

GOBLINS' GAZETTE

The official publication of the
AUSTIN HEALEY SPRITE
DRIVERS' CLUB INC



MAY 2023



**ROB ROY REVIVAL
JACK'S FIRST DRIVE FOR 2023
ROUND & ABOUT WITH SPRITELY OWNERS**



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AUSTIN HEALEY SPRITE
DRIVERS' CLUB INC



PO Box 248, Box Hill Victoria 3128

www.ahsdc.org



REGULAR CONTENT

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Calendar of Events..... | 4 |
| Committee 2023..... | 4 |
| President's Point..... | 5 |
| Team Social MOVE..... | 6 |
| Round & About..... | 10 |
| Competition..... | 12 |
| Memberships..... | 16 |
| April Club Meeting..... | 17 |
| Club Gear..... | 22 |
| For Sale or Wanted..... | 24 |
| Club Permit Scheme..... | 26 |

FEATURE CONTENT

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| A Bugeye Birthday..... | 5 |
| Mid Week Drives 2023..... | 7 |
| Snippets..... | 17 |
| Jack's First Drive for 2023..... | 18 |
| Vale: Chris Lawson..... | 19 |
| Rob Roy Revival..... | 20 |
| Vale: Darryl Walker..... | 23 |

The AHSDC meets on the first Friday of each month (except January).
The meeting is at the clubrooms at 19-23 Rosalie Street, Springvale (Melway 80 A8).

DEADLINE FOR GOBLINS' GAZETTE IS THE SECOND FRIDAY OF EVERY
MONTH except December - **no mag in January**
Articles and photos can be sent to mandypj@optusnet.com.au
Please send photos as separate files DO NOT embed in word documents

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor, the Austin Healey Sprite Drivers' Club Inc or its committee. Information is published in good faith and we do not accept responsibility for any loss, damage or disruption caused by errors or omissions, whether such errors or omissions result from negligence, accident or any other cause. All rights reserved.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CALENDAR FOR APRIL & MAY 2023

| Date | Event | Organiser |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 May | AHSDC General Meeting 23 Rosalie Street Springvale 7.30pm | AHSDC |
| 7 May | Mallala 6-Hour More information contact the competition secretariat | MSCA SA |
| 7 May | MSCA Sandown Sprints More information see competition pages | MSCA |
| 11 May | Jack's Drive See page 7 for details | AHSDC |
| 13 May | Rob Roy Hillclimb See competition pages | MGCC |
| 27-28 May | Winton Histories See pages 5, 14 & 15 | Austin 7 AHSDC |
| 1 June | Jack's Drive See page 7 for details | AHSDC |
| 2 June | AHSDC General Meeting 23 Rosalie Street Springvale 7.30pm | AHSDC |
| 17 June | Sprites on the M.O.V.E See page 6 for details | AHSDC |
| 22 June | Jack's Drive See page 7 for detail | AHSDC |
| 25 June | Rob Roy Hillclimb See competition pages | MGCC |

Please note dates are subject to change. This calendar is not a comprehensive list of events, there may be other events held on the same dates in other locations. Check out the club's website, it is regularly updated www.ahsdc.org

AHSDC 2023 COMMITTEE

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president@ahsdc.org

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OTHER APPOINTMENTS

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Club Gear/Regalia

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Club Accountant

Jim Dewar 5460 4460

Club Library

Tony & Nancy Young 9890 7530

MSCA Delegate

Bob Lomas 0418 382 299

Motorsport Australia Delegate

Mike Welsh 0416 254 599

Sprite Register & Club Permit Officer

Warren Reid 9870 9442

cpsadmin@ahsdc.org

AOMC Delegate

Bob Lomas 0418 382 299

Webmaster

Dave Wallace 0438 856 353

Club Solicitor

Stratton Langslow
205 William Street, Melbourne.

The AHSDC Inc is affiliated with Motorsport Australia and is a member of the Marque Sports Car Association & the Association of Motoring Clubs.

Well having the meeting in the middle of the month confused me ... However, it should be noted I did open up the clubrooms an hour earlier in case we had confusion with the earlier daylight saving change. So, you see it's not only the milk cows that get confused with the change from A2 milk one day full cream the next ... complete and utter confusion I say.

I must admit we had a great meeting – it was excellent and worth turning up early not to miss anything. The only drawback was they wouldn't let me drive the historic yellow racing Sprite home, my only disappointment for the night.

I learnt so much about the historic racing class, the allowable modifications and what had to be kept as standard to meet the rules, and how competitive these Sprites can be.

The racing team was amazing in clearly expressing the enthusiasm and opportunities that this class of racing offers, and how well the Sprites can outdo the Corvettes and Porsches. The enthusiasm that the team shows for racing development and opportunities to develop racing skills starting from

go karts to Sprites, reminds us of how racing all in levels of the sport can develop winning skills.

Very impressive and amazing race team presentation, and there are more exciting meetings that being organised by Owen, and if you are not able to be there then you can join via YouTube thanks to Mike.

While on the subject of racing, we announced at the meeting that Mike is applying for a grant to supply OH&S gear for our trackside volunteers who do the timing on the pit wall. The requirement for ear protection and communications has become more apparent and a necessity. If we are not successful in the grant application then the club has agreed that it will finance this requirement to protect our members.

It was also announced at the meeting that we are working to resurrect the Nationals to be held at Wodonga in early 2024. A Nationals' committee will be formed, and support was called to develop the Big Plan. At the meeting we had an enthusiastic response to the call, and those that responded will be meeting via Zoom on Friday 21 April. This is

currently being championed by Barry Payne and we appreciate the work done so far.

Frank gave us a talk on the F1 and we are assured that those in attendance had a great time, and next year Frank will be pushing for more opportunities to attend and display cars. I personally look forward to this.

There is so much happening this year on the social scene. Keep an eye on the social page in the Goblins' for upcoming activities.

For Shepparton, we had another reminder that at least 20 cars are now going but there is still space, so book soon.

Now let's not forget Winton, we need as many cars on display as possible, it's our anniversary of 65 years of the Mk1 Sprite and we still look as good as new (well maybe Rusty my car doesn't, but Rusty has a big heart of gold [1300cc] and a wonderful temperament).

Enough ramblings – come to Winton or anywhere because we enjoy your company

*See your wheels in motion soon ...
Regards Jules*

CELEBRATE THE BUGEYE'S 65TH BIRTHDAY AT THE WINTON HISTORICS

This year the 28 May is the 65th anniversary of the Sprite! And, by happy coincidence, it is the Sunday of the Winton Historic race meeting and we would love as many members as possible to make their way to Winton in their Spridgets.

The committee is planning some "celebration catering" at Winton on either the 27th or 28th to celebrate the anniversary!

Please start your engines and your planning (and booking accommodation) and let Scott Benjamin or me know if you'll be there and on which day or days so we can cater accordingly.

Did you know...we have nearly 1400 followers on our Facebook page, many of whom are national and international people, car clubs and associations.

Whether you're on Facebook or not, feel free to contribute to our page either by 'liking', commenting,

putting up a post, or sending me photos, stories or anecdotes to share.

Stories about our members' other interests or achievements are also terrific and nothing will be put in a post without the permission of the people concerned.

Every three months I will update our cover photo so please send me any photos you have that you think would be suitable, old or new. The one of the two Bugeyes facing each other has been very well received...especially by followers in Japan!

It's great to share what members are doing as we are an active club, with interesting members and many great spirited adventures past, present and future! Bragging rights permitted!

Emma Riddington

Team Social

Many Sprites are on the M.O.V.E to Shepparton

Since the last magazine, Team Social has driven to Shepparton in separate cars following John Niemann's route instructions. It was nearly perfect so we arrived at the allotted time for a well deserved coffee and sandwich at our morning tea spot. We then drove to MOVE without any dramas at all; so now our convoy is as tight as a Sprite bonnet in a head wind.

On the 17th we will leave Beasley's at 9am sharp, have morning tea at our chosen café in Seymour, and arrive at the Milestone Café, for tasty lunches washed down with your favourite beverage. After lunch we walk next door to the impressive Museum Of Vehicle Evolution, M.O.V.E.

If you were there four years ago, even two years ago, you would have experienced less than a third of what they now have on offer. The modern extension has been described as "MOVE on steroids", and the exhibitions are much more significant.

The Kenworth & Legends of Road Transport exhibition is fascinating and the stories of the drivers make you connect in a much more personal way with the exhibition.

The Fashion exhibition is also extensive and creatively presented. Of course, there are cars too, beautifully restored. Three of the top 10 Australian restorers actually live and work in Shepparton and their work is on display in the venue.

M.O.V.E regularly hosts other exhibitions and whilst we are there the Elfin cars will be displayed, which should be a real treat.

... and speaking of treats, if the above is not to your taste then you will find an array of shops two minutes walk away. There's the Chocolate and Apple Factory that hands out samples, a collectables shop bursting at the seams and a proprietor happy to talk on any subject. There's even a nursery selling garden ornaments where you could buy a gnome to match your Sprite.

Our accommodation is at the Peppermill Inn, which combines motel and hotel; we book in, park our cars in front of our rooms and meet for Happy Hour. At this stage we are planning to have Happy Hour in a couple of the larger rooms so keep an eye and ear out for those room number/s. After Happy Hour we will stroll across to the hotel for our evening meal.

The following morning will find us at SAM, (Shepparton Art Museum) enjoying a private tour of this



state of the arts gallery. We will then luncheon at the café in the gallery and the formal part of our weekend is over.

After that some will gleefully head for the SPC factory sales, some will enjoy a leisurely journey home and some will stay on for another night exploring the other activities in "Shepp".

Each of us in Team Social has been pleasantly surprised with what Shepparton has to offer. If you wish there are walks around the lake, the Botanical gardens or the lookout, tours of the Silos in the area and even a mapped out street arts tour.

Nearby there are the Tahbilk and Mitchelson wineries or Nagambie Brewery. It should be a whole lot of fun.

We are hoping that you like what we have packaged and would love it if you could join us. Many of you have already signed up so we have reserved more rooms upstairs.

All of our allocated rooms on the ground floor have been booked but if you have mobility issues, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will see if we can do a switch.

What you need to do now is phone and book your accommodation at:

Peppermill Inn Hotel, 7900 Goulburn Valley Highway, Kialla, 3630 Ph: 03 5823 1800 or email: entertainment@peppermillinn.com.au The cost is \$139 (we have booked many rooms in the name of AHSDC so all you need to do is advise that you want one of these rooms and you will get the reduced price). Breakfast is BYO or visit a nearby cafe.

Please advise Team Social that you have taken one of the booked rooms.

PS. We have a request from Graham Hepburn from sunny Cairns who says he is considering flying down for the Shepparton weekend and is wondering if anyone needs a navigator?

Team Social:
Bib 0412 937 379
Sue 0499 968 472
Trish 0408 109 624

Mid Week Drives 2023

Starting 16 March we are off and running for another year. All the drives are on a Thursday starting at 10am sharp from Beasley's Nursery, 195 Heidelberg Warrandyte Road, Warrandyte.

Hospitality is still struggling with staff problems, so please book in before the Monday night prior to the drive.

Please let Jack de Bruijne know if you are coming either by email to jdebrona@gmail.com or phone or SMS to 0403 323 584.

The dates and end venues are as follows, but subject to change.

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 11 May | Dudleys - Olinda |
| 1 June | Home Hotel - Launching Place |
| 22 June | Bridges - Hurstbridge |
| 13 July | Warburton Hotel - Wesburn |
| 3 August | Micawber Tavern - Belgrave |
| 24 August | Alpine Hotel - Warburton |
| 14 September | Grand Hotel - Yarra Glen |
| 19 October | Kinglake Hotel |
| 2 November | Diamond Creek Hotel |
| 16 November | Cunninghams Hotel - Yarra Junction |

The drives are approximately 70 miles long with half

completed before a morning tea stop, and the other half before lunch.

Lunch normally finishes about 2.30pm and then you make your own way home.

Come along and give your car a run and meet up with the friendly group. The roads are usually fairly quiet on a Thursday too.

Just so you can see how much fun the drives are and that everyone in every car is welcome here are photos from the last Mid Week Drive for 2022 held on 24 November.



Rod Wells

Mobile: 0487 821 362

Narre Warren South, VIC 3805

E: thebugeyebarn@bigpond.com

With over 25 years' experience
in Sprites and Midgets
Rod provides expert parts
and service.

Check out and like my Facebook page



www.facebook.com/The-Bug-eye-Barn-1969201783186169



Team Social Coming Events

17 & 18 JUNE IS M.O.V.E MUSEUM AND WONDERFUL ART GALLERY:

This should be a great event in June. The world class MOVE Museum contains cars, motorbikes, trucks, buses and much more.

One of the vehicle exhibitions is the Kenworth Dealer Pavilion which houses trucks and other commercial vehicles of varying ages. This pavilion also features the legends of the local trucking and transport industry, telling the story of their lives and their businesses. It is fascinating.

For those who aren't interested in vehicles there is an extensive Loel Thomson Costume Collection. This collection takes a journey through 200 years of Australian fashion in clothing, jewellery, accessories and more. 7,500 objects, collected over 40 years, tell the stories of everyday Australians from Federation up to the present day. With pieces you've never heard of alongside the familiar, old and new and everything in between, there's something to interest everyone.

If you are interested please contact Bib, Sue or Trish for details.



1 & 2 SEPTEMBER IN APOLLO BAY

We are really looking forward to this leisurely weekend of winding drives, interesting places to visit, and sitting on the dock of the bay sharing a wine and perhaps some of their famous seafood, which is delicious.

The motel we have chosen is Apollo Bay Best Western, which has all accommodation on the ground floor. This means you just have to alight from your car (or unfold from your Spridget) and take a few steps to your room. Simple! The motel is also very central so we are hoping that most can simply walk to dinner. It should be a lot of fun and we would love you to join us.

Team Social:

Bib 0412 937 379

Sue 0499 968 472

Trish 0408 109 624



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46th

HISTORIC WINTON[®]

27th and 28th May 2023



www.historicwinton.org

Winton Motor Raceway, Benalla, Victoria



Austin Seven Club Inc. ADO03290N | Photos - C. Rabevarne and SDPIcs



DARRYL WALKER REMEMBERED

Club members Karen Postill, Sue and Mike Dore, Gerry and Bib van Oosterom spent a wonderful afternoon reminiscing with Yvonne Daly about her partner Darryl Walker and all the mischief that we got up to. Thanks must go to Darryl's daughter Aimee and her partner Eric for making us feel so welcome in their home. Their son Graceyn was also a delight. Darryl would have been proud (RIP).

TRIPPING IN MONSALVAT

During the tour of the grounds of Monsalvat, Trish Niemann (now forever known as 'Duffer' Niemann), tripped on one of the stone pavers, fell on her right knee and banged (very hard she wants you to know) her head on the stone wall in front of her!

After an X-ray of her knee and a CT scan of her head, she was cleared of any major damage to both, and has been lying back with her leg up whilst John adds to his culinary skills! Because Trish takes a blood thinner the bruising looks worse than she and others expected. Trish thanks the members for their concern and good wishes. Prognosis good but slow!

TONY YOUNG NEEDS AN OUTING

Tony Young's Alzheimer's disease is sadly progressing rapidly which is becoming more and more difficult for Nancy. If anyone is free to take him for a drive or a coffee she would be most grateful. Please contact a Team Social member if you are in a position to help. Tony and Nancy live in Box Hill.



A WELSH MARRIAGE

Lucy Welsh and Danny Delahunty finally got married in December 2022 after three attempts foiled by Covid. She's keeping her surname because she "doesn't belong to anyone!!". They honeymooned in Morocco. All the best for a wonderful life together Lucy and Danny.



WELCOME LARA

Lara Collins Cooke arrived at 8lb Kristie and bubs are both well. Lara is a new graddaughter for Terri and Greg Corbin.



JOHN MOORE IN RECOVERY

John Moore under went surgery after quite a few rounds of chemo. His operation for esophageal cancer went to plan and he has come through it with flying colours, Kira is expecting him home soon.



BARN FIND' '850' MINI-VAN

This original very early '850 Mini-Van' was built in June 1964. Vans have 4 inches extra wheelbase & 9 inches longer body than a Mini sedan. This van has 'matching numbers' of engine and body. Few vans were built compared with sedans and are now fairly rare.

First Owner

Pat (of Bunyip) bought it new for her large part-time plant nursery business and in August 1964 it was registered as JBR 367. Pat regularly delivered her plants locally for many years until passing away in 1984.

Optional extras fitted: Factory rear side-windows, dealer options of timber veneer dash, windscreen sunshield, armrests, filler lock.

Second Owner

Derek (& his dad) lived opposite and bought it in 1989 and restored it as a project before his 18th birthday. The gearbox was rebuilt and engine rebored, it was resprayed, and had red seats reupholstered plus carpets



fitted throughout. They added a heater, 'nudge bar' and Contessa mags.

Restored and finished for Derek by July 1991 and registered as EPC 402 – at approximately 67,500 miles.

Later in 1993 Derek got a work ute, so he rarely drove it, and by 2002 he had only done a total of approx. 8000 miles in 11 years (75,320 miles on the speedo).

Derek then left it in his shed in Bunyip from late 2002. After John Fowler was finally asked to do a valuation on it, John decided to buy it (in April 2022) - after 20 years stored in that shed at 75,320 Miles (120,000 kms). It was 30 Years since it was last restored.

A slow & full 'awakening' process for engine, radiator & hoses, brake system, fuel system, exhaust, suspension, electrics etc took place over the next six months and much labour was needed. Finally put on Club Reg as 0770 HO in December 2022. It is now fun & a delight to drive.

John Fowler

**DONNA CLARKE
RUNNING AROUND!**

Donna Clarke has been RUNNING AROUND! She is a member of Victorian Masters Athletics and competes in all areas of her age group. Donna has had a very busy, and successful start to the year.



In

February she received silver medals for the 100 and 200 metre sprints at the VMA Championships. She then scored a Silver in the Pentathlon (Shot Put, 100m, Long Jump, Javelin and 800 metres) at Albert Park.

In March she competed in the Australian Masters Championships at Olympic Park in Sydney in the 60, 100 and 200 metre races and received a Silver Medal and the Waratah Medal. All the

best for the rest of the year Donna. We are proud to have you as a member of the AHSDC. Go the ovaries!



**MARCH
2023**

Glenda & Trevor Willmott with their Life Membership Certificate and their 1965 Austin Healey Sprite Mk 3 which they've owned for 50 yrs.

VINTAGE VAPOURS

"VINTAGE VAPOURS" is the Official Newsletter of
the VETERAN, VINTAGE & CLASSIC VEHICLE CLUB of WANGARATTA
Inc. No. A 0001054H

COMPETITION CORNERED

MARCH COMPETITION REPORT

Sunday, 11 March Avalon motorkhana. This event was run by the MG Car Club as a practice event for their upcoming national meeting.

Held on a sealed surface at the Geelong Motorsport Complex there was enough space to run two tests at once. They attracted a field of 37 competitors including our five from AHSDC.

Three tests were run with two runs at each test and impressively they used electronic timing with a large screen digital display for the spectators' and competitors' benefit.

Owen and Brendan Crombie put on a tussle for the best time Owen succeeding with 97.52 from Brendan at 98.12. David Norris followed with 108.25, then Mike Dore on 109.60 and Ruth Norris on 110.15.

Notably there were five female competitors and six juniors. The diversity of cars was also interesting with MGB, MGA, MGY and TC, TD and TF as well as Midgets and our cars. Some of the Bs and As were very well driven and put us to shame.

All in all a well run day in great weather even if a long way from Mornington.

18 March MSCA Sandown

In spite of the heat Sandown went ahead although obviously not the same fire risk as Rob Roy. Seven competitors were entered from AHSDC, two Honda S2000s, two MX5s and three Sprites.



Linton Coombs – Honda – took the honours with a 1:26.4475 ahead of Glenn Coombs also in the Honda, on 1:30.3018. Rod Vogt, Mk1 in his usual style put in a quick 1:33.9293 ahead of Bob Lomas' Mk1 at 1:35.8028, then Iain Johnson in his MX5 at 1:36.9397 fractionally ahead of Peter Clarke's MX5 at 1:36.9494 then Peter Harrison's Sprite on 1:39.6825.

Interesting to view these times against Mike Trathen's Sprite viewed at the March general meeting which has done 1:24s.

19 March Rob Roy Revival

The club was originally to display on the 18th but due to the extreme heat forecast the Saturday was cancelled. This left only three attendees being Kaz Postill in her 2A, Darryl Griffiths in his Bugeye and Mike Dore also in Bugeye.

A very interesting day with a wide range of historic machinery so it was easy to relate to cars I had watched in my youth back at Albert Park and Fishermen's Bend or even earlier at Mt Druitt in Sydney.

Quite a few people dressed in period ('50s and '60s) including the Norrises and competitors were only too happy to talk about their cars. I think the event will grow and we should plan attendance over the two days next year and would be great to have a Sprite on the entry list.

26 March METEC motorkhana

This was a repeat of the Avalon event with

| DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES 2023 | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| DRIVER | CAR | P.I. 22 JAN | P.I. REG 22 JAN | Khanacross 26 Feb | Avalon WK 11 Mar | Sandown 18 Mar | METEC. 26 Mar | TOTAL |
| Owen Crombie | Sprite | 0 | 0 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 35 |
| Brendan Crombie | Sprite | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 28 |
| Linton Coombs | Honda S2000 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 20 |
| Tony Hannan | Sprite | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 19 |
| Glenn Coombs | Honda S2000 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 18 |
| David Norris | Midget | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 18 |
| Rod Vogt | Sprite | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 15 |
| Mike Dore | Sprite | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 14 |
| Ruth Norris | Midget | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 14 |
| Iain Johnson | MX5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 12 |
| Bob Lomas | Sprite | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 12 |
| Peter Clarke | MX5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| Bryce Rogers | Sprite | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Peter Harrison | Sprite | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 |

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

Designated events for championship points

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| 8 | 7 MAY SUNDAY | SANDOWN SPRINTS / REGULARITY | MSCA |
| 9 | 7 MAY SUNDAY | MALLALA REGULARITY 6 HOUR RELAY | MSCASA |
| 10 | 13 MAY SATURDAY | ROB ROY MOTORKHANA | MGCC |
| 11 | 25 JUNE SUNDAY | ROB ROY HILLCLIMB | MGCC |
| 12 | 16 JULY SUNDAY | METEC MOTORKHANA | MGCC |
| 13 | 6 AUGUST SUNDAY | MACEDON OST | MGCC |
| 14 | 13 AUGUST SUNDAY | WINTON SPRINTS | MSCA |
| 15 | 20 AUGUST SUNDAY | ROB ROY OST | MGCC |
| 16 | 24 SEPTEMBER SUNDAY | BRYANT PARK HILLCLIMB | GCC |
| 17 | 14/15 OCTOBER SAT/SUN | WINTON REGULARITY 12 HOUR RELAY | AROCA |
| 18 | 22 OCTOBER SUNDAY | SANDOWN SPRINTS | MSCA |

Regularity scoring: Events run by MSCA are sorted over four laps per run with a starting score of 1000. One (1) point is lost for every 0.50 seconds over the nominated time and two (2) points lost for every 0.50 seconds under the nominated time.

For regularity relays the scoring will be the percentage of bonus laps of total laps driven.

Please refer any queries to Mike Dore (0409 256 564), Bob Lomas (0418 382 299) or Barry Payne (0418 547 903)

COMPETITION CORNERED

same tests on the motorkhana pad at the METEC driver training centre at Kilsyth.

My personal involvement was delayed as I had a rear brake shoe lose its bonded lining less than five km after installation.

Fortunately they were running three attempts at each test so I only missed the first run. The same five Sprite club contenders were present but Owen brought the Barina instead of BNI. Another fine day and mostly we did better personally than at Avalon.

David Norris in his Midget cleaned up for our lot with 93.84 followed by Brendan Crombie in BNI (2A) 94.26, then Ruth Norris in their Midget 95.86, Mike Dore Mk1 96.80 and Owen in the Barina 104.73.

Again interesting to see how the MGBs and MGAs were used so competitively, we obviously need to do more. Even more interesting was first outright was a female driving a Midget!

Mike Dore



COMING MOTORSPORT

ROB ROY MOTORKHANA

13th May Saturday

This will be a grass motorkhana at the MG Car Club venue at Rob Roy, another chance for a nice drive to the hills whether you compete or just watch and learn.

46th HISTORIC WINTON

27-28th MAY

As you will have seen elsewhere in the magazine the club is sponsoring a race at the meeting and is planning a display to mark 65 years to the day of the release of the Sprite. There will be some celebration catering and if you can attend on one or both days contact Scott Benjamin or Emma Riddington to confirm your participation.

THE BEND SPRINT

4th JUNE

Sunday 4 June is a non Championship MSCA sprint at Tailem Bend to be run on the International circuit. Several club members will be participating on this testing 18 corner track for their own interest.

ROB ROY HILLCLIMB

25th JUNE

This is another chance to challenge yourself at Rob Roy and see if you can master the chicane or "bus stop" as it is known. This is a championship event.

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Easy to move design

- Manual safety lock release
- Easy to move
- The dual cylinder structure ensures stable raising and lowering
- Ideal for limited work spaces

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Almost a third of the year has passed and we are still getting membership renewals that were due on January 1. Better late than never I suppose.

We have one new member in the last two months, Sam Marks. Sam has a 1960 Mk1 Sprite colour Midnight Blue which was "updated with a number of mods in 2010".

Welcome Sam and we look forward to meeting you very soon at a monthly meeting or some other event.

So, we currently have 210 financial members.

I have had several queries regarding membership cards. Generally, membership cards are no longer issued because when you renew your membership the system automatically sends a form of membership card to your email. I will happily provide the old-fashioned card if requested.

We had a display of just five Sprites at the Australian F1 Grand Prix. We asked for 10 positions but were only allocated five, pretty disappointing noting the BMW Car Club had 65+ positions. Andrew Francis, Bryan Elliott, Keith Dean, Ian Marchioni and myself made up the five. Bump-in was disastrous mainly because of the rain and mud at the entrance. Bump-out was a huge confusion caused by multiple messages sent out by MSA and AGPC on Sunday afternoon. It was a good event with a lot of



interest in our cars and club and I will try to get a position at next year's GP.

Next display is at Winton and it is being coordinated by Emma Riddington and Scott Benjamin. Mk1 Sprites turn 65 on the very day of the event. So, let's celebrate with a significant number of Sprites from our club on display!

Remember, if you have any potential new members, or any issues with receiving the Goblins' Gazette, not receiving regular emails from the president etc. please let me know. And as always, I look forward to meeting you all at next monthly club meeting or at some other club event somewhere....

Frank Bugeja
Membership Secretary
0411293984 or membership@ahsdc.org



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Due to the scheduling of Easter starting on our usual club night, our April meeting was a week later on the 14th, that is the second Friday of the month.

With sufficient notice about 40 members attended to hear the story of the Rogers Road and Race Team's historic racing Sprite.

Bryce Rogers assisted by father Steve, told us how they had worked their way up from a pretty hopeless case of a car to one which, at its most recent outing at the PI Historics, placed with four wins and a second place.

Like a lot of overnight successes, the overnight part was many evenings working on the car and trying out different configurations of suspension and engine tuning, given that all these aspects are closely controlled in the Historic Racing world.

However, with all of this, they have built a Sprite which is one of the fastest in Australia, and may well in the near future be the fastest!

They let out very few secrets, beyond the fact that all of this was done in a standard suburban garage, and that the remit of all steel, as required by the Historic rules, as well as the limit on oversized engines, similarly enforced, has led to success, at an affordable level.

Bryce did mention that he started in a home made go-



kart, and progressed through a doorstop model Toyota MR2 as part of the journey, and that his brother Mitch is a bit of a wizard engine builder. Like they say ... Overnight Success!

His talk was streamed on YouTube, and the link should still be live.

Snippets

Monsalvat was a great mixture of history, music, food and drama (see Round and About) for those 30 or so club members who visited Monsalvat in Eltham on Sunday, 26 March.

Our tour of the grounds and buildings of Monsalvat started with the story of Justus Jorgensen's idea to form an artists' colony where painters, sculptors and others with artistic flair could work and live.

The colony structure was, in the main, built around 1930 from reclaimed materials, so that soaring ceilings, heavy wooden beams and lead light windows are the main features of the old, stone buildings.

As the tour ended we took our seats in the Barn Gallery for the concert by the Joe Chindamo Trio. Joe, a world renowned classical and jazz pianist was accompanied by bass and drums. The jazz interpretations of Beatles classics and the theme from Magnificent Seven were highlights. All melodies played were known to most of us and made for an evening of very pleasant listening.

To finish an interesting and different club social event we adjourned to The House of Salad for a hearty nosh-up (for those not watching their waistlines) and a natter.

*Cheers,
Team Social*

There were a number of members unable to make the previous final cruise, so a call went out for one more run, this worked for a lot of people as we had 34 attendees for last Cruise drive.

One person was still not well enough to make it out for the evening, Wendy Hough was on the majority of Cruise Nights, but recently came down with shingles and has been forced to miss one of her weekly pleasures, I'm sure that everyone's thoughts are with you Wendy, get well soon.

So, 34 people in 19 cars made it out for the short (28 mile) run, mainly along the Tourist Road through the Dandenongs, 9 x Sprites, 5 x Bugeyes, 1 x Midget, 2 other Healeys, 2 other Mgs (an A and a B) 2 x MX5s, a Mini, Merc and Suzuki to round out the group.

Darkness descended very early, but everyone found the destination, although not necessarily all by the same route, once again the staff at Crave looked after us well, even though some people were served mains when they ordered entrees and unfortunately some entrees when they thought they ordered mains, not sure where the errors occurred, but the week before.

Either way I don't think anyone went hungry, just that some could've eaten more and others got their Thursday lunch to take home.

That's it for the season, we'll be back in touch in October in readiness for the mid November re-birth, until then, there is still lots to look forward to, so maybe we'll see you somewhere with your top off.

regards Jeff and Faye

Jack's first drive for 2023



VALE: CHRIS LAWSON 12 MARCH 1943 - 7 APRIL 2023

Right: A young Chris Lawson, Jill Lawson, Nigel Postill.

Second down: Chris Lawson at our club's 50th anniversary dinner.

Third down: Chris Lawson centre.

Last photo: Chris, Sue, Chris' wife Jan, Mike and Trish Niemann.



Chris Lawson was a very active and enthusiastic member who did much to lay the foundation for our club as our first Secretary in July 1966. At the end of the year (1966/7) he was the first Sprite Champion in his Mk1 to hold the prestigious Sprite Championship Trophy (and the lid fell off even then!) In 1967/8 Chris was President.

Then came the era of the MGB brigade. Chris and his first wife Jill, along with Nigel and I decided to drive up to Broken Hill to see Jill's parents – in the summer!

Somewhere along the B79 it was 38°C and all the ice in the eskys had melted, despite the fact we had our hoods up.

We drove on to the nearest roadhouse to try and get some relief from the heat. The air conditioners had broken down, but the owner cheerily told us that it had dropped several degrees down to 39°C so we should feel cooler!

We toured around Broken Hill, which was an eye opener, drove to Silverton Hotel and sailed in Lake Menindee. Chris decided to take the boat out on his own; the wind suddenly completely died down and eventually we had to get him towed back to land.

In the early '70s Richard Pollock and Chris started a business called Link, primarily making leather belts and bespoke cuff links. Former club member, Phil James worked with them for several years. He recalls that they worked long and hard, often not going home until 9 p.m.

However, it was a happy crew and they had lots of laughs. During this time Chris gathered some interesting cars – there was an International Truck from the '20s, a 1927 Rugby (assembled by the Durant Motors Company of New York), a 1927 Dodge Ute and a hankering for a Renault 300 Megane!

When he married Jan and she worked in the business there was a Datsun 1600 (good choice having had one myself around 1976!).

Twenty-five years ago Chris joined the Mercedes-Benz Club of Victoria and often displayed his beautiful red 1987 560 SL. We would then meet up either at his club stand or ours to have a good catch up.

Chris was supportive of our club for many years and came to our major club reunions. He will be greatly missed.



Karen Postill

ROB ROY REVIVAL

18 & 19 MARCH 2023

There was no revival on the 18th of March due to the chance of fire with strong wind gusts and high temperatures. However, Sunday 19th was much cooler and we were invited to go along. Mike Dore met up with me at Beasley's and Darryl Griffiths went straight to the venue having driven from Inverloch. Unfortunately, many others could not attend as they had prior engagements.



Souvenir Programme \$10

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What joy to be able to drive into the circuit with smooth tarmac! Gone were the gravel and potholes. The “café” area has been doubled and afternoon tea was available.

Each competing entrant was housed in a marquee and so we had a great time walking up and down the hill; needless to say, we bumped into people we knew.

It was nice to see past member Fred Brock, who was racing his 1949 MGTC race car, and his wife; I had a good chat with my hairdresser Damian Crea who is a member of the Alfa Club! He shares premises for renovations with Paul O’Connor who drives a Lotus Mk6 Climax. Mike was in his element as he knew the car well, having watched it being raced in his childhood and teens. Paul was very impressed!

David and Ruth Norris were busy assisting as volunteers and Ruth looked very sassy in her Revival outfit. Lots of ladies frocked up for the Fashions on the Field in their various versions of the attire for the ’60s. I was not able to take part as I had committed to a music gig in Oakleigh so it was off the field and home to change cars and clothes. The gig was excellent!

There are now stands near the start line so Mike and I took advantage of a sit down. Sadly, we simultaneously received the news that Darryl Walker had passed away. Under the circumstances there was little time to reflect

upon it, but I am sure Darryl would have approved.

As I write this, there is a meeting today but the weather is not conducive to standing out in the rain! However, I would recommend that those club members who have never been to an event there take the opportunity to go and see what it is all about. The track has a very rich history, dating back to 1937 and is the oldest hillclimb track in Australia.

*Karen Postill
Thanks to Karen Postill and
Robin Page (MGCC) for the photos*



AHSDC CLUB APPAREL



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 •Navy with club logo •Soft-shell stretch garment •Inner thick anti pill polar fleece •Detachable hood with drawstring •Durable zip •High wind collar •Adjustable cuff with Velcro flap



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UNISEX SPRAY JACKET IN POUCH
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LADIES SOFT SHELL VESTS
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 Plus relevant postage

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LADIES POLO SHIRTS
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VALE: DARRYL WALKER

11-9-1947 – 18-3-2023

It is with profound regret that we announce the passing of Darryl Walker on Saturday 18 March after a long battle with cancer.

Darryl was a stalwart and passionate member of AHSDC from the earliest days in 1966 when he and other RAAF members were instrumental in obtaining use of the RAAF mess hall in St Kilda Road for several general meetings.

He threw himself into the competition of the day in his white Mk 2A and was soon challenging for the Sprite Championship placing 3rd in 1968/69 and 2nd the following year. At this time he also participated in the 6 Hour Relay at Winton.

Like so many of us marriage and family intruded into the competition budget but his interest never waned and even after moving back to his roots in Newcastle he maintained his membership and interest and ties with members down south.

As a professional driver to executives for many years and more lately a limo driver he took great pleasure in showing visiting friends the sights of Newcastle in the comfort of the limousine. In between times he undertook a nut and bolt and bare metal restoration of his Sprite over some years until finally the White Pearl result was shown at the Sprite National meeting in 2012.

He continued to attend National meetings up until 2018 and ventured south a number of times for touring events



and to catch up with old friends.

Our thoughts are with partner Yvonne and children Ameer and Daniel.

It is sad indeed to lose someone as spirited about the club as Darryl was.

*Rest in peace my friend,
Mike Dore*



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I have a 1960 Mk 1 with Mk 2 motor and gearbox for sale. It was restored about 2008 and I have only driven it 3 to 5 times a year since. It comes with a metal bonnet, spare parts, radiator some wheels etc has mini lite wheels on it a soft top and plastic sliding windows it is on club rego so not transferable price \$22,000 ONO
Contact Stephen Wilson on 0413884130



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PLEASE ADVISE THE EDITOR IF YOU HAVE SOLD YOUR ITEM/S

FOR SALE: AUSTIN-HEALEY SPRITE MK1 FROM ESTATE OF STEVE SCHMIDT

PRICE DROP

Completely hand built by Steve – has been successfully campaigned in numerous events over the years; winner of numerous awards for motorsport and concours. Still presents beautifully and ready to use in competition, or very useable as an entertaining and responsive road car. It has a 998cc ‘quick road’ motor; Datsun 5-speed gearbox; 45mm Weber; telescopic shock absorbers; fibreglass bonnet; alloy tank; log booked (exp). It comes complete with factory hardtop, side-screens, soft top, two sets wheels (neg); and first option on collection of spares. Autographed by John Sprinzel. An established, historic, turn-key car for a fraction of current restoration costs. \$30,000 (neg)

Expressions of interest to Ian Maud on 0414 580921.



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LOG BOOK CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO AHSDC MEMBERS REGARDING THE CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

Recent changes to the scheme mean that when signing new club permit applications, club safety officers/scrutineers are required to complete a Vehicle Eligibility and Standards Declaration form declaring that the vehicle is eligible, safe for use on the road, and that it meets the applicable requirements for the category of vehicle for which the club permit is sought.

This implies that when signing renewals of Permits we have the same responsibility to see that the vehicle for which the renewal is sought is in fact the same car in the same condition still meeting the Vehicle Eligibility & Standards.

We would expect that this is a mere formality however, to be seen to be administering in the spirit of the scheme and to protect our members privileges under the scheme as best we can we must see the vehicle concerned before we

sign a Club Permit Application or a Permit Renewal.

Your Committee has passed the following resolution:

From 1 May 2016, AHSDC members wishing to use the Club Permit Scheme must attend a minimum of ONE club meeting/club event/event at which the club has a group representation, each year – and have the relevant car sighted by one of the Club Permit Scheme Signatories before the club signs the Club Permit Renewal for that year. If you have genuine hardship meeting this requirement due to your country location please speak to the Club Signatories to make alternative sighting arrangements.

For some of you we do understand that this might require a little bit of planning and you might see it as onerous however, in reality it is part of our joint (club/member) responsibility under the scheme and it is really very little to ask of ourselves for the privilege of driving our cars on public roads for hundreds of dollars less than if it were on a full registration.

Club Permit Application Requirements

At the end of January 2015 the new club permit requirements came into play. For those people with an existing AHSDC club permit, nothing changes with regard to the renewal that you receive from VICROADS each year (this still has to be signed off by a club signatory when the permit is due for renewal).

However, remember that you need to be a financial member of the Austin Healey Sprite Drivers' Club Inc. This means rejoining each year by 1 January of the forthcoming year if you have an ongoing Club permit.

If your membership lapses your permit/s are considered to be invalid.

You also need to fill in the AHSDC acknowledgment form at the start of each year whereby you agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the scheme. This will either be sent out towards the end of each year, or can be obtained from Warren Reid. Remember when using your car on a Club Permit the log book must be filled in otherwise severe penalties will be imposed.

New Club Permit Application Requirements

If you have a new car to put on the club permit system or are transferring a car from another club or from another member then the following requirements apply:

1. You need to download or obtain from VICROADS and fill in the "Club Permit Application" and the "Vehicle Eligibility and Standards Declaration" forms. Both these forms then need to be signed by the club permit officer (Warren Reid). If Warren Reid is unavailable, then other signatories listed below can also sign.
2. Any signatory signing off the "Vehicle Eligibility and Standards Declaration" must sight the vehicle for which the Club Permit is being sought and assess the extent (if any) of modifications.
3. You must obtain a current Victorian Roadworthy Certificate for the vehicle and supply a copy to the club signatory.
4. You must supply six (6) time stamped photos covering front, back, driver side, open driver's door, chassis number, engine number – to Warren Reid. Preference is for electronic versions of photos.
5. Once items 1 to 5 have been addressed then you take the signed club signatory forms along with the RWC to a VICROADS office and pay for either a 45 or 90 day permit and receive the plates to place on the car.

Club Signatories:

Warren Reid (Club Permit Officer) 9 Giana Court, Ringwood North 3134. Mob: 0432604076
email: cpsadmin@ahsdc.org, club scrutineers for new applications and car inspections – Warren Reid, Owen Crombie and Mike Welsh. Renewals - Warren Reid, Garry Neeman, Owen Crombie and Mike Welsh.
More information on the requirements of the scheme and the relevant forms can be found on the VICROADS website www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/publications-and-forms?&searchtext=club%20permit

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