outside of Leslie's House just out of Dungog.

It would be rare to see three white MGA's together enjoying a rest at the end of a enjoyable Tuning Run.

Next Tuning Run is on Thursday 25th of May hope to see another well supported run.

### **Booral Village Markets & Ma Baker Invitational Car Display Day**

Our Club has been invited to display our cars at the Booral Village Markets & Ma Baker Invitational Car Display Day on Sunday 28 May from 9-11am.

Entry is free.

We'll meet at the 12 Mile Creek Rest Area at 9:30 and drive in convoy to Booral.

The local Markets will be open and Ma Bakers will be open selling pies, cakes & treats.

Please contact Andrew Gowan 0425 204 762 if you have any questions.





## SQUARE RIGGERS NOGGIN & NATTER



Starting to get a more diverse range of “MG’s” attending which is good to see needing some sq rigger “T” types for the visual impact.

Square Riggers Noggin & Natter meeting will occur at the usual location “Café inu” on 43 Denison Street in Carrington for

**May 4th 2023.**

As usual we can order, then sit in the outside area, or inside the Café if it is raining, to eat, drink and chat.



**Come and join us as you will be welcome.**



Well, hasn't the last month flown past? This time last month I was in the final stages of my preparation for going to the 2023 MGCC NatMeet in Adelaide. Since then I've won Silver in my class at Concours, made a bunch of new friends, had a fantastic time, and covered over 3,000 kms in "Miss Scarlett" with no real issues or breakdown - touch wood (tapping my head).

Yes, I experienced one bit of equipment failure, with my Speedo coming a cropper around 20 kms out of Wagga on Day 2. It started to make a chattering noise, and began to swing wildly around from above 55 mph. Either I was spontaneously accelerating to above 120mph, and then braking suddenly to 5mph (which would be extraordinarily-good performance, both in engine power and braking), or something was seriously wrong in Jaeger-Land.

At this point the needle fell off the dial. Oooh!

Pulling over and feeling around the back of the speedo to try and detect the fault I found the rear casing was very hot to touch. I'd noted that the speedo was still chattering and whining after the needle 'fell off its perch', so I uncoupled the speedo drive cable. Much more relaxing.

Fortunately I'd been following Elliott in convoy, so I continued this course of action for the remainder of the trip to Adelaide, and on some of the social events. However, after NatMeet Heather and I were going to drive around the Adelaide Hills for a few days before I drove home solo, so I needed a backup plan. I have a smartphone holder in my MGA, so I downloaded a GPS Speedo app to my phone and used this for a few days. This allowed me to baseline a few standard speeds against the tachometer, which then became my speedo for the return trip.

After the speedo needle did its 'Norwegian Blue' impression, and fell off its perch to join the choir invisible, I got some diagnosis from the 'brains trust'. The consensus is that a bearing failed in the speedo, causing the noise, heat and commotion. This in turn melted the plastic holding the needle to the central spindle. So, off to the Instrument Doctor.

Thanks to everyone who offered advice and diagnosis.

Last month I mentioned that we're going to have a special event to celebrate the Centenary of MG Cars. Anne will speak to this, but if you're interested

please keep Sat 16 September free. More to come.

Cheers,

Andrew Gowans  
The PRO with no Speedo  
0425 204 762  
[public\\_relations@huntermg.com](mailto:public_relations@huntermg.com)



## **MGCC National Meeting 2023 Report**

The 2023 MGCC National Meeting was run by the MGCC of South Australia over the Easter weekend 07 - 12 April, in and around Adelaide. Over 200 vehicles, and many more people, attended, and attracted club members from all around Australia.

The MGCC Hunter Region had 5 members at the NatMeet with 3 MGs registered for various events. Our members were;

Elliott & Maryann Burns in their MG YT

Andrew Gowans in his MGA 1600 Mk2

Steve & Bev Jones in their MG Midget

The Clubs with the strongest representation were SA & Victoria, which fielded around 60 cars each.

The 2023 National Meeting consisted of the Concours, Motorkhana, Super Sprints, the Kimber Run, the Observation Run & the Social Run (same as the Observation Run, but non-competitive), and Rocker Cover Racing. An hospitable range of social gatherings are also provided, the opening night Noggin 'N' Natter, the Saturday night Fancy Dress Dinner, lunch on both the Kimber & Observation/Social Runs, the Presentation Dinner on the final night, and a Farewell Breakfast on the Tuesday morning.

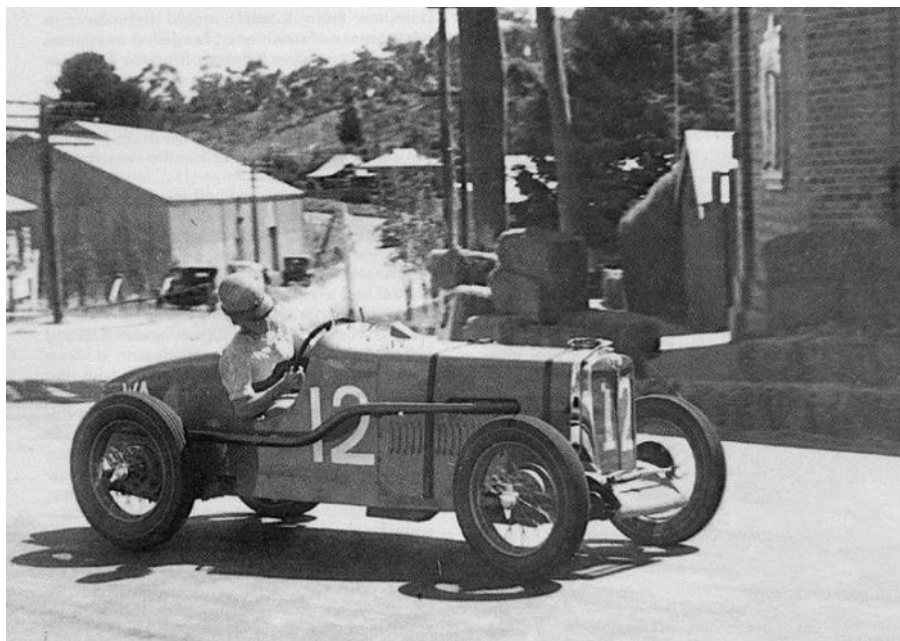
The motorsport events were run at The Bend Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend, around 90 minutes drive from Adelaide. The competitors gave great reviews of this facility, and rated it as a top-class motorsport venue. Bev & Steve stayed at the Rydges Pit Lane Hotel, right on the motorsport park, which gave a comfortable base for their sporting campaign. The hotel lobby includes a multi-million dollar collection of prestige & classic cars owned by the fellow who also owns The Bend.

The Concours was held near our Motel in Glenelg, which made getting to the park a snap after detailing our cars. There were around 200 cars in the park, and some intense (but friendly) rivalry amongst the competitors. We spent most of the event circulating amongst all the cars, talking to people, and taking lots of photos. For me the highlight of the display was the near-complete restored Arnolt TD in gorgeous Peacock Blue.



Stanley H. "Wacky" Arnolt was an American businessman and entrepreneur who, over a 15-year period from the late 40's, worked with Bertone to build around 250 Arnolt specials, based on imported MG, Aston Martin, Bristol and Bentley cars. It's estimated there were approximately 100 Arnolt TDs built in both sportster and coupe versions. Elliott thinks he may have seen this car 8 or so years ago, prior to the restoration, and he says the amount of work involved would've been quite substantial.

Whilst the motorsport events were on at Tailem Bend the more social events were being run out of Adelaide. These were the Kimber Run, a scenic drive around the Adelaide Hills to Mt Lofty and onto Hahndorf for a catered lunch, and the Observation/Social Run through a different set of directions for lunch in Lobethal, which was the site of the 1939 Australian Grand Prix. This race was won by Allan Tomlinson driving an MG TA.



A key aspect of the NatMeet is meeting MG owners from all over the country, renewing old friendships and making new ones. We all love talking about our MGs and it's a great way to start a conversation by admiring and asking questions about other people's cars. This sociability is carried on in the formal, and semi-formal evening events.



At the Disney-themed fancy dress dinner on Saturday the awards for the Concours were given out. Bev & Steve's Midget took Silver in their Midget class, and I scored Silver for "Miss Scarlett" in the MGA Roadster Single Cam class. On Monday night at the Farewell Dinner the sporting and overall NatMeet awards are handed out. Steve scored a Silver for his class in Motorkhana and Bronze in Super Sprints. All in all a good result for our small, but doughty contingent.

However we won no major awards or trophies this year, with Queensland taking the Nuffield Oceana Trophy and Victoria taking the Wratten Trophy. There is always next year, with 2024 being just 'up the road' at Tamworth. Are you up for it?

So, was the over 3,000 kms of driving worth it? Never having been to a NatMeet before, and never having driven my MGA so far before, I would say yes. Wholeheartedly Yes! It was a fantastic amount of fun and I met great people and made new friends. The only competitive event I entered was the Concours, so there's a balance of social VS sporting there for everyone.

Why not come to Tamworth in 2024? I'll be there.



## 2023 MGCC National Meeting Results - Summary

If you're interested in the full results from the NatMeet in Adelaide, I'd recommend going to the event website to read the complete reports.

See - <https://www.natmeet2023mgcc.com.au/results.html>

### NUFFIELD OCEANIA TROPHY

Place	Club	Total Points	2% factor	Nuffield Points
1	Queensland	82	6	13.67
2	Victoria	231	20	11.55
3	South Australia	160	14	11.43
4	Newcastle	55	5	11
5	Tasmania	53	5	10.6
6	Geelong	38	5	7.6
7	New South Wales	61	11	5.55
=8	Wagga	24	5	4.8
=8	Hunter	24	5	4.8
10	Canberra	11	5	2.2
11	TC Owners	1	5	0.2

### WRATTEN TROPHY

Place	Club Name	Con	Mot	Spr	Obs	Sum	Fudge Factor	Points with Fudge	Kim	Wratten Final Points
1	Victoria	188	208	192	54	642	1.84	1181.3	21	1202.3
2	Tasmania	62	36	37	11	146	5.62	820.5	5	825.5
3	Queensland	75	44	34	8	161	4.29	690.7	2	692.7
4	South Australia	217	99	112	5	433	1	433.0	22	455
5	Newcastle	20	37	40	0	97	4.14	401.6	0	401.6
6	New South Wales	60	8	19	10	97	3.01	291.0	17	309
7	Geelong	26	14	18	9	67	2.3	154.1	4	158.1
8	Wagga	24	0	9	0	33	4.02	132.7	1	133.7
9	Hunter	15	9	6	3	33	3.78	124.7	3	127.7
10	MG Owners	9	0	0	6	15	7.31	109.6	2	111.6
11	Canberra	2	9	4	2	17	3.18	54.1	0	54.1
12	MG Restorers	4	0	0	0	4	4.59	18.4	0	18.4
13	TC Owners	1	0	0	0	1	6.78	6.8	2	8.8
14	Western Australia	0	0	0	0	0	5.15	0	1	1



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# Euro Motorfest 2023

## Sunday 18th June

From 8.30am to 1.30pm

Display Vehicle entry fee \$10.00

### Newcastle Foreshore Park

Wharf Road, Newcastle East

Food & Drinks available

For more info call Andrew Gowans 0425 204 762

*All European Marques Welcome!*

Please register your club's attendance by  
emailing [public\\_relations@huntermg.com](mailto:public_relations@huntermg.com)

*In the event of wet weather the alternative date is Sunday 25th June*

**Presented by MGCC Hunter Region**

*Donating to*

**Variety the Children's Charity &**

**John Hunter Children's Hospital**







## THERE'S A LOT OF HISTORY HIDDEN HERE...

I spy a driver, two Bathurst legends, and an Aussie first.  
A honey badger, four tracks, a Martin, a fine four-fendered friend, a bumblebee, and a mad man.



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Queensland

## **Dinky Caravans and the “Mint and Box Company”.**

johnstuart65@bigpond.com

In July 1991 a company called “Mint and Boxed” went bankrupt in the UK. It's founder Jeffrey Levitt had started the company in 1983 and dealt in antique toys. He had apparently been fascinated by Dinky Toys as a child and developed the idea of setting up a company selling top market antique toys. The company expanded rapidly and by 1990 had a 3 storey showroom in Maddison Avenue in New York as well as the original building in Edgware in London. The company arranged huge Antique toy Auctions and had a very high profile. Prior to 1991 it had won a prestigious Queen's award for successful British Businesses.

I visited the London branch in January 1991 where I bought a few items. I was amazed by the amount of stock in the shop at that time. When 6 months later I heard of the company's collapse and that all the stock was to be auctioned off by the liquidators, I determined to try to buy one of the lots. Skimming through the catalogue, it seemed the only one I had a chance of getting was a lot of Dinky caravans and trailers, and I was successful. I can't remember exactly what I paid, maybe \$500 to \$600 Australian, but I finished up with a number of Mint and Boxed caravans, trailers and speedboats some of which I have subsequently sold.

The first caravan issued by Dinky was prewar 30g “Caravan Trailer” which had a fairly primitive wire hook and was produced from 1936 to 1941. It is rare and I don't have a model. The picture is from the “Hornby Companion Series Vol.4”.



A similar but updated model was released in 1956 numbered 190, it had a more sophisticated upward facing hook that neatly fits into the space at the back of the baseplate of most of the saloon cars. It was painted 2 tone either cream and blue or cream and orange.

A 4 berth caravan followed in 1960 with interior fittings, number 188. The fittings could be seen through the opening plastic door, but then in 1963 a similar model with a Perspex roof was released (117) demonstrating more clearly the internal fittings which include a bed and wardrobe.



Here is a picture of the collection, towed by a variety of cars including, MGB, Morris Oxford, Austin Atlantic, Peugeot wagon, Alfa Romeo (pulling a boat), Austin Westminster and a Hudson Commodore.



More detailed photographs follow. Caravan 190 pulled by Peugeot wagon in foreground. 4 berth caravans in background.



As shown, 4 berth caravan with Perspex roof showing interior fittings.

Below are shown, Healy Sports Boat on trailer pulled by an Alfa Romeo, group of caravans showing hitching mechanism and detail of baseplate space to receive hitch.



To return to Jeffrey Levitt and “Mint and Boxed”. While the company was active he had a Jetset lifestyle, throwing big parties at Maddison Avenue with film stars attending, Richard Gere is mentioned. He frequently flew on Concorde between London and New York.

Here is a quote from an article on the internet written after the bankruptcy case in 1993.

*“At Southwark Crown Court yesterday, Levitt, of Heronsgate, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to eight charges of fraudulent trading and evading VAT and import duty. He set up loans with the NatWest and Midland banks worth pounds13m. He forged letters from big companies offering millions for non-existent toys. The banks would pay him advances to cover the period between the sale and payment. But the sales were bogus, with the banks never being repaid. Genuine imports were undervalued to evade import duty and VAT.*

*The fraud also gave him a lifestyle that involved jetting around the world on Concorde and, one witness said, “spending money like water”. Although he*



*had a mansion, he rarely lived there. A psychiatric examination of Levitt's personality found him to have a severe personality disorder. The report said there was something worrying, even crazy, about his thoughts. He was described as a Walter Mitty.*

*The business bought and sold the very best toys to appear at the world's auction houses. After the firm crashed, Sotheby's sold off remaining stock for pounds 600,000 including a 1910 German tin plate carousel for pound 47,000. Levitt's company, "Mint and Boxed", collapsed in 1991 with debts of pounds 15m.*

So after 8 years of living the high life Jeffrey Levitt went bankrupt owing 15 million pounds, the final auction raised only 600,000 of which I contributed a very small amount.

Hope you enjoyed this Dinky related story,  
John Stuart.

### **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***

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Moxham Garage	Page 25
REPCO	Page 27
Tyrepower Gateshead	Page 28
Abingdon Motors	Page 29
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Please submit your contributions via email to [ghaywood6@bigpond.com](mailto:ghaywood6@bigpond.com)

**Deadline for the JUNE 2023 edition will be  
Friday 26th May 2023**



# FOR SALE

## 1968 MGB Mk2 Roadster

I wish to sell my 1968 MGB Mk2 roadster. This car has been fully restored by MG Workshops in Melbourne and it is a quality restoration of the car and the engine.

The engine is totally rebuild, balanced and with a fast road cam and is a delight to drive.

The bodywork is restored to a high standard with new floors and sills and fully repainted in the original white colour with a new rag top.

This car is as original except for a very 60s after-market steering wheel and chrome wire wheels from my MGC ( I fitted 15 x 6" wheels to my MGC )

**Asking price is \$37,500**

This car has not even covered 5000 km since restoration.

Howard Anderson [howard@andersonwinery.com.au](mailto:howard@andersonwinery.com.au)



## MGB Parts For Sale

3/4" (stiffer) front anti-roll bar \$100

Salisbury style diff. Brake to brake. \$350.

A set of Rostyle steel wheels free!

**Phone Alan on 0408608397**

# FOR SALE

British Racing Green MGB 1967 ROADSTER  
MARK 1.5,



4 speed manual transmission  
Compliance plate  
1/1967  
NSW REGO BSF 75P  
Family purchased  
14/12/2002 but has



documentation back to 14/12/1990. It has had a part restoration completed in Dec 2018 including a gear-box overhaul.



A respected British classic specialist described it as an 'honest car'. It is fully registered for another 12 months 12/12/22 till 12/12/23, It has been garaged No rust, New roof, Kill switch, Single battery Excellent exhaust note. Tyres are in excellent condition , Weber carb, Mechanic happy to discuss engine details.

I am looking for a new owner who will have as much enjoyment as I have.

**Asking price \$28,995     June Kentwell 0409441173**

**1967 MGB roadster,  
monza red, 45734 miles,  
\$32,000**

Lovely car inside and out,  
very straight body with  
no rust, interior and both  
tonneau's in excellent  
condition



recent engine freshen up, currently on club rego, inspection will not disappoint.

Kind regards

**Paul Jacobson 0414 956 459**



# FOR SALE

## MGB PARTS AVAILABLE

I have a front cross member for an MGB 1966, and two wheels. Happy for them to go to a good home or make me an offer **Bill Brown 0425246572**



## BOOKS FOR SALE



Call Peter 0431891877 for prices



# FOR SALE

## Wanted for conversion of LH to RH MGB 1972

Cross member

Steering rack

Dash including instruments (if possible)

Centre console

Throttle pedal

Fire wall cone

**Contact Doug Campbell 0468 363100 or [kniveton@hotmail.com](mailto:kniveton@hotmail.com)**

## 1957 MGA 1600 Roadster

A truly stunning example of this classic English MGA Roadster. Finished in HSV Fire Red with cream leather/vinyl to the original combination.

I conducted a complete car ground-up bare metal restoration painstakingly close to the original factory specification.

The car has matching numbers for the chassis and engine.

The engine rebuild, to the 1600 specification, was blue printed.

Hard tops (2) are available for restoration.



Original milage 81,269 miles – since restoration (2002) 2,721 miles

Available in Newcastle

**EOI – contact John Fraser-Easton – 0409 961 080**



MG Car Club Hunter Region  
Minutes of Committee Meeting Held 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Meeting Opened: 6.04 p.m.

Chair: Denny Bowden Minutes: Frans Henskens.

Present: Denny Bowden, Frans Henskens, Greg Jenkins, Howard White, Gary Piper, Anne Pettigrew, Graham Haywood.

Apologies: Stephen Jones, Alan Andoni, Andrew Gowans,

In attendance:.

Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Approved, moved Anne Pettigrew seconded Gary Piper Gary Piper.

Business Arising:

Nil.

Reports:

President (Stephen Jones):

Nothing new to report.

Vice President (Denny Bowden):

Nothing new to report.

Secretary (Frans Henskens):

2022/23 Membership renewals to date: 75 single and 77 family, a total paid-up membership of 229.

Have booked Lambton Park with NCC for our 2023 Concours – October 21 with October 28 as reserve.

Have requested paperwork from NCC for our 2023 Euro Motorfest application.

The Coffee Well (Yvonne Parslow, coffee) and Crafty Pit (Amanda Bull, food) have both booked us in for 18 June.

Coffee Well is not available on June 25 (backup day).

Treasurer (Greg Jenkins):

Club Captain (Howard White):

Nothing new to report.



Sporting Director (Gary Piper):

GEAR is on next week at Pheasant Wood.

HSRCA Festival in Sydney mid-June.

Bruce Melville has posted an article on Phillip Island, thank you.

Public Relations (Andrew Gowans):

Nothing new to report.

Regalia (Position Vacant):

Nothing new to report.

Committee Member (Alan Andoni):

Unwell and unable to attend this meeting. Nothing new to report.

Social Director: (Anne Pettigrew)

**Andrew & I propose a celebration for MG's 100 year anniversary.** After making many phone calls to possible venues for lunch in the Maitland area I remembered having Christmas lunch one year at the Old Maitland Inn on the New England Highway at Rutherford which was very nice. It is NOT old and, in fact, has had renovations and alterations since I was there. The main points are:

\$200 exclusive room hire of 4 hours (including setting up decorations etc)

2-course Lunch around \$40-00 per person with alternate drops

Drinks to be purchased by diners separately

1 large, open, and light-filled dining room

White linen tablecloths and serviettes

Decorations by us OK, but no sequins or candles on tables

Capacity of 60, but would go ahead with a minimum of 20

Plenty of off-street parking

Accommodation is available (to be booked separately by anyone needing it), with a Queen room on a Saturday night for \$155

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September is available, and are holding the date until the end of April for us to confirm and pay the \$200 deposit

Final numbers and full payment need to be made 7-14 days prior to the function

Committee approved paying the \$200 deposit, and for the organisers to open bookings on a

first come basis with payment up front TBA when cost is confirmed.

Questions:

Do we want to invite other MG car clubs? Or notify other car clubs in the area if they have members with MGs

See what interest from MGCCHR is first, then perhaps open up.

Do we want to organise a momento, e.g. a special 100-year wine glass or something similar?

Have as optional extra to dinner price.

Also see items in General Business

Magazine Editor (Graham Haywood):

April magazine has been issued and E-mailed to all registered members.

Currently there are only 5 members and 2 advertisers receiving printed copies of the magazine and the annual cost to produce the printed copies was in excess of \$2,000.00.

I propose that the committee formally vote to only produce electronic magazines starting financial year 2023/24.

Committee agreed printed copies of *On The Marque* will end with the June edition.

#### General Business:

Congratulations to our attendees and competitors at MG National Meeting Concours 2023 held in Adelaide. Results known to date are:

Andrew Gowans second in Class G – MGA Roadster (Single Cam).

Bev and Steve Jones second in Class T – MG Midget.

Steve Jones third in class in Super Sprint event in the MG Midget.

Need to compose a notice for the May edition of *On The Marque* advising need for membership renewal, unanimously agreed membership fee to stay as for 2022/23 moved Greg Jenkins seconded Gary Piper.

Some other matters for discussion from Anne:

Do we want to have another Christmas-in-July luncheon? At the same pub in Morpeth? Or try and find somewhere different (but hard to get somewhere as good or as cheap!)

Yes, third Sunday in July

And what about an outing to visit 'the Olive Man' the other side of Paterson (that we were going to have last October, except I wasn't still on the committee to follow it up!)

Anne to make contact and organise.

Lastly, I was asked to sell raffle tickets last month and had a very unsavoury encounter, and don't want to do it again.

Denny to approach Peter Moxham re being guest speaker next month.

Club Website stats for March 2023 (Andrew Gowans):

Site was viewed 1,397 times with peak being 17 March with 138 views – average 45 views per day.

The top 5 searched pages for November were:

Site Home Page – 298 views

Magazine Archive – 195 views

- ✦ Classifieds - 105 views
- ✦ Tea Gardens/ Hawks Nest Motorfest - 40 views
- ✦ Cars & Coffee In The Bay – 34 views

Website backend updates are regular and ongoing. Updates applied in March:

- ✦ Wordpress 6.2 (Webpage environment)
- ✦ Jetpack to 11.9.1 (Site monitoring & performance)
- ✦ Jetpack Protect to 1.3.0 (Security plugin)
- ✦ Beaver Builder to 2.6.3.1 (Web Page editor)
- ✦ Ninja Forms 3.6.2.0 (Webform builder)
- ✦ Knowledge Base to 10.0.0 (Ask an MG Guru)
- ✦ Events Calendar to 6.0.11 (Calendar app)
- ✦ Ultimate Product Catalogue to 5.2.4 (Regalia)
- ✦ WP Super Cache to 1.9.4 (Site cache)

A full Website backup was done on 31 March.

Facebook stats for February were:

There were 154 posts to the Facebook Group, which was viewed 6,087 times.

Meeting Closed 7:14 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 @ 6.00 pm

## MGCCHR Clubman Point Scoring System

The Honour Board on the wall in the Clubroom has provision for the yearly Clubman Champion and Sporting Champion.

Every member has the chance to get their name on the board through consistency of participation in Sporting Events or Clubman runs.

**Sporting** results are kept by the Sporting Director and apply to any MG Club endorsed sporting event that members compete in whether it is a hill climb, motor kana or racetrack event. 1 point allocated for each sporting event a member competes in during the club year.

1st, 2nd and 3rd placings are decided by the total number of points allocated and are rewarded with a trophy. The 1st placing winner's name is listed as the **Sporting Champion** on the Honour Board.

**Clubman** results are kept by Public Relations Officer (PRO) and are forwarded to him via (A) member responsible for monthly Wednesday mid week pub and club runs, (B) member responsible for monthly Thursday tuning runs, (C) Club Captain responsible for Sunday monthly Clubman runs. To qualify for Clubman points members must participate in a minimum of 3, mixed or the same, event runs in the same MG during the club year (July to June).

Depending on what model MG you own and or participate in will decide 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each allocated model division. PRO allocates one point to each driver and mate for each Clubman run for each MG Division. Trophies are awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each MG Division and to the first three MG mates (car partners, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends etc.) The overall winner (the member who participates in the most Clubman runs) wins the Clubman Trophy and has their name listed as the **Clubman Champion** on the Honour Board

Our Club also has a **NON MG** class which is designed to attract members with other marque sports cars to join our club and participate in all runs. PRO allocates one point to each NON MG sports car participating in a run. Members must also participate in a minimum of 3 runs in the same NON MG car to qualify for the trophy. There is only one **NON MG and mate** combined trophy which is awarded to the member with the highest points at the end of the club year.

Although NOT awarded annually the **Octagon Award Trophy** can be awarded by the committee to a NON committee member who in the view of the committee continually assists the MGCCHR with a range of services over the club year.



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