



Official Journal of the MG Car Club – Sydney

# Opposite Lock



March 2024

In this issue

Tamworth National Meeting 2024

Goldie Gardener

Salvaging of the Costa Concordia

MGs on the Run & Having Fun



# MGCC Sydney Club Calendar 2024

## MARCH

- 2 Airshows Downunder (nee Wings Over Illawarra) Classic Vehicles Display, Shellharbour, Illawarra Registrar, Michael Hough
- 2-3 HSRCA, Canberra Festival of Speed (race & regularity), Thoroughbred Park, Canberra, Seth Reinhardt
- 3 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 4 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 12 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 16 Drive & Dinner, The Royal Cricketers Arms, Prospect, Julie Porter Stephens
- 28 Illawarra Registrar's Run to Berkelouw's Book Barn Berrima, Illawarra Registrar, Michael Hough
- 29 – 2/4MG National Meeting hosted by MGCC Sydney, Tamworth, Charlie Frew.

## APRIL

- 7 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 8 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 9 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 20-21 Classic Rally Club, Cootamundra Classic 900, Jim Richardson.
- 21 Breakfast Run to Patonga, Julie Porter - Stephens

## MAY

- 1 - 9 Touring Run, Great Ocean Rd & Hall's Gap, Don Young
- 3-5 Classic Rally Club, Autumn Glory Trial, Jim Richardson
- 5 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 5 Club Run, Magnette Registrar, Peter Baldry
- 6 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 14 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 19 CMC National Motor Heritage Day, Greg Fereday
- 23 Illawarra Registrar's Run, Illawarra Registrar, Michael Hough

## JUNE

- 2 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 3 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 8-9 HSRCA Sydney Classic (Race & Regularity), Sydney Motorsport Park, Seth Reinhardt
- 8 -10 Tour De Robert Smith & Matt Sexton
- 11 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 22 Drive & Dinner, Julie Porter Stephens
- 30 Club Run, TF Classic Registrar, Wayne Blair

## JULY

- 1 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 7 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 9 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 14 Club Run, MGF/TF Registrar, Mark Robson
- 21 Christmas in July, Mt. Keira Scout Camp, Illawarra Registrar, Michael Hough
- 27 CSCA Supersprint, (TBC) hosted by MG Newcastle, Pheasants Wood, Marulan,

- 28 Breakfast Run to Fairmont Resort, Julie Porter - Stephens

## AUGUST

- 4 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 5 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 11 Club Run, Pre-War Registrar, Robert Smith
- 13 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 24 CSCA Supersprint (hosted by Lotus), Sydney Motorsport Park, Gardner GP circuit,
- 25 Shannons Sydney Classic Display (TBC), Sydney Motorsport Park, Greg Fereday

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 2 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 7-8 Gathering of the Faithful (TBC) hosted by MGCC of Wagga Wagga, Peter Baldry
- 10 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 15 All British Day, King's School TBC, (A volunteer is needed to organise this event)
- 26 Illawarra Registrar's Run to Graham Lord's Workshop, Illawarra Registrar, Michael Hough
- 29 Club Run, RV8 Registrar, Alan Heritage

## OCTOBER

- 6 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 7 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 8 Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 12 Drive & Dinner, Como Hotel, Julie Porter Stephens
- 18 CSCA Supersprint, (TBC) hosted by Triumph Club -TSOA, Pheasants Wood, Marulan,
- 19-20 Classic Rally Club, Alpine Classic, Jim Richardson
- 20 MGCC Concours and Display Day, Silverwater Park, (A volunteer is needed to organise this event)

## NOVEMBER

- 3 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 3 Club Run (TC Registrar, John Carter)
- 4 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 12 MGCC Annual General Meeting and Members Gathering, Strathfield Golf Club
- 17 Breakfast Run, Julie Porter – Stephens
- 24 MGA/MGB Workshop Day, MGA Registrar, Greg Keenan
- 28 Illawarra Registrar's Run, lunch at Greenwell Point, Illawarra Registrar, Michael Hough
- 30 – 1/12 HSRCA Summer Festival (race & regularity), Sydney Motorsport Park, Seth Reinhardt

## DECEMBER

- 1 Cars & Coffee, St Ives Showgrounds, Greg Fereday
- 2 Board Meeting, Greengate Hotel
- 8 Club Run, TD Registrar, Michael and Jacqui Gerondis
- 10 Members Christmas Party, Strathfield Golf Club, Hilary Wren
- 25 Santa comes - Get some MGCC regalia to put under your tree\*

## March President's Report

At the February Board meeting we elected the Board positions, and I clearly didn't sit down fast enough as I was confirmed as your Club President for 2024. So, you will have to put up with my missives in the front of the magazine for a while longer.

Board positions are:

- Hilary Wren, Vice President;
- Matthew Crawford, Secretary;
- David Milling, Treasurer;
- Max Wasson, Sporting Captain;
- Lyn Calluau, Membership Secretary ;
- Jim Lovett has volunteered to be our CMC representative.



At the moment the Board's focus is almost entirely on hosting a successful Centenary of MG National Meeting in Tamworth, but following this event, we will start formulating our future plans.

Feel free to contact any of the directors to offer any suggestions or raise any issues.

And what a National Meeting it is shaping up to be. The National Meeting Committee are putting the finishing touches on a great Easter weekend in Tamworth, with lots of social and competition events and activities with other MG enthusiasts from around the country. This is our Club's National Meeting and we are celebrating 100 years of MG. If you have not been to a National Meeting before I would encourage you to attend. And if you have you will know what fun they are, so I am sure you will want to come along. We are hoping for a big turnout from our Club. Registration is open on the 2024 National Meeting web page <https://mgnatmeet2024.com.au/> and there are still rooms available at The Mercure in Tamworth. Please call 02 6765 1200 and ask for Sherry, say you are with the MG Car Club Sydney to secure your reduced room rate.

Now we have a problem that we need your help to fix. We do not have anyone to help organise our premier annual event, the Concours and Display Day in October nor our participation in the fabulous All British Day in September. We are a volunteer club and all the events you see in our calendar require volunteers to help organise. The Concours and All British Day are particularly well attended events, but they cannot go ahead unless members are prepared to put their hands up to take on the Club Official roles for them. Ideally, we would have 2 people for each of these roles. Assistance will be provided with what you need to do. With so many of our members fully or semi-retired we should have plenty of people wanting to contribute. So please contact me or one of the other directors if you can help. If you don't, these events may not be able to go ahead this year.

On a brighter note we have a truly fabulous guest speaker lined up for our March Members Gathering. Noel Phelan from the Australian National Maritime Museum and Naval Historical Society is going to talk to us about the sinking and salvage of the Costa Concordia. You might remember the incident in 2012 when the large cruise liner hit a rock off the coast of Tuscany, and infamously rather take command of the situation, with passengers still on board and the ship sinking, the captain jumped in a lifeboat and went home. The subsequent salvage of the ship was a masterful exercise in marine engineering skill. This is a truly fascinating story that I am sure you will all enjoy. I look forward to seeing you at the Strathfield Golf Club on 12 March for our Members Gathering and at the many other great events that we have planned for through out the year.

*John Clarke*

## Welcome all to the MG Car Club Sydney

Please make yourselves known to one of the members so that we can ensure you meet up with some like minded MG enthusiasts!

Westly Ashton MGB

Greg Roper RV8

Dave Villanti MGB

Richard Baker MG TC

Peter Lee MGB

Russell Swinnerton Midget

David Glasson

Shalen Gokoolparsadh MGB

Shaun Devitt - MGB



So, you have bought a 'new' MG, or you have unearthed one long lost in the garage or you have finally finished that 'long, long, longer than you expected restoration & decided to now join the club.

We want to hear your story!

*Please send a short story about your car by email*

*and do not forget some pictures!  
to: [editor@mgcarclubsydney.com.au](mailto:editor@mgcarclubsydney.com.au)*







Page 8-9 My MGB Story



Page 13-17 Goldie Gardener



Page 10 Concours & All British Day



Page 18 -21 2024 National Meeting



Page 12 A spin on the Old Pacific Highway



Page 22. A great breakfast run.



## What's Inside

- 2 2024 Calendar
- 3 President's Report
- 3 New Members
- 4 What's Inside
- 5 Club Contacts
- 6 March Gathering
- 8-9 MGB, My Story
- 10 **WE NEED YOU**
- 12 A spin on the Old Pacific
- 13-17 Goldie Gardener
- 18-21 National Meeting  
Tamworth
- 22 Breakfast Meeting
- 23 The Great Ocean Road
- 24-25 Illawarra Report
- 28 Regalia
- 32-35 Classifieds

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Monthly Club Gatherings are held  
the second Tuesday of the month at  
Strathfield Golf Club,  
52, Weeroona Road , Strathfield.



March 2024 Cover:

Richard Exton's 1972, British Racing Green, convertible MGB roadster, with a beautiful sunset. Photo by Richard Exton.

March 2024

**Opposite Lock**

Contributing photographers:

Thanks To:

Alan Heritage, Noel Phelan,  
Richard Exton, Pesti Photo's  
Julie Porter Stephens  
Micheal Hough, Hilary Wren



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Concours & Display Day	Vacant			
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# March Members Gathering. 12th March Strathfield Golf Club

## THE SINKING AND SALVAGE OF THE COSTA CONCORDIA



Come along to our March Members Gathering on 12 March at the Strathfield Golf Club to hear the fascinating story of the sinking and Salvage of the Costa Concordia.

Noel Phelan from the Australian National Maritime Museum and Naval Historical Society will be our guest speaker for the night.

He will talk about what really happened, the chain of events that led to this disaster and the brilliant engineering to salvage the ship that took years to recover at a cost of 2 billion dollars.

The COSTA CONCORDIA sank on the 13th January 2012 one hundred years after the TITANIC sank and in similar circumstances.

The ship had 3,229 passengers and a crew of 1,023. The captain of the ship was Francesco Schettino. He diverted the ship from its normal course to do a "salute" to a friend on Giglio Island.

Schettino had on the bridge the maitre d' and a woman he had dined with on the night. At around 9 pm he took control of the ship and it hit a rock which tore a 53 metre gash in the port side.

Communication with the Indonesian helmsman was difficult and a key order was misunderstood. All the vital compartments flooded resulting in the loss of power and electricity.

At this point everyone on the bridge knew the ship would sink. The ship continued on under its own momentum listing to port.

Cross flooding allowed the ship to right itself. The breeze and current blew the ship around and with a starboard list back to shore where it grounded and capsized.



## NOEL PHELAN

Noel Phelan's first career was as a science and mathematics teacher. He then moved into IT with IBM as a systems engineer and spent 25 years in various technical and management positions.

He has been a volunteer guide at the Maritime Museum for over 15 years.

Noel was the team leader of the speakers for many years.

Noel is a Past President of the Northbridge Rotary club. He spent many years as sailing captain of his sailing club.

He also spent several years with Marine Rescue and the Rural Fire Service.

Noel is also a volunteer at the Naval Historical Society where he has developed three Navy harbour cruises.

He has also organised a speaker's program for the Navy Historical Society where the presentations are delivered by ZOOM to the 500 members around Australia.

He recently fulfilled a boyhood dream to fly a WW II fighter by flying a SPITFIRE at The Imperial War Museum at Duxford in the UK .







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## My MGB Story



However, other more important commitments became a priority for me once I had obtained my drivers license in 1986. Not long after, I was off to university, then marriage, a house, and children meant that buying an MG was pushed in the pack of the priority queue for all the right reasons. However, I my love of the MG never really faded. I remember times throughout the 1990s that I would look in the then Trading post newspaper to see what MGBs were for sale. I had even inspected a few and taken some for a test drive, but none appealed to me.

I grew up with a real fondness of British sports cars. I believe this was influenced by my Dad who loved most things British, movies, cars but especially the RAF with the Spitfire being Dad's all time favourite piece of British engineering. Dad was born in Malta during the Second World War but he had a long English heritage, which was evident in both his visual appearance and his hobbies.

I eventually accepted that idea that I would unlikely ever own and MG, especially now that a good quality one were becoming harder to find.

Then one day in 2004, my brother-in-law, who operates his own mechanical workshop, called me up to inform me that one of his customers was looking to sell his British Racing Green, convertible MGB roadster and asked if he knew anyone that would be interested. My brother-in-law called me right away and that same day my wife and I drove to inspect the car. Apart from being built in 1972 and not my preferred 1969, it was perfect. I made an offer that day for \$12,000 and it was accepted.

For the past seventeen years, I have cherished my MGB, and look after it meticulously. I obtained a certified copy of a factory record from the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust which states that my MGB was built in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England between 12th - 13th January 1972.



My father during the 1950's with his MG.

It was during my teenage years, back in the 1980s, that I fell in love with the MGB after seeing them occasionally being driven on Sydney roads. I clearly remember thinking back then, that one day when I obtained my drivers license and earned some money, that I will buy an MGB. I was very particular about the type of MGB it needed to be as well. It had to be British Racing Green, a convertible roadster and a 1969 model just because that was the year I was born.







It had then been dispatched on 19 January 1972 where its destination was Lex Motors dealer in Swindon, England. During my ownership I have had the full interior restored to original factory specs with the exception of the digital retro radio and the Moto Lita steering wheel.

I drive the vehicle as often as I can. A day trip to Wisemans Ferry, the Blue Mountains or the Southern Highlands for a long lunch is when the MGB is appreciated the most out on those long open roads. Each year, since owning the car, my wife and I celebrate our wedding anniversary with a overnight weekend away in the countryside with the MGB. It just adds that extra bit of nostalgia and fun.

In October, I was informed that my MGB had been awarded category winner for the Best Classic MG

in the 2021 Show & Shine awards sponsored by MG Motor Australia in supporting the Australian Red Cross. This was a real honour and I am very grateful to MG Motor Australia judges more so because entrants were required to provide a favourite memory with their MG as part of their submission. My submitted memory was "...spending the day with my Dad before he passed away, in my MGB driving up from Sydney to Brooklyn for a pub lunch and back again with my Dad smiling the entire time".

The award comes with a \$500 Red Balloon Voucher which my wife Tanya and I plan to use by taking a sunrise hot air balloon ride in the Hunter Valley as part of our 30th Wedding Anniversary that we celebrated in October this year. Oh and the MGB will be accompanying us yet again.

*Richard Exton*





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# *MGs enjoying themselves recently on the Old Pacific Highway*



*Photos taken by Pesti and supplied by Alan Heritage*



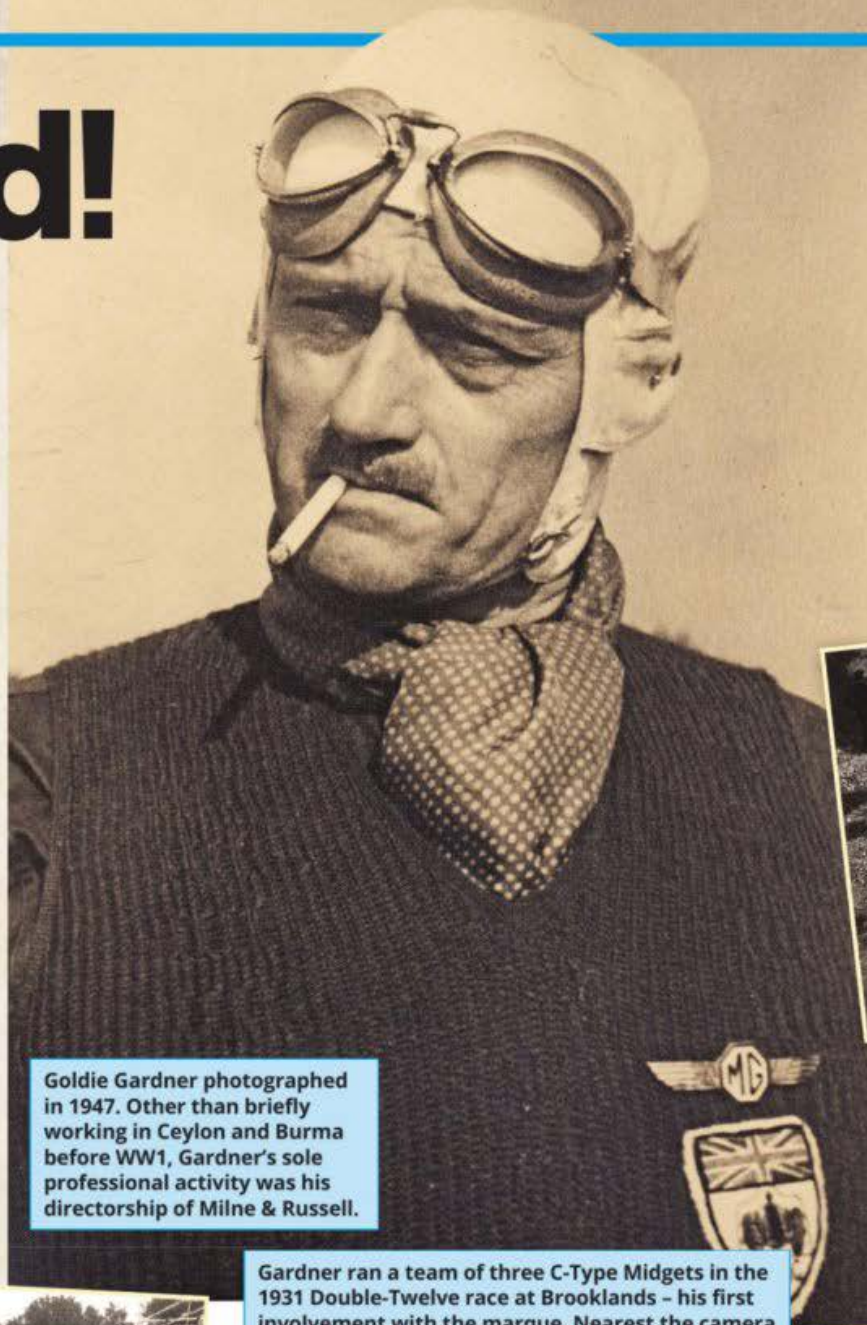
# Saved!

**Jon Pressnell** tells how a precious collection of photos once belonging to MG record-breaker Goldie Gardner has found a new home.

One day, during the time when I was editor of this magazine, an email pinged through. A chap called Mike Jones had inherited from his father a shoebox of photos. They all related to Goldie Gardner, and he wasn't sure what to do with them.

As I was working at the time on my biography of MG founder Cecil Kimber, naturally enough I was interested on a personal level: perhaps there would be photos I could use. At around the same time I became aware that a book on Gardner was underway, and the photos could be a help to the author, John Mayhead. The third element was that the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu is custodian of a fine collection of ex-Gardner documents and could provide a suitable home for the contents of Mike's shoebox.

Whichever way you sliced things, it sounded as if this was something of historic value, not to mention of immediate use for two motoring writers, but I didn't want to become over-excited. Perhaps it would just be a handful of scrunched-up 'happy snaps'



Goldie Gardner photographed in 1947. Other than briefly working in Ceylon and Burma before WW1, Gardner's sole professional activity was his directorship of Milne & Russell.

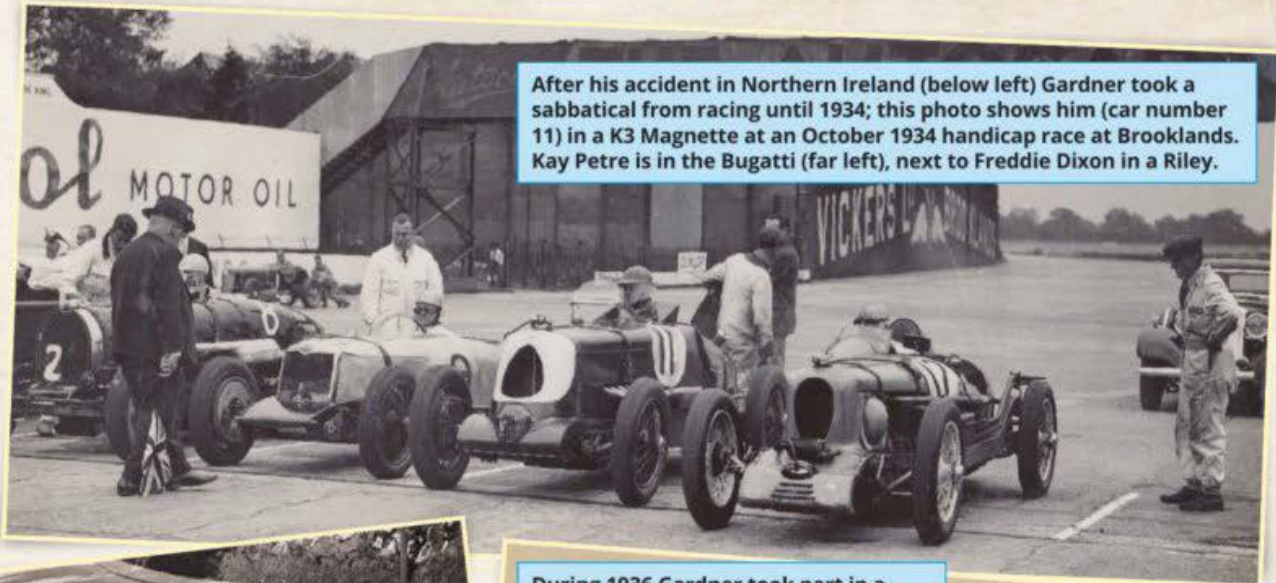


After first racing an Austin Seven and then a couple of Salmsons, in 1929 Gardner switched to a six-cylinder Amilcar. He entered the car in that year's Irish GP with Robert Murton-Neale, who would race an MG Midget at 1930's Le Mans 24-hours.

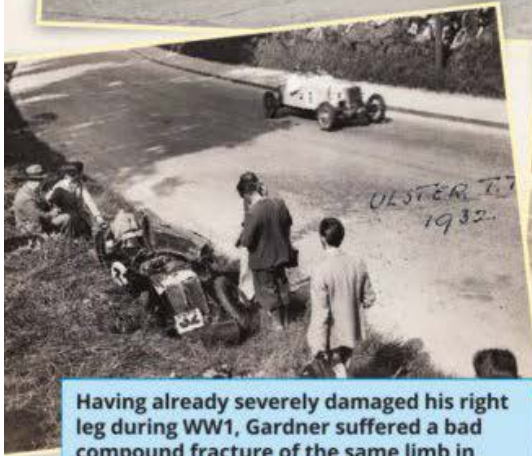
Gardner ran a team of three C-Type Midgets in the 1931 Double-Twelve race at Brooklands - his first involvement with the marque. Nearest the camera is his black no.70 car; number 71 (in red) is Ronnie Horton's and car 72 (in white) Robin Jackson's. All three retired, Gardner after having destroyed a piston. This was the famous debut of the C-Type, with Abingdon supplying 14 cars directly to the track and taking the first five places in the race.



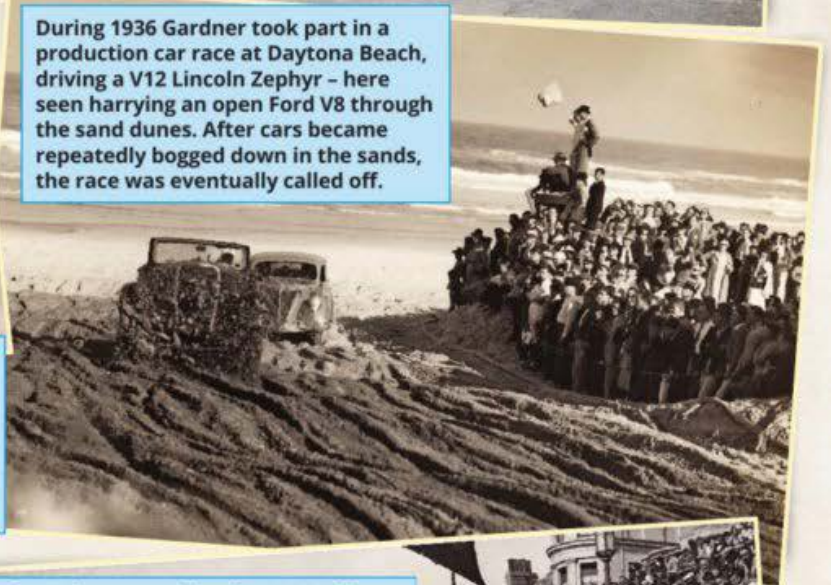




After his accident in Northern Ireland (below left) Gardner took a sabbatical from racing until 1934; this photo shows him (car number 11) in a K3 Magnette at an October 1934 handicap race at Brooklands. Kay Petre is in the Bugatti (far left), next to Freddie Dixon in a Riley.



Having already severely damaged his right leg during WW1, Gardner suffered a bad compound fracture of the same limb in this accident in the 1932 Ulster TT when his C-Type left the track and somersaulted three times; amputation was only narrowly avoided after the leg turned septic.



During 1936 Gardner took part in a production car race at Daytona Beach, driving a V12 Lincoln Zephyr – here seen harrying an open Ford V8 through the sand dunes. After cars became repeatedly bogged down in the sands, the race was eventually called off.

of little importance. Mike suggested otherwise, saying the box was full of photos and other material that had been passed to his father by Goldie Gardner himself, and it would be worth my while to pay a visit.

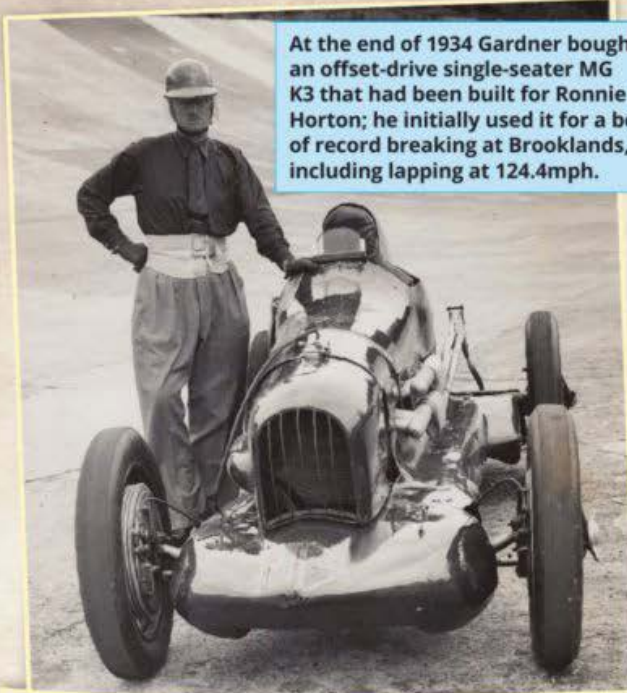
First, though, what was the connection between Hampshire-based Mike Jones and Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Thomas Goldie Gardner OBE MC? Well, in 1927 the then Major Gardner had become a director of Croydon garage Milne & Russell, a pioneering business that traced its origins back to an enterprise established in 1903 as the Firefly Motor Company. Based in Croydon's Brighton Road, in 1924 the company had begun handling Austin cars on behalf of local distributor Rootes Ltd of Maidstone. In 1931 they would become Austin main dealers in their own right.

Four years later Mike's father Keith, aged just 14, joined the workshops as a fitter. The war interrupted Keith Jones's service, but after fighting with the

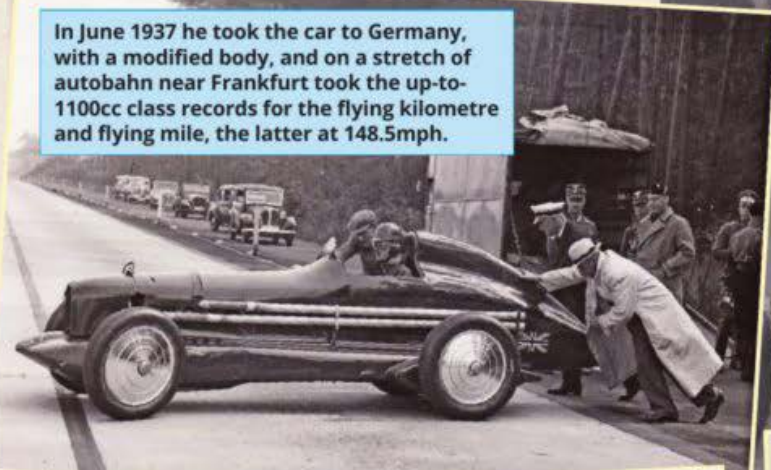


Gardner (foreground) in the 1936 Brighton Speed Trials with his SS Mercedes-Benz, racing against Forrest Lycett's 8-litre Bentley; the Mercedes has a one-off body.

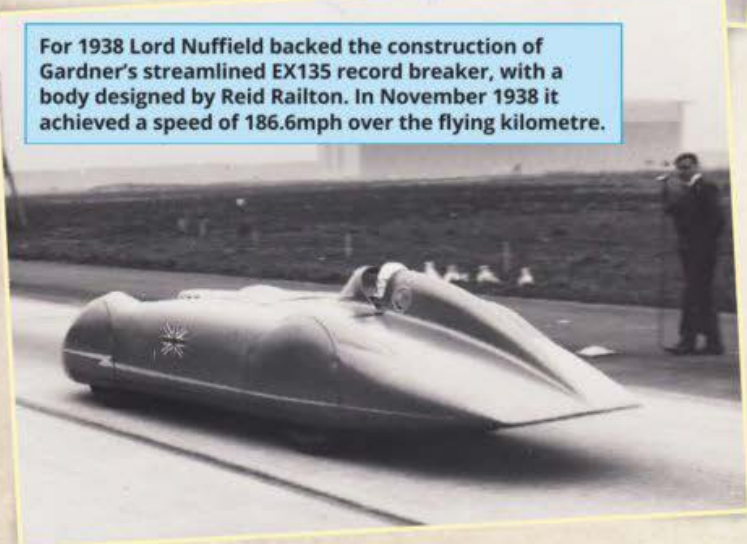




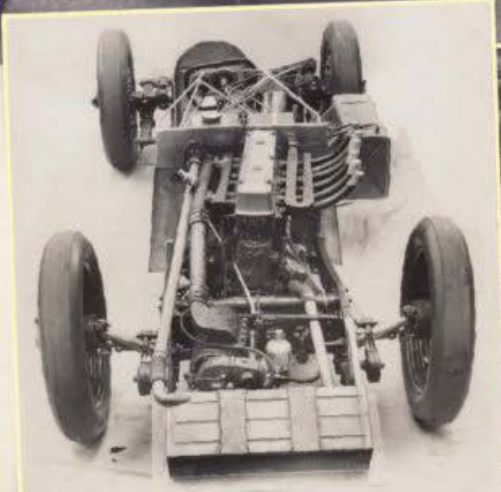
At the end of 1934 Gardner bought an offset-drive single-seater MG K3 that had been built for Ronnie Horton; he initially used it for a bout of record breaking at Brooklands, including lapping at 124.4mph.



In June 1937 he took the car to Germany, with a modified body, and on a stretch of autobahn near Frankfurt took the up-to-1100cc class records for the flying kilometre and flying mile, the latter at 148.5mph.



For 1938 Lord Nuffield backed the construction of Gardner's streamlined EX135 record breaker, with a body designed by Reid Railton. In November 1938 it achieved a speed of 186.6mph over the flying kilometre.



The chassis of EX135 was that of George Eyston's offset-drive K3 special, but the supercharged engine came from Gardner's ex-Horton single-seater; it ended up developing 193.5bhp from just 1086cc.





Great image! Post-war, Gardner attacked new records with EX135, initially (1946) with a 750cc version of the K3-derived 'six' and then with an engine running first in three-cylinder 500cc form (1947 and 1949) and finally (1950) in twin-cylinder 332cc format. Further record-breaking took place with three different engines: a four-cylinder Jaguar XK unit, an adaptation of the Morris Six and Wolseley 6/80 straight-six, and a supercharged XPAG engine.



Goldie Gardner contemplating the Segrave Trophy, awarded for what journalist Laurence Pomeroy termed 'the finest technical achievement ever put up in the history of record-breaking'. Gardner and EX135 would go on to crack the 200mph barrier in 1939, carrying off records in both the up-to-1100cc and up-to-1500cc classes - the latter after overboring the engine in situ with a portable borer.

Eighth Army and finishing with a spell in the Royal Engineers, he returned to the Croydon garage in 1946. By 1956 - two years before Gardner's death at the age of 68 - he had become Service Manager, and he would remain with the company until 1961, when he moved to the South Eastern Electricity Board.

Over the years, Keith Jones came to know Gardner well, recalling to his family the celebrated record-breaker's visits to the garage where he was apparently treated like royalty.

'My father talked a lot about Gardner. I think in some way they were kindred spirits,' says Mike. 'Although some people held him in awe, my father must have found Gardner quite approachable, as relations between the two were close enough for Goldie to give my father a valuable watch. How he came to have the box of photos I don't know, but after his death in December 2000 my mother kept it - clearly she regarded it as significant.'

When I arrived at Mike's house I soon realised that this was indeed the case. I was confronted with a collection of around 100 photos, mostly of high professional quality, that documented many aspects of Gardner's career, and not just the record-breaking in his two special MGs. Some of the images were familiar to me from Gardner's 1951 autobiography *Magic MPH*, and indeed seem to have been the very photos used in the production of the



EX135 on a Milne & Russell low-loader, in its original form with an open cockpit canopy. After the war the car was given a fully-enclosed 'bubble.'



book. Others, often related to Milne & Russell, were new to me. Further items included MG publicity material and ephemera such as Gardner's Christmas cards. I spent several hours scanning everything, and a goodly selection of the images appear in my Kimber biography. John Mayhead has also made use of some of the photos in his book, and the collection is now safely archived at Beaulieu.

That email from Mike Jones has thus rendered an important service, and prompts me to make – not for the first time – an appeal. Think before you throw old documents in a skip or on the fire. Could they be useful to someone? Do they have historical value? Every day such material is coming to light, and every day it is being thrown away, even in today's heritage-obsessed culture. In the course of my career I have come across all too many examples of priceless documentation casually thrown away. When it's gone, it's gone. For ever. So I do hope you will treasure this selection of images from the Gardner shoebox. Thank you, Mike, for preserving them, and for allowing me to share them with readers.

■ John Mayhead's book *Goldie* was published in September. For further information visit [www.johnmayhead.com](http://www.johnmayhead.com).

**Gardner presented his personalised Jaguar MkVII at the 1953 Coronation Concours d'Elegance in Brighton. That summer, having retired from record-breaking the previous year, he fell ill, as the result of a cerebral haemorrhage.**



**In 1950, at a Long Island aerodrome, Gardner and Austin PR man Alan Hess took 36 American Stock Car records for standard ex-showroom cars with a brace of Austin Devons. Having practiced for as many hours as possible, and marked his turn-in points, Gardner took corners at close to the Austin's 72mph maximum speed.**



**Yes, that is Clark Gable. Gardner snapped the film star at Indianapolis in 1950, sampling the Mercury-powered Bob Estes Special. California-based Estes would later go through agonies as Lamborghini's importer for the US West Coast.**







*We are all revved up and ready to roll!*

With all venues, events, food and beverages, fun and entertainment lined up, the 2024 MG Centenary National Meeting is looking to be a fantastic ride.

With registrations pouring in, NSW is looking forward to welcoming MG owners and enthusiasts from all over the country to Tamworth to help celebrate the Centenary. Did Cecil Kimber ever imagine that the MG brand would become so beloved and enduring when he built six MG Super Sports Morris (what are known as the Raworth cars) back in 1923?

MG is a very special marque which has developed a very dedicated and close knit family around the globe. Celebrating 100 Years in 2023 – 2024, join the celebrations and the fun.

No registered yet? Follow the link to register now: <https://mgnatmeet2024.com.au/registration/>

*Tamworth is Waiting!*

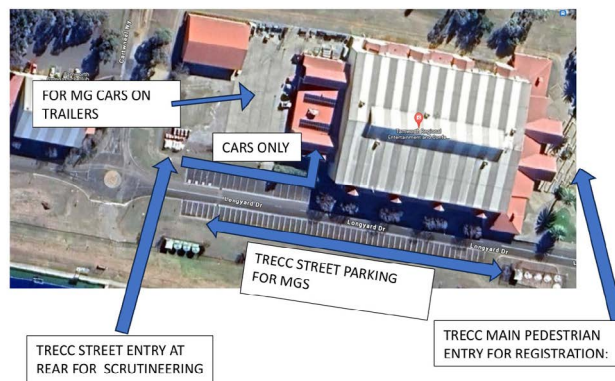
### FRIDAY 29 MARCH

REGISTRATION and SCRUTINEERING - Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC)  
Greg Norman Drive, Hillvue: 9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Registration and scrutineering will take place at TRECC which is located approximately 6 km south of the Tamworth CBD in the suburb of Hillvue. Sydney Club members will be on hand to direct and help should you have any queries. Everyone must Register before proceeding to Scrutineering.

Following Registration you are asked to proceed to Scrutineering which will take place at the rear of the TRECC building. Please follow the signs to Scrutineering. and line up as directed. Concours and all Competition cars, including cars in the Discovery Run, will be checked for Class eligibility and scrutineered in accordance with the regulations for their specific events.

Social entrants' cars, including Kimber Run cars, do not need to be scrutineered. Cars on trailers may be scrutineered on their trailer, depending on access to the car.





## NOGGIN 'N' NATTER – Dungowan Station- 803 Ogunbil Road, Dungowan

Dungowan is a 30 minute drive from Tamworth. Buses are available to take people to and from the event. Buses may be booked during the online registration process: \$14 return.

The traditional Rocker Cover racing will take place during the Noggin 'n' Natter event.

This year Racers will also be judged for how they are presented. There will be three awards:

- The Best Look Alike Old No.1
- The Best Look Alike any MG model
- The People's Choice Award for the racer the majority of people thought the best presented.



### SATURDAY 30 MARCH

CONCOURS – Cross Park, Gipps Street Tamworth: 8.00 am – 3.30 pm

The park is located within a close walking distance of the town centre.

Food and coffee facilities will be available at Cross Park.

8.00 am	Gates open to participants
9.00 am	Cars in place
9.30 am	Judges Briefing
9.45 am	Judging commences
12.15 am	Judging completed
1.00 pm	Class finalists announced
1.30 pm	Class Finalists to be in place
2.00 pm	Outright Judging begins
3.00 pm	Outright Judging completed
3.30 pm	Event close



Please ensure your National Meeting Competitor Number is placed on your windscreen. All vehicles are to be driven into the Judging area. All competitors' cars must be in place by 9.00 am.

A COUNTRY BALL – a little something different!  
Mecure Hotel – Kent Street, Tamworth

Break out the leather, fringing, denim and plaid! Do you own an Akubra? This is the time to dust it off and give it an airing. Are you ready to Line Dance? Dress for the Ball and break out the Tuxedo jacket and team it with jeans, very chic!



A fun and casual night with old-style country fare, including a pig on a spit, and plenty of time to catch up with MG members from across the continent.

Concours placings will be announced and awards presented, the only formal part of the evening. Relax and have fun!

### SUNDAY 31 MARCH

MOTORKHANA – Gunnedah Regional Airport:

See February Bulletin for full details:

<https://mgnatmeet2024.com.au/2024-nat-meet-bulletin-february/>

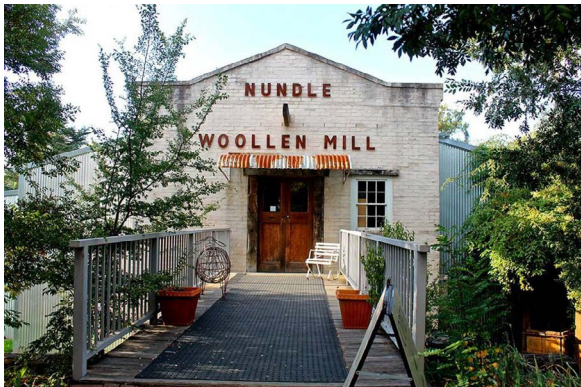




KIMBER RUN- from 8.15am – Drivers' Briefing- 9.15

Setting off from the Mercure Hotel in Tamworth, the run takes drivers along scenic country roads to Nundle and Hanging Rock. The run is approximately 79km or 49 miles in length. Along the way we have organised a stop at Chaffey Dam Reserve so you can take photos of your cars in front of a scenic setting. At the conclusion of the run you can explore Nundle and get a bite to eat at one of the historic eateries.

Nundle offers you the opportunity to check out the historic shops such as the Woolen Mill, have some lunch and then, if you wish to be adventurous, head on up to Hanging Rock before returning to Tamworth.



### MONDAY 1 APRIL

LAP DASH – Oakburn Raceway, Oakburn Park Motorsport Complex  
1428 Oxley Highway, Wallamore- enter via Bowlers Lane

On arrival: Cars on trailers to be unloaded and trailers MOVED to separate trailer parking. Vehicle speed is to be limited to a maximum of 15 kph.

Group B: Class N MGB Rubber Bumper to Class ZZ (excluding Rolling Chassis Class)

Group A: Class A Pre-war Touring MGs to Class M (MGB BL and later)

Scrutineering: Group B - 07:30 am

Group A - 11:00

Drivers' briefing and sign on:

GROUP B - 08:15 am

GROUP A - 12:00 noon

A Rolling Start will apply to this event. Each vehicle will complete three (3) consecutive laps, with laps being timed by an electronic beam at the Start/Finish Line.

The aggregate time total of the three laps will be the recorded time per "run". (Rewarding 3 clean consistent lap times). A minimum of two (2) runs of three (3) laps will be completed by each driver.



Drivers must wear: Approved helmets and apparel - Schedule D of the Motorsport Australia Manual.

Refreshments: available from canteen and coffee van.





DISCOVERY RUN - Mecure Hotel to Oakburn Park Motorsport Complex

See February Bulletin for full details: <https://mgnatmeet2024.com.au/2024-natmeet-bulletin-february/>

PRESENTATION DINNER - Tamworth Town Hall 7.30 pm – 11.30 pm

*Celebrating the Centenary of MG*

As MG was launched in 1923 and as we are celebrating this event in an Art Deco building, Sydney club is encouraging everyone to come dressed accordingly. The 1920s is famous for flappers with fringes and beading and elegantly dressed gentlemen. Join the fun and dress up for this very special celebration of the MG Marque.

A three course meal, with complimentary red and white wine, will be served while we are entertained by a string quartet from the Tamworth Conservatorium of Music.



### SPORTING RULES AND REGULATIONS TO NOTE



#### 1) Wooden Steering Wheels:

Motorkhana: Wooden Wheels are permitted

Lap Dash (speed event): Wooden Wheels are NOT permitted (unless this wooden wheel was an original equipment component of the car when new, and NOT as an after-market option).

#### 2) Seat Belts:

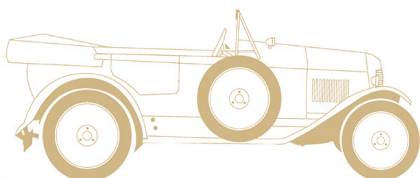
a) Motorkhana minimum: A single Lap Belt for all vehicles including Specials (Lap Sash belt is recommended)

b) Lap Dash Speed Event:

Registered Vehicle- minimum: Lap Sash seat belt.

All other vehicles - Minimum: 3 point Harness (4 point and above are recommended).

Logbooked Race Cars- Minimum: 3 point harness and must have a Frontal Head Restraint (FHR)(4 point and above are recommended).



*Not yet registered?*

*Register now* <https://mgnatmeet2024.com.au/registration/>

*See you in Tamworth*

*Ros Bastian, Bulletin Editor*



## *Breakfast Run to Austinmer*



It was great to head out on our first Breakfast Run for 2024. The run started at Wentworthville with six cars, and another seven at Menai. The majority of drivers chose to bring their MGB's with a sprinkling of a few other models and other badges along for the trip. We were also joined by another 3 cars at the venue, bringing the total number of participants to 28 people.

The drive through the National Park is always a favourite and this day did not disappoint. The weather was delightful, and the road was in good condition. Despite the frustration of a portable traffic light and some slow Sunday driving by non-participants, drivers were able to cruise through at their own pace and ability – all arriving with smiles on their faces at the Headlands Hotel, Austinmer.

Good venues are by chance more than planning, and luck was on our side - the Headlands Hotel was enjoyed for both the Breakfast, the tea and coffee and the seating area and view. Breakfast Runs are moving towards members paying for their own meals rather than paying via the website, however this depends on

the requirements of the venue, not many want separate payments.

After Breakfast, new members were welcomed & many caught up for a chat, all while taking in the view of our lovely cars and the Pacific Ocean.

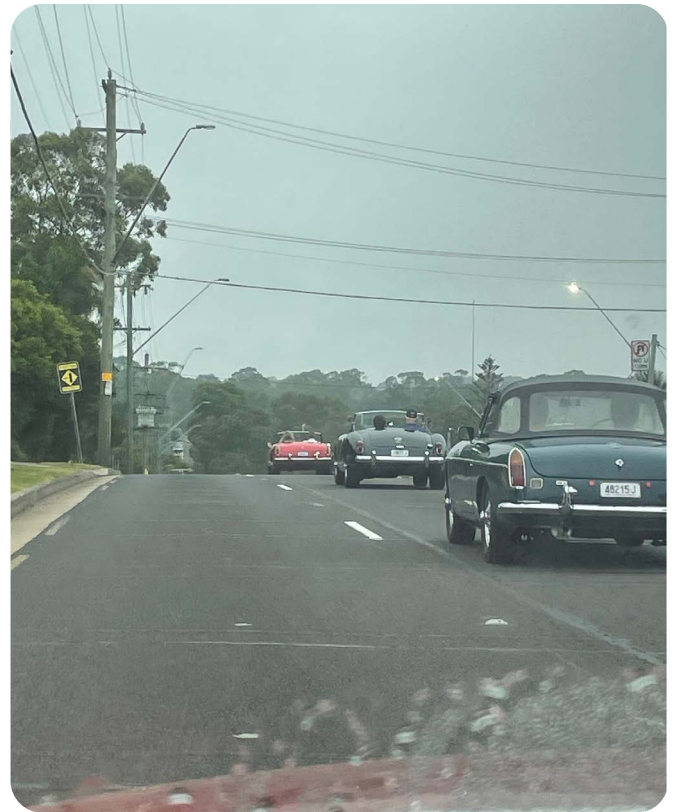
Keen observers noticed:

The 4WD bogged in the sand after trying to launch a jet ski, and the car park filling up with Aston Martins and a few Austin Heley's.

Finally at 11:30pm we had to move on to make room for the Aston Martin Car Club's lunch booking. After some friendly inter club "networking", some very loose plans were made for possible joint runs sometime later in the year, even if this is just sharing information and an invitation to our scheduled runs.

New members are especially encouraged to try out club events by joining us on a Breakfast Run.

*Julie Porter-Stephens  
MGCC – Breakfast Run Coordinator*





## Touring The Great Ocean Road & The Grampians

1st -9th May 2024



**1st May**

**Meet:** 9 for 9.30 start , Ampol Foodary. Pheasants Nest, Hume Highway

Book your accommodation and advise you are with the MG Car Club

**1st May**

Heritage Motel, Cootamundra 1 300 130 172

**2nd May**

Cadell on the Murray, Moama 03 5482 4500

**3rd 4th & 5th May**

Sandpiper Motel, Apollo Bay 03 5237 6732

**6th & 7th May**

Country Plaza, Halls Gap 03 5356 4344

**8th May**

Bishops Lodge, Hay 02 6993 3003

When booked, please call Don with your name, phone number and e-mail address

Bring morning tea, light lunch

Happy Hour each day, late afternoon

Don Young 0412 600 415

[don.young9636@gmail.com](mailto:don.young9636@gmail.com)

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# Illawarra Register

Welcome to another month of classic motoring, and I hope your collection of classic vehicle (s) is in good health, and you are enjoying taking them for a run.

The combined Illawarra Registers of the Jaguar Drivers Club of Australia and the MG Car Club Of Sydney, combined for a great day out at the Lions Club of Gerringong. This excellent annual car show was held at the Mick Cronin oval at Gerringong on Saturday 17 Feb. Thankfully the excellent weather held ,despite some gloomy weather forecasts predicting rain.

Our combined registers' organiser- Ron Critcher- had booked 15 car display slots , and we met at the Nungarry reserve at 0800, and parked briefly along with a number of other clubs attending the event.

The convey then proceeded into the venue,where a very well organised and clearly signposted entry system run by the Lions Club members and friends, meant we had very clear directions and well organised parking!

This ensured we were quickly and efficiently parked into our 'reserved row", and we settled down to enjoy an excellent day .

There was a wide range of vehicles from all nationalities on display: for example we were parked just in front of the Early Holden owners club and near the classic Ford display, with a lone Ferrari parked just nearby!

I can strongly endorse and recommend this event to attend and enjoy this annual event. It is a fine car show in a very pleasant venue, also held on the day close by is the Gerringong street fair, with market stalls and many interesting displays.

Enjoy a photo selection of the mainly British car types that I have selected from the many cars actually on display.



Michael Hough



Here is a list of the remaining Illawarra register events for 2024:-

**March:** Saturday 2- Sunday 3 rd  
Air Shows Downunder, Shellharbour Airport (the old Wings Over Illawarra) with encouraged attendance as:-  
Sat- MG's/ Sunday- Jaguars.

**March:** Thursday 28 Berkelouw's Book Barn in Berrima

**May:** Sunday 19 Motoring Heritage Day Berry

**July:** Sunday 21 Christmas in July Mt. Keira Scout Camp

Note: this event may now be under threat for 2024 only, as the venue is currently closed for major renovations and repairs, and we will keep you posted.

**September:** Thursday 26

Visit to Graham Lord's workshop, Mittagong

**November:** Thursday 28

Lunch run to Greenwell Point

The Illawarra Register events are usually morning events, culminating in a lunch option, except for the Air Show car display-which is an all day commitment, and the Christmas in July lunch at the Mt Keira Scout camp.

Please put the attached dates into your diary, and I hope to see you at the remaining events in 2024.

Enjoy your classic motoring.

Michael Hough Illawarra Register





Lions Club of Gerringong. This excellent annual car show was held at the Mick Cronin Oval at Gerringong on Saturday 17th February 2024.





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## National Motoring Heritage Day

**Sunday 19 May 2024**  
Berry Showground, Berry NSW  
7:00am – 2:00pm

**Theme – Fashion and transport through the years 1900 to 1990's.**

Displays of Vintage, Historic & Classic Vehicles & Bikes.

*All ages & marqueses welcome.*  
*Awards for best period costume.*  
*Judging 9am – 12noon*

*Entry Fees – cash only at gates*  
*Vehicle \$10 Spectators \$5 Family \$10*

Enquiries & registration  
Email: [davidamullinger@gmail.com](mailto:davidamullinger@gmail.com)  
Ph: 0417 671 107

Hosted by Shoalhaven Historic Vehicle Club Inc.  
Supported by Council of Motor Clubs NSW

Car clubs and private entries to be received by 7<sup>th</sup> May.

*Shops, restaurants, accommodation, wineries, stay for the weekend in Shoalhaven.*





# MG Car Club Regalia & Clothing

Support your club and complete your wardrobe with the MG Car Club regalia range.

Available in mens and womens cuts and sizes.

**Contact:** Granville Harris on 0414 880 374

[granville2@bigpond.com](mailto:granville2@bigpond.com) to order.

Alternatively shop on line at our web site shop : [mgcarclubsydney.com.au](http://mgcarclubsydney.com.au)



Hats- with velcro straps to fit all sizes. \$25.

Scarf - double sided jacquard knit scarf in black with a red MG Octagon on one side and red Safety Fast! on the other. \$35



Bomber jacket- a retro style black poly cotton twill jacket with red highlighted trim and taffeta lining. Press stud front. Embroidered silver club badge on front and large embroidered MG Octagon and Safety Fast motto on back. \$150

## 60th Anniversary of the MGB

With thanks to our models, Ashley Clarke & James C Lombardo.

The MG Car Club Sydney has exclusively designed a commemorative tea shirt in honour of the 60th Anniversary of the iconic MGB in September 1962.

Made from good quality breathable cotton/ poly, stocks are limited so be quick : Only \$45.



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# The Vintage & Classic Car Hub

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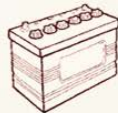
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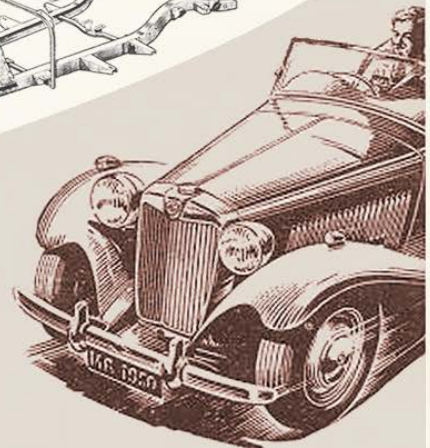
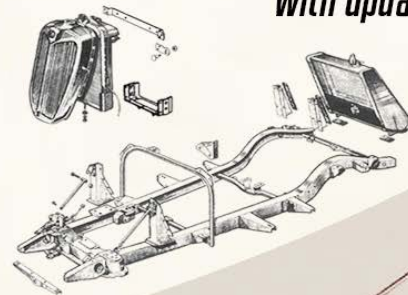


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# System of car heating



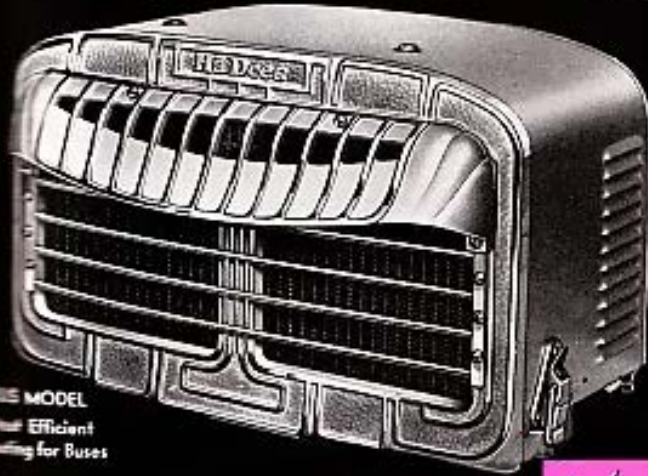
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In conjunction with the release of the new LE60 V8, BEE EV MGB's and the locally designed MGA, Modern Classic Cars is proud to confirm its rebrand as **Frontline Australia**. This rebrand reinforces our ties with the UK operation formed over the last 10 years.



We look forward to continuing to enhance the classic MG marque here in Australia.

David Dyer

## Classifieds - Cars



### MGY 1949

2nd Place in Class 2022 Sydney Concours, Registration MGY949  
Black with red interior this car is a superb example of the MGYA Class. Acquired by the current owner and was meticulously restored. Comes with full service history and receipts. A range of spare parts are included with the car or can be purchased separately for \$250 the lot.

**Location:** Sydney

**Price:** \$30,000 ONO

**Contact:** Peter Sutherland  
0419 314 295



### MG TC

Harry (of Holden Dealer Team Fame) Firth's Hill climb car. Not raced since extensive restoration.

Extractors, "locker diff" bucket seats

Very good condition

**Location:** South Coast NSW

**Price:** \$40,000

**Contact:** 0474 365 354



### 1955 TF 1500

Concours condition.

Meticulous restoration

**Location:** South Coast NSW

**Price:** \$40,000

**Contact:** 0474 365 354



### 1949 MG TC

Excellent condition heaps of extras,

Aero screens, finned brake drums, 16-inch wheels, Quick release Radiator cap, 1500cc motor.

Many new parts, very low mileage since full restoration.

**Location:** South Coast NSW

**Price:** \$40,000

**Contact:** 0474 365 354



## Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Motor Club Inc

PO Box 177, Tea Gardens 2324

### INVITATION

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear President and Members,

The Committee and Members of the Tea Gardens Hawks Nest Motor Club are pleased to formally extend a warm invitation to your Club to participate in our annual Motorfest, which is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. The date is Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Myall Sports Park, Yamba Street Hawks Nest.

This event has proven to be very popular with Motor Clubs, local residents, our Business Community and visitors since its inception. Through Motorfest we have raised in excess of \$100,000 to assist many local community aid groups such as our Rural Fire, Red Cross, TGHN Surf Club and our free Clinic Bus.

At our 2024 Event we really want to focus on presenting a great display of Classic Cars, Hot Rods and Motorcycles, including such as those owned by the Members of your Club. We will be awarding a good selection of Trophies covering a wide range of Classic Cars, Hot Rods and Motorcycles and as usual, we will run our Monster raffle. Plenty of good food and drinks will be on offer.

Classic and unique cars and motorcycles are always a huge attraction and a display by your Club would very much assist us with making our Event very special.

Gates will open at 8.00AM and we will wrap up from 2.00PM. Display admission is \$10 per vehicle.

Should you wish to pre-enter for your group please contact us with your details/numbers.

Thank you in anticipation of your attendance.

Ross Anderson, President



## Classifieds - Cars



### Oxford Blue MG RV8.

3.9 L Rover with ~83600 km  
SARRAWBMBMG001581

**NEW**

We have moved to Perth from Canada and I need a daily driver. I have had it since 2016. Service records go back to 2007.

One of only 258 Oxford Blue RV8's this originally shipped to Japan then imported to Australia and certified by the authorities in Sydney, Nov 1999. It went to Melbourne then to Perth.

Maintained in top notch form by me (I am the current North American MG Enthusiast of the Year), Co-chair of MG2010, 2015 and Chair of MG2022.

Driven only 3-4 months per year since 2016 when we visited Perth. Always garaged.

Custom tow bar for bicycle carrier. (Not certified for trailer towing).

Aftermarket Radio/CD player

Recent Service

complete head rebuild in 2018.

ceramic coated extractors 2018.

5 tyres 2018,

clutch master 2018,

rebuilt heads and head gaskets 2018,

new triple core radiator, coolant reservoir tank 2018,

new clutch 2021

new gear shift lever bushings 2022

new front end poly bushings 2022

new electric fan, new pulley belts 2023,

new windscreen 2023

Dyno tuned to 160HP.

Price: \$49,500

Location: Perth

Contact: Peter Mittler

0411 587 857

[pmittler@gmail.com](mailto:pmittler@gmail.com)



### MG, the 1948 MG TC 'Tillett' Special.

This very special car is heading to Donnington's summer classic car and number plate auction this February. The car won the 1951 Australian Grand Prix on handicap and is offered from a more than 38 year ownership with John Ellis

Location: Adelaide

Price: \$60,000



### 1948 MG TC 'Ellis' Special

This special MG is heading to Donnington's summer classic car and number plate auction this February. This car features a hand crafted aluminium body and is offered from the estate of the late John Ellis.

Location: Adelaide

Price: \$25,000



### 1945 MG TC 'Cobden'

This very special MG, is heading to Donnington's summer classic car and number plate auction this February. This car is understood to be the first MG TC in Australia and is offered from the estate of the late John Ellis following a 63-year ownership

Location: Adelaide

Price: \$45,000



**NEW**

### MGTF 1948

Is offered in original condition from the same owner for the past 53 years.

It was purchased by the present owner in 1971 in a partially restored state. The current owner finished the restoration and finished the car in red.

Receipts for repairs and maintenance available.

Location: Chatswood

Price: \$40,000

Contact: Jim Connelly

02 9412 39 41



### 1959 MGA 1500.

Great car, drives well.

Chrome wire wheels,

Older restoration.

Hardtop, Tonneau cover & soft top

( needs new cloth)

On club plates. Must be sold.

Price: All offers considered.

Contact: Geoff Pearson,

0413 536 930

[geoffjpearson@icloud.com](mailto:geoffjpearson@icloud.com)



## Classifieds - Parts



### MG TD 1951

Road registered MG 814 until April 2024. Chassis Number TD/8070 EXR. Bought at auction from deceased estate so not much history is known. Car is in remarkably original condition except for the ivory interior trim which is in good condition.

Car is very tight and straight with excellent woodwork, no rust and what could well be the original paint work which has a few chips but is otherwise good.

Chromework is also fine.

Mechanically sound with excellent engine, good gearbox & synchromesh, clutch, tight suspension, steering, new brakes all working instruments & gauges New tyres and battery.

Hood and side-curtains are also in good condition.

A pleasure to drive and nothing to spend, buyer may want to upgrade trim and paint work.

**Location:** Gwandalan, Lake Macquarie

**Price:** \$38,000 (Including GST)

**Contact:** Andrew Mackie  
0407 770 205

[agmackie47@gmail.com](mailto:agmackie47@gmail.com)



### 1970 MGB Mark 11

Overdrive. Very good condition. Only 87,000 genuine miles. Chrome wheels and new tyres. On club plates.

Must be sold.

**Price:** All offers considered.

**Contact:** Geoff Pearson,  
0413 536 930

[geoffjpearson@icloud.com](mailto:geoffjpearson@icloud.com)

### Toneau Cover & Rocker Cover Plate

Toneau cover, requires new zipper slide otherwise in good condition (hardly ever used).

Steering wheel: small blemish on one spoke but otherwise in fair condition.

Rocker cover plate: good condition.

**Price:** All three items \$500 . Neg

**Contact:** Robert Fitzpatrick

Bateau Bay, Central Coast NSW

0405 781 608

[patnbob88@gmail.com](mailto:patnbob88@gmail.com)

**NEW**



### MG Boot.

Ideal for a restoration. Has 2 very small dents, and a little bit of surface rust at one end. There is mechanism on the inside but no button and there is no Octagon.

**Price:** Make an offer, cash only

**Location:** Pick up from Bathurst

**Contact:** Bob Bell : 0408 793 955



**NEW**



**NEW**

Set of MG TF or early MGA wheels  
Have been refurbished before new tyres were fitted.

I removed one tyre to inspect condition of wheel.

Fitted with Michelin tyres, about 70-80% tread, 7 years old.

One wheel has a slight difference in the hub profile.

**Price:** \$50 each or \$200 the lot.

**Contact:** [ianfrost@dodo.com.au](mailto:ianfrost@dodo.com.au)

**TF Radiator Shell False Nose**  
including Medallion and Dummy Cap for sale.

Picked up at a Local Swap meet is in very good condition however not appropriate for my TD.

**Price:** \$250.

**Contact:** David Suters  
[whipstick02@gmail.com](mailto:whipstick02@gmail.com)

## Wanted

**NEW**

### MGB steering wheel

Original type for an aprox. 1974 model with no slots in the spokes wanted in good condition.

**Contact:** Warwick Protheroe  
[protheroe@extra.co.nz](mailto:protheroe@extra.co.nz)

Looking forward to seeing you all in Tamworth.





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# ASHFIELD CYCLES

## Classifieds - Parts



### Car Radio & CD Player

Only a few years old and works well.

Comes with mounting box, the 2 removal tools & instruction booklet.

Price: \$80

Location: Dural

Contact: Bruce Smith  
0410 867 509

### MG TC New Weather and Interior Replacement Kits in Black.

Brand new parts purchased in 2023 from Brown & Gammons UK. These parts are now superfluous as I am selling my 1948 TC. Prefer to sell as a job lot but will consider individual sales, consider any reasonable offer.

**Black Mohair Hood** 1 rear window hood, trim, piping & fittings Part #. TCWE1001AD Cost \$970

**Black Mohair Tonneau** – Full tonneau with a centre & side zips by wheel arches. Cost \$655

**Black Mohair Half Tonneau** NEW  
Cost \$ 590

**Black Mohair Side Screen Covers.**  
Need to fit to existing side screen frames & windows. Cost \$970

**Black Interior Trim Kit** – Vinyl TC. This includes all interior trim items in black including wheel arches, piping for door panels & around dashboard, doors & behind seats as well as sheet for side screen cover back panel behind seats. Kit Cost \$1440.



### Contact:

Graham Slater  
Northbridge  
0400 324 006  
gvskas@bigpond.com





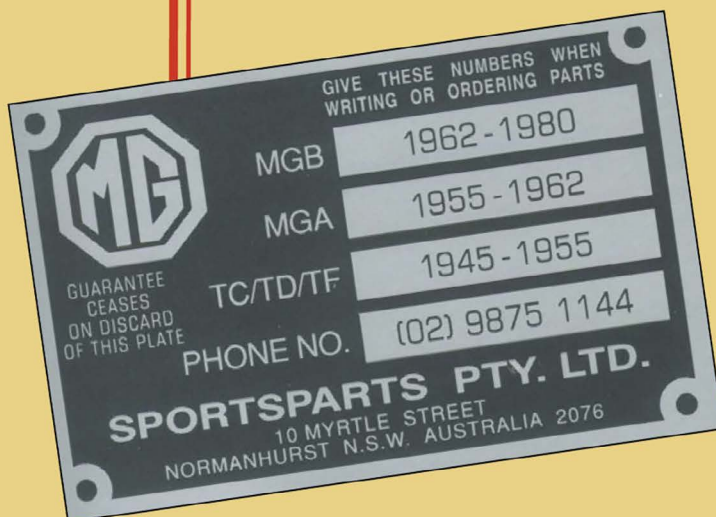
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