

FLAT CHAT NEWSLETTER AUSTIN-HEALEY OWNERS CLUB (NSW) INC ABN: 87 630 303 136



The River Walk

Our event this month was changed at the last minute to a 1.8km bush walk along the banks of the Wingecarribee River at Berrima.

David McIntyre quickly organised this fascinating location for us to explore. The history is a story of German merchant seaman who were in Australian ports at the declaration of World War 1, and the Berrima Internment Camp, to house these men, was in operation from 1915 -1919.

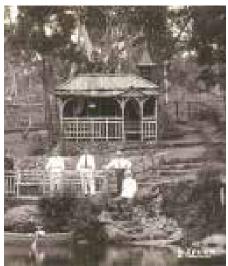


Design by Amy Q Design

The walk is well defined with an extensive panorama of photo displays, noting the points of interest at the various locations along the riverbank.

An example of the river huts and bridge the internees built during their internment. (More photos on website)

Attendees were David McIntyre (BJ8), Colin Goldsmith, Ray & Murial Roberts and daughter Janine Hinton, Greg Barnsley (BN6), Fran and John Thornton.



VOL. 11 ISSUE

# **COMING EVENTS**

#### JUNE

1st Cent Coast Gathering 6th Monthly Meeting 12th Committee Meeting 15th Mid-Nth Coast Gather 19-21st Hume Hwy Tour 30th Sydney Gathering

#### JULY

4th Monthly Meeting 6th Central Coast Gathering 7th Donald Healey Birthday Display Day 10th Committee Meeting 17th Motor Life Museum

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POST: AHOC (NSW) Inc PO Box 3011 Rhodes NSW 2138

EMAIL: enquiries@austinhealeynsw.com.au WEB: www.austinhealeynsw.com.au FB: www.facebook.com/groups/681723625314952/

Our monthly meetings are held at Strathfield Golf Club, 52 Weeroona Rd, Strathfield NSW 2135 on the 1st Thursday of each month commencing at 7.30pm.

Members and guests are welcome to join us for dinner in the bistro from 5.30pm.

The opinions and advice expressed in the Flat Chat Newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the Austin-Healey Owners Club (NSW) Inc. For technical advice it is suggested you seek professional support.



# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

After many months of investigation, adjustments, trial and error fiddling and misdiagnosis Geoff Smith was able to make my Austin-Healey a pleasure to drive again. I just couldn't believe that a minor adjustment to the carburettors could make such a difference. So, I'm looking forward to being able to motor again without worrying about what was going on with the engine and whether I'm going to reach my destination

A trip to Medlow Bath last weekend meant the 100/6 stayed garaged, but I was looking forward to the run up to Cardiff last Saturday with the Central Coast Chapter. Unfortunately, that didn't happen for me.

However, the last week of May for me will be not forgotten for a long time, as a trip to the hairdresser culminated in being taken in an ambulance to hospital and just over 24 hours later having



a battery powered heart. I still haven't had a haircut, so can't pretend to be like Samson and lost all my power with the loping of my tresses by Delilah. It has put a dampener on my activities for a few weeks.

Kathleen Long, one of our "newer" members, was going to talk to us on Thursday evening. Unfortunately, being one of the general managers for Repco, her position pretty much dictates her priorities and as she now has to be in Melbourne, will not be able to join us. She has assured me that I can lock in the July meeting. I'm still very interested in getting other members to speak at our meetings, as there is a huge wealth of knowledge about all sorts of topics in our club. So if you would like to volunteer, or to volunteer someone else, I'd love to hear from you.

Jim Phillips President

# COMMITTEE LIST - 2024

Club Patron—Ross Bond

President - Jim Phillips 8 Belina Ave., Wyoming NSW 2250 0413 589 306 jpjimbeau@gmail.com

Vice-President - Geoff Smith 0458 777 339 m.gpsmith@bigpond.com

Secretary - Julie Lee 0421 598 755 hedli@tpg.com.au

Treasurer - Jenny Penman 0408 465 547 penmans@bigpond.com

Social Secretary - Dianne Lawlor 0413 873 191 gregorymstrange@gmail.com

Editor - Patrick Quinn "Wongaburra" 116 Warks Hill Rd., Kurrajong Heights 2758 0417 673 065 p.cquinn@outlook.com Historian - Joe Armour 0419 233 099 joea6@bigpond.com

Membership Secretary - Christine Lyttle 0410 201 373 membership@austinhealeynsw.com.au

Regalia - Colin Rule 0467 563 523 coolibahconvertible@bigpond.com

Technical Officer - Greg Strange 02 9319 2299 gregorymstrange@gmail.com

Club Registrar - Patrick Quinn (Inc Conditional Registration) Please send all Conditional Registration documents to Patrick's postal address at left

Public Relations - Ross Penman 0408 465 547 penmans@bigpond.com

Webmaster - Jim Phillips 0413 589 306 jpjimbeau@gmail.com

Public Officer - Alan Mitchell PO Box 123 Marulan 2579 0412 898 656 mitchellai@ozemail.com.au 
 Non-Committee Positions

 Chapter Coordinators

 Central Coast
 Colin Rule
 0467 563 523

 Illawarra/Sth H'landsJohn Thornton
 0419 266 284

 Mid NthCoast
 Phil Loking
 0412 392 362

 Western
 Greg Poole
 (02) 5355 0079

CSCA Delegate - Colin Goldsmith

Librarian - Ronnie Strange

CMC Delegates - Ray Roberts Greg Strange

Welfare Officer - Pamela Ross 0408 201 226

Display Day Coordinators - Ross & Jenny Penman Conditional Registration Inspectors -

Neville Stirton - 0414 472 877 - Geoff Smith - 0458 777 339 - Phil Lorking - 0412 392 362

Assn of British Car Clubs Rep - Christine Lyttle

National Assn Delegates - Gordon Lynas & Jim Phillips

AHOC Life Members - Don Read (D), Alan Jones (D), Warwick Sell (D), Joe Armour, Christine Lyttle, Patrick Quinn, Terry Bancroft (D), Ray Roberts and David Mould.

If you want to send something by post, the Club's

address is:- AHOC (NSW) Inc PO Box 3011

Rhodes NSW 2138

It would be appreciated if there were no phone calls to committee members after 9:00 PM.



# EXHAUST LEAKS



By Patrick Quinn (02) 4567 7380 0417 673 065 p.cquinn@outlook.com

Greetings and welcome to the June 2024 issue of the Flat Chat Newsletter.

Excellent, wonderful, super and any other like words. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to send is their words, photos and whatever for this issue of the Flat Chat Newsletter.

I was very fortunate with this issue with everything from a few words and a photo from Will Sherman, right through to a lengthy article from Gordon Lynas on his fun and games he is having with the newly acquired Jensen-Healey. Thank you as well, to Gary Hatcher for his rear vision mirror experience; words and scans from Harley Boggis on what he has found during his enjoyable(?) house move; Grahame Parker's advice on a Chinese copy of an American copy; and Allan Whitehouse's interesting article on repairing cracks in leather seats. Thank you also to Larry Varley for sending photos of his newly restored Nash-Healey. Thank you to you all!

If you look closely there are

a number of opportunities for Austin-Healey owners to gather together with like minded owners. The Central Coast, Illawarra/ Southern Highlands and Midnorth Coast chapters are steaming ahead in top gear (yes that is a contradiction in methods of propulsion). Also coming up on Sunday 30 June is the inaugural gathering of members at the Mortlake-on-Sea abode of Richard Horwood. Let's hope that in addition to lots of Sydney members coming along, lots of members who live further afield will as well.

Talking about further afield. This year's All British Day is on 8 September at Hawkesbury Showground. Don't know if the engine of the Quinn Austin-Healey will have reached operating temperature by the time I reach there.

I remember a child's story written by A.A.Milne that mentioned a "wheelbarrow full of surprises". I had finished cleaning the front and jump seats of the Quinn Austin-Healey, and after they dried in the sun, moved them in the wheelbarrow from the front garden to the rear and it came instantly to mind. Any connection with the seats from



Allan Whitehouse's BJ7 (see page 19) is purely coincidental. Then I exercised my brain on the windscreen wipers, especially as the blades hadn't been changed for heaven knows how long. I soon found out that for silly money I could buy complete new everything from all the normal places. A visit to my local spare parts outlet found me a single modern blade that was the same aspect as the original rubber. So for \$12 and little bit of polishing of the chrome and stainless steel. I have new wipers.

Remember the clutch? It's now fitted with a new hydraulic hose, and all seems right with the world. As far as finding one, it was a challenge because all normal outlets had hoses at standard length and of course they were too short. So I went to a local brake and clutch specialist and had one made at great dipping into the Quinn coffers. The Donald Healey Birthday Display Day, here we come.

I trust you enjoy this issue of the Flat Chat Newsletter and as usual I am looking forward to receiving lots of words and photos of what you have been up to with your Austin-Healeys.



Monthly Meetings - Zoom ID 980 9019 7648 Passcode 336164 We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Strathfield Golf Club Weeroona Rd, Strathfield. Starting at 7.30pm or enjoy dinner from 5.30pm



# Minutes of the General Meeting

Thursday, 2 May 2024 Meeting commenced at 7:40pm. Venue - Strahfield Golf Club and Zoom

# ATTENDEES



Harley Boggis, Natalie & Vince Cessario, Colin Goldsmith, George & Liz Goodare, Graham Healey, Richard Horwood, Amer Khoury, Peter Laurantus, Dianne Lawlor, Garry & Julie Lee, Alan Mitchell, Jenny & Ross Penman, Jim Phillips, Patrick Quinn, Roger Ramsay, Bob Ratcliffe, Ian Richter (Z), Muriel & Ray Roberts, Colin Rule, John & Judy Sherman, Geoff Smith, Greg Strange, Ronnie Strange

## VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS

Former member Julian Aubanel and his daughter Miriam were welcomed, plus regular visitor Naji Khoury.

# **APOLOGIES**

Patricia Bancroft, Mal French, Denis Kasza, Caroline Quinn, Rod Richards, Neville Stirton, John Thornton

# MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the General Meeting held 4 April 2024, as published in the May 2024 issue of *Flat Chat*, be verified as a correct record of that meeting.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jim had a couple of updates for the meeting:

• Denis Kasza had unfortunately resigned as the Assistant Social Secretary, so Dianne was looking for someone to give her a hand.

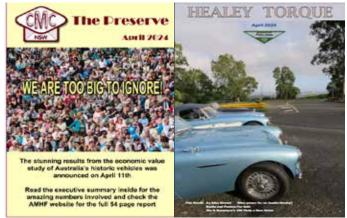
• The previously cancelled August general meeting would now be going ahead.

• The June meeting would feature a presentation from Club member Kath Long, who was the General Manager Retail at Repco.

Jim was also still keen to hear from members about the future of the Club.

## **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT** Nothing o report

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT



Relevant emails received in the month prior included:

• A request from Neil Biddle for assistance with buying a car and joining the Club (forwarded to the Committee)

• Targa Classica 2025 dates announced – 10 to 13 March

• The latest issues of Healey Torque (Qld Club), Healeys West (WA Club), Hundreds & Thousands (Vic Club), Motorlife News (Australian Motorlife Museum), Rally Directions (Classic Rally Club), Speed Read (Motorsport Australia) and The Preserve (CMC).

# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On behalf of Jenny, Jim gave an update on the Club's finances as at 31 March 2024:

Term Deposit\$70,000.00Cash Reserve\$42,467.82Debit Card\$448.82Main Account\$5,523.01Total\$118,439.65

In addition, the Charlie's Run account had a balance of \$2,486.16.

Income	
Social Events	\$25.00
Bank Account Interest	\$51.77
Fynenses	

Expenses	
Adobe software (Editor)	\$59.98



Website annual subscription National Assoc. magazine

\$605.00 \$1,883.62

# **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

New members for the month were Mark Randall (Bensville, Associate Member), Reg Wade (Avoca Beach, 1954 100) and Neil Biddle (Forbes, ex-Bancroft Mk II Roadster).

Jim advised that invoices for 2024/25 membership would be sent by email in May. Details on payment options were in Christine's report in Flat Chat.

# SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Social Secretaries and Chapter Conveners present, plus Jim on John Thornton's behalf, provided updates on events coming up (also detailed in Flat Chat). Unfortunately, due to the heavy rain, the Central Coast May workshop had had to be cancelled.

Dianne also reminded everyone about the event options for National Motoring Heritage Day on 19 May – an email would be going out with the details. Of course Club members were also free to choose other events if they preferred.

Jim advised that entries for the National Rally had officially closed but he thought it would still be possible to talk to the organisers if any other members still wished to attend.

# WEBMASTER'S REPORT

Jim gave an update on a couple of website issues which the Committee had been discussing.

# WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

A get-well card had been sent to Garry & Julie Lee for their various medical travails!

# **EDITOR'S REPORT**

Patrick had been a tad busy, juggling production of the national magazine (now with the printers) plus Flat Chat (emailed the previous evening).

# **REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

With five new cars in the last month, there were now 233 cars on conditional registration, of which approximately 120 were marque cars.

# HISTORIAN

No report

# LIBRARIAN

Nothing to report.

# **TECHNICAL OFFICER**

Greg had been getting in lots of cars with electrical problems recently, so had been looking forward to hearing about multimeters at the (now cancelled) Central Coast workshop!



# PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Ross didn't have any further update on the Donald Healey Birthday Display Day at Parramatta Park. Ray thought that with it being a display day, to encourage numbers, it would be a good idea for people to be able to bring other historic vehicles

## CMC REPORT

No report.

# ASSOC. OF BRITISH CAR CLUBS REPORT

As advised by Ray, the All British Day was now scheduled for 8 September at Hawkesbury Show-ground.

# CSCA REPORT

Colin Goldsmith advised that the next event would be on 23 June, run by the Jaguar Club. This date unfortunately clashed with the Lotus Club's run in Victoria, so given that Lotuses usually made up 20% of the field, race entrant numbers could potentially be down. Colin also expressed his concern about progress with the reopening of One Raceway (formerly Wakefield Park), as the date kept being pushed back.



## REGALIA



Colin Rule had a table chock-full of excellent stuff to buy, so was looking forward to doing a brisk trade!

## SHOW & TELL

As had become customary, Ray regaled the meeting with another anecdote from his vast collection!

**FOR SALE OR WANTED** No report.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Dianne asked if anybody had a pedal car for children which could be used for an event, e.g. to encourage kids to participate in events like the Donald Healey Birthday Display Day.

Meeting concluded at 8:40pm.

You can see clearly now the scratches are gone No obstacles in your way It's gonna be a bright bright sunshiny day

# **Austin-Healey Windscreens**



The AHOC is pleased to announce that the club has just taken delivery of a new batch of Austin-Healey replacement windscreens.

There are five of each, namely 100, 100/6 – 3000 Roadster and BJ7-BJ8. They are extremely well priced at \$280 each, irrespective of the model.

If interested please contact Colin Rule on 0467 563 523.



# **Social Report**

Dianne Lawlor 0413 873 191

gregorymstrange@gmail.com

Denis Kasza 0407 492 008

deniskasza@gmail.com

In May, the AHOC had several exciting and interesting events planned for the Sydney area and the regional Chapters. Unfortunately, inclement weather and illness put paid to some things being held.

The National Motoring Heritage Day event at Stanley Park, East Kurrajong, on May 19, went ahead, as did the Illawarra and Southern Highlands outing and the Mid-North Coast Chapters gathering. You can read about these events elsewhere in this edition of the *Flat Chat Newsletter*.

June promises to contain another exciting and inspiring month of activities, including the visit to Q Station Manly, the Chapter activities and a new Sunday morning Car Talk event, to be very generously hosted by Richard Horwood at his premises in Mortlake-on-Sea, Sydney last Sunday of every second month when possible

**Future AHOC Events** 

Event: Q Station Manly Boilerhouse Kitchen and Bar, Complimentary Visitors Museum. Venue: Quarantine Station, 1 Nth Head Scenic Drive, Manly. Date: Sunday 16th June 2024 Time: 10.30am to 3pm Parking and shuttle service available Bookings: Please make your own bookings with the Restaurant 9466 1500 Contact: as above

Event: Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapter Explore remaining sections of the Old Hume Highway Dates: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 19th, 20th, 21st June 2024. Three Day Getaway Contact: John Thornton 0419 266 284

Event: Car Talk Gathering Date: Sunday June 30, 2024 Time: 8.30-11am Venue: 2 Bennet St Mortlake Please bring food to share for morning tea Parking available for classic cars Contact: as above Event: Donald Healey Birthday Display Day and Concours Venue: Parramatta Park Date: July 7th 2024 Contact: as above

Event: Motor Life Museum. Kembla Grange. Date: July 17th 2024 Venue: Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapters Contact: John Thornton 0419 266 284

Event: Hawkesbury Drive Date: August 2024, please refer to the club website for more details Contact: as above

Event: Retford Park tour. Bowral Friday 16th August 2024 Contact: John Thornton 0419 266 284

Event: Full Historic Tour Joadja Historic Village. Wednesday 18th September 2024 Contact: John Thornton 0419 266 284

Event: Goulburn Steam Pump House. Fri, Sat, Sun 18th, 19th & 20th October 2024 Contact: John Thornton 0419 266 284

Event: Central Coast Workshop Dates: First Saturday of each month Venue: 109 Humphreys Rd, South Kincumber Contact: Colin Rule 0467 563 523 Please bring a contribution to morning tea

Event: Mid-North Coast Workshop Dates: Third Saturday of each month Venue: 79 Barton St, Croki Time: 9.00 AM-12.00PM (Please register in advance) Contact: Phil Lorking 0412 392 362 thelorkings@outlook.com Please bring a contribution to morning tea



Assembling early Nash-Healeys at the DHMC



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# DONALD HEALEY BIRTHDAY DISPLAY DAY 2024



# Please join us on Sunday 7 JULY 2024

At the Bowling Green, Parramatta Park (Located near the main entry at the corner of Macquarie & Pitt Streets Parramatta) From 10am until 3.30pm

A barbecue lunch and soft drinks will be provided, just bring a chair and your car.

# Donald Healey was born on 3 July 1898 and throughout his lifetime was involved with the development of Healey, Austin-Healey, Riley, Alvis, Triumph, Jensen, Humber, Nash, Invicta and Austin marques.

The Austin-Healey Owners Club would like to celebrate DMH's birthday with a gathering of many of the above cars as possible.

For further information, please contact Ross on 0408 465 547 or email us at <u>enquiries@austinhealeynsw.com.au</u>



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## **Membership Report**

by Christine Lyttle membership@austinhealeynsw.com.au

A new member this month is Adam Page from the UK with an overseas membership. Welcome Adam!

Membership renewals are due by 30 June 2024. Invoices for renewal were sent out via email from the website in the last week of May. If you have not received the email, please check your Junk Mail and if not there, please contact me via the above email address.

Payments can be made to the AHOC's bank account. BSB: 032 069 Account: 252564.

New members joining the club in the last few months leading up to 30 June 2024 are automatically given membership through to 30 June 2025. These members will not receive a renewal.

We have received over 30 renewal payments in the last week, so please keep them coming in so that your membership does not lapse.

To assist us to reconcile, just a reminder to add your

name to the description of your payment, or if you deposit over a counter at a Westpac bank, they only allow a numeric description. Use your postcode, mobile or your membership number, which can be obtained from the website.

A few copies of the Australian Austin-Healey magazines have been returned due to address changes. Each quarter there is a lapse in the time that I prepare the mailing list and it is sent to the editor for on forwarding to the mailing house. If you do change your address on the website, please let me know via an email to the above email address so that I can organise for the mailing list to be updated to ensure you receive your magazine on time rather than have it returned and re-mailed out to you.

I encourage you to check the website to ensure the details are correct. The details may be dated if you have moved or change your supplier for emails. If you're unsure about your login contact Jim Phillips the website manager to send you a new link.

Hope to see you at event soon!

Happy Healeying Christine

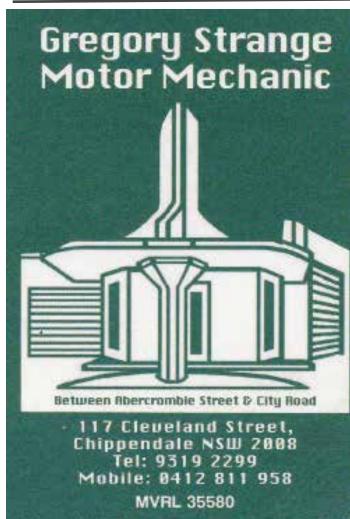




# Historic Vehicle Registration News If you have a car on Historic Vehicle Registration you should read this.

A couple of important aspects to think about if you have a vehicle on Conditional Registration.

First of all, the powers that be within the NSW state government have decided that those mobile phone cameras that can detect if you have your phone in your ear, will from July 1st also detect if you're not wearing a seat belt. This presents a difficulty if you are driving a car that is not fitted with a seat belt, as many of ours are not. If however, your older car is so fitted you must wear them or if your car has the anchorages you must fit them and wear them. Available records indicate that the first Big Healey with built in mounting points was the Mk2 Roadster at chassis 13751.



I understand that the cameras (or operators) will be able to tell whether a particular car is older and therefore exempt. It will be interesting if that's not the case. Perhaps the next page will assist a little.

Don't forget your annual club membership fees are due at the end of June, which means if you do not renew, come July 1st not only are you no longer an AHOC member, but your car is no longer registered and that's irrespective of when you paid the registration in the proceeding 12 months. Remember the three basic tenets of Conditional Registration are your car is at least 30 years old, it's roadworthy and that you are a member of a recognised club.

Once again here are the instructions on renewing the Conditional Registration of your car.

• Once you have received the renewal papers from Transport for NSW, arrange for your vehicle to be inspected for roadworthiness by either an Authorised Inspection Station or one of the volunteer AHOC inspection officers. See page 2 of this Flat Chat for their contact details. Remember all vehicles, including Historic vehicles need to be inspected and passed as roadworthy.

• Complete the left-hand side of the "Historic Vehicle Declaration" and post it to me at my home address (See page 2 of this Flat Chat for my address) along with an indication that your car is roadworthy or a copy of the pink slip. Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. There is no need to send me the registration certificate. Do not post the documents by Registered Post as that just slows downs the process as I have to go to the post office to accept a registered postal item.

• Once returned, either go to your local Services NSW office to do the renewal or post to Transport for NSW in Parkes. That address can be found on the registration papers.

DON'T FORGET THE STAMPED SELF-AD-DRESSED ENVELOPE.





# CMC advice on seatbelt laws and child restraints

New laws covering the use of seatbelts and child safety restraints have been introduced in NSW from 1/7/2010

Basically, all vehicles manufactured with seatbelt anchorage points must have approved seat belts fitted to those points and they must be used by the occupants of the vehicle when it is on public roads.

If the vehicle pre-dates seatbelt introduction, then seatbelts do not have to be fitted. Vehicles in this category may have seatbelts fitted by an RMS approved installer. This work on the vehicle may need the certification of an RMS approved VSCCS Engineer to ensure compliance.

If you wish to carry a child under 6 months of age in ANY vehicle, that child must be restrained in an approved, rear-facing child safety capsule, located in the rear seat and anchored by a lap/sash seatbelt in compliance with the capsule manufacturer's instructions.

From 6 months to 7 years of age children must be in an approved child safety capsule, seat or booster, which can face forward or rearwards. They must be restrained in an approved lap/sash seatbelt or child harness fitted to a lap-type seatbelt. All children under 7 years old must be in the rear seat unless all

positions in that rear seat are already taken by other children who are under 7 years old. Then, they may be located in the front passenger seat, again in an approved child seat and lap/sash seatbelt.

Children from 7 to 16 years old have other requirements regarding their use of seatbelts as well. This is covered in the legislation.

We are advised that the fitment of seatbelts does not prevent the vehicle being registered on HVS by an RMS recognized Club.

The CMC strongly recommends that, if you are intending to carry children in your older vehicle you should take a good look at the RMS website.

This will ensure that you understand the new rules. The above details are presented to you as a guide only.

You are responsible for compliance with the RMS rules as set out in the legislation.

All of this means that if you choose to NOT fit seatbelts to your older vehicle for reasons of authenticity or impracticality, then you CANNOT carry very young children in that vehicle. Technically that would include parades and the like, no matter how slow you travel, as they are usually held on public roads.

The fine is substantial and a loss of demerit points for the driver.

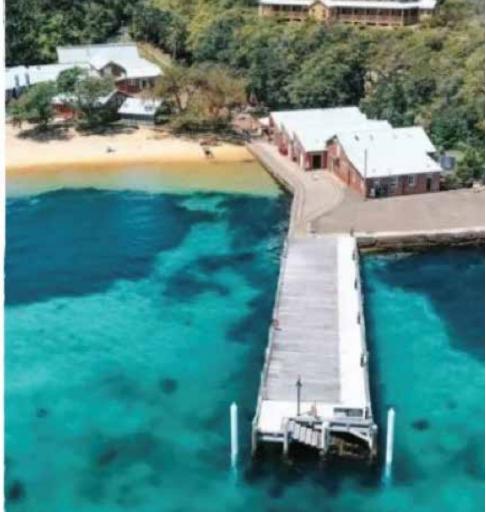




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# **Q STATION MANLY LUNCH**

Complimentary Museum. Boilerhouse Restaurant Please make your own booking call 94661500 Meet 10.30am, parking and shuttle available Denis



# **AHOC Chapter News**

## Central Coast Chapter – April Workshop

Saturday the 6th of April was a complete washout. Other than during Covid, this was the second time in seven years that the Central Coast Chapter workshop had been cancelled.

Very disappointing, but when we have had almost 500 mil of rain in our area during a seven-day period, duty of care had to be considered. So the good news is we are rescheduling our special workshop event called, 'The Gathering of the Clans Workshop'.

This event will go ahead on Saturday September 7th. We are expecting folk from the Illawarra, Southern Highlands, Central Coast, and the mid-North Coast Chapters as well as Newcastle and of course Sydney to attend our workshop here at 109 Humphreys Road, Kincumber South.

The June 1st workshop was our annual drive to Cardiff to visit Dennis Tobin's wonderful car collection. While the weather gods were once against us it was good to see seven cars in total, including three Austin-Healeys. Unfortunately, the torrential rain on the way home was not well received by the occupants of the Austin-Healeys.

The report and photos of this gathering will be in the July Flat Chat Newsletter.

Happy Healeying. Take care and all the very best. Col and Kerrie Rule.



Mid-North Coast Chapter 18th May 2024 by Phil Lorking

Present:-

Tony Ash, Allan & Di Bryson, Chris & Lyndell Hatch, Glenn Nisbet, Glenn Roberson, Wally Spychala and Phil & Anthea Lorking.

I thought with so many people in the shed we could have some "Hands-On Austin-Healey Therapy", so the steering box was installed into Simon Lorking's BN1. Without scratching Simon's new paint.

We then cut and flared a new pipe to connect the





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brake master cylinder to the brake fluid reservoir, thus completing the brake line system I had been working on during the week.

When making new brake pipes, before fitting I ALWAYS blow them with compressed air to ensure they are clean of any foreign matter.



SERVICES **BRITISH & CLASSIC CAR SPECIALISTS**  This week I found one of the new pipes blocked and on cutting the offender open discovered what appeared to be rust, and this in a new length of pipe purchased that week. 'Not Happy Jan!!'.

We then adjourned to a good hot cuppa with assorted healthy treats.





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# AHOC Illawarra & Southern Highlands Chapters



# Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. Explore the Old Hume Highway.

Our event for June, is an exploration of sections of the Old Hume Highway that are still used today by motorists as everyday roads. The drive is designed to provide you with ample time to discover interesting historic towns, villages, and hamlets. As quoted by Asa Wahlquist in her article in a 1996 *Sydney Morning Herald* column, *"Take a byway, not a highway"* 

Our event will start at 9:00am, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at the Curry Reserve Parking Area, Camden Valley Road, Narellen. Members living in the Southern Highlands can join as we pass through Mittagong and other towns in the region.

The first night stop, Wednesday, is at Yass. The second night stop, Thursday, is at Gundagai. The third day, Friday, is your trip home.

# TIME to Self-Book for this trip.

# YASS: Wednesday 19th June 2024

# **Two Options:**

Thunderbird Motel	264 Comur St, Yass	02 6226 1158	Restaurant	\$160.00
	35 Laidlaw St, Yass	02 6266 9900		
Swaggers Motel			No Restaurant	\$145.00

Mention at booking you are part of AHOC.

# GUNDAGAI: Thursday 20th June 2024

Inn Gundagai 02 6944 1311 No Restaurant Deluxe Room \$150.00	Gabriel Motor	240 Sheridan St		No Restaurant	Std Room \$130.00
	Inn	Gundagai	02 6944 1311		Deluxe Room \$150.00

Mention at booking you are part of AHOC.

• Once you have booked can you please advise me.

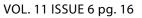
## More details to follow once you have booked.

John Thornton

Email: john.thornton2011@outlook.com

#### Mobile: 0419 266 284

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#### FLAT CHAT NEWSLETTER

#### Members' Letters

Always good to hear from members about what they have been up to. This month there has been four messages

Rear vision not so clear now.

From Gary Hatcher

I was wrestling with the vinyl roof on my BJ8 early one morning from inside the car. The forecast was showers, so I wasn't going to risk putting the roof up on the side of the M1.

I was attempting to secure the passenger's side roof clip with increasingly frustrating disappointment. After a few appropriate words that I though may help, I just couldn't get the clip to slot onto the hook. I then realise that I had zipped up the rear window of which, on my car, makes clipping the roof in-place very difficult.

So, in my frustration I leaned around to unzip the rear window and in the process inadvertently used the rear vision mirror as a leverage point. When my hand gave way, I realised the top of the rear vision mirror was still in my hand - not an ideal result! More words were muttered as I finally got the roof clip in and locked off.

Then to the issue of how to fix it. Unfortunately, we were committed to take the car up to the Central Coast from the northern beaches that morning which made this all the more problematic. My wife without a word handed me some Blu-Tac. "Ahhhh!" I said.... Blu-Tac won't fix it. I was encouraged to give it ago and combined with two rubber bands we managed to secure what was left of the mirror against the windscreen well enough to see where we had been as we headed north.

Of course, all the way there I was trying to work out how I could repair the said rear vision mirror. After tossing it over and over, i came to the realisation that a new replacement mirror may be an easier option as the break was immediately behind the mirror itself. My only thought then was to contact Patrick Quinn...surely Patrick would know of a way forward I thought.

Sure enough, the same day Patrick very kindly responded to my email with several options on how to source a replacement mirror at a reasonable price. My first enquiry was shot off to The Healey factory in Melbourne. Sure enough, three days later my brand new mirror arrived for \$140. Ten minutes later, the mirror was secured with the same two screws and the old girl was complete once more.

A great result - many thanks Patrick!

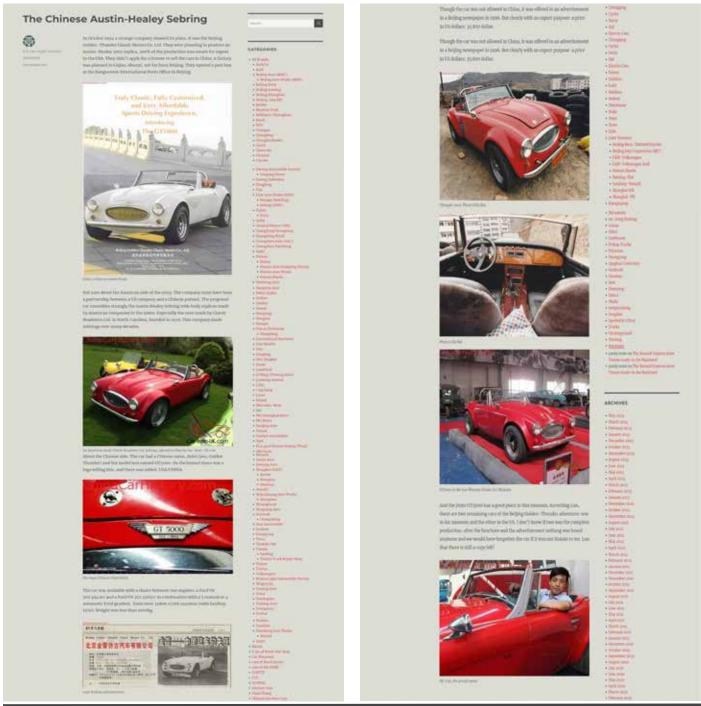


Austin - Healey

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# Chinese Copy

Thanks to Grahame Parker for sending in this. Odd? Well yes you could say that, but if you want to know more have a look at:- https://chinacarhistory.com/2018/09/18/the-chineseaustin-healey-sebring/



# **Moving Ahead**

Pleased to hear that Will Sherman is moving ahead with the restoration of the Sherman Mk2 Roadster.

Keen to keep the original parts with the car, will has recently had the wiper motor rebuilt by Sprite luminary Colin Dodds ad is very pleased with the result.





FLAT CHAT NEWSLETTER

# **Time Capsule**

Surely there is nothing better than moving house. (NOT!)

No doubt that's what club member Harley Boggis is thinking after selling his home for 30 years at Baulkham Hills.

There must have been a time capsule or two stuck

away in a cupboard, as Harley has sent in a few photos of things he has found. I was secretary in 1976! Heavens, but they were very different times. Hope you find them of interest.

Also, Harley has a 15in 48 spoke wire wheel surplus to requirements that he is happy to let go free to a good home. You can reach Harley on 0422 717 265.





Phil and Barbara Whitton 8 Broker Avenue, Dundas 630 6287 Food and retreshments provided

Saturday, April 2nd Morning: FREE Atternoon: Visit to George Goodare's Classic-Auto Craft Organised by Ray Roberts 631 0209

Saturday, Rally Dinner 7.30 pm CONCORD B.S.L. Nirranda Street, Concord West

Casual Dress Dinner, some Refreshments, Music Organised by Gordon Fryer 732188 Meet at Bankstown Shopping Square Organised by Pat & Caroline Quinn 487 1317 Ernie Clark 533 3444

Picnic Lunch provided by host ....

VICKARY' WINERY **Viewing of Cars** Northern Road, Wallacia ....

Sunday Night 5.00 pm Vickary's Winery COUNTRY AND WESTERN NIGHT Food & some Refreshments provided Organised by Steve & Tricia Shepard (047) 21 3422

NATIONAL RALLY

SYDNE



11.00 pm



# FLAT CHAT NEWSLETTER

# Leather Seat Repair

By Allan Whitehouse

During the initial restoration of my BJ7 back in the 1990s, I purchased a beautiful navy-blue Connolly leather hide for all the seat facings.

Over the years I have used several products in the 'Leatherique' range to ensure the seats maintained their best appearance. However, recently I noticed a tear in one of the front seats and quite visible cracks in both. I contacted a number of local leather repair businesses who said they could mend the tear but wanted \$300 - \$350 for the job.

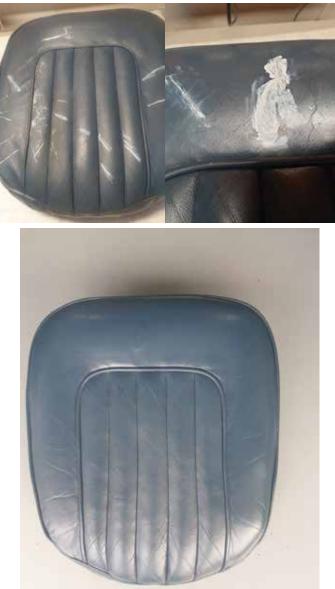


Undeterred, I consulted my "Go To" source - Youtube - where you can find videos of just about anything, and sure enough, there was a Permatex Vinyl & Leather Repair Kit which looked to be exactly what I needed. After purchasing this kit from an auto accessory store, I was about to start on the task but found a critical element of the kit was missing – part of the wooden dowel heat tool. I looked again at the 'Leatherique' website and discovered they had a product called Crack Filler, specifically for repairing cracks and tears in leather.



Prior to starting the process, I inserted a small piece of fabric through the tear, glueing it in place between the seat padding and the leather. I followed the recommended set of instructions, which involved applying 'Leatherique' Rejuvenator, Pristine Clean and Prepping Agent, followed by careful use of 600 wet and dry sandpaper. I then gradually filled the major tear and any obvious cracks with the Crack Filler, allowing sufficient drying time before re-applying more filler as required. After further sanding to smooth the surface of the leather, I applied several light coats of leather dye, leaving the seats for a day or two before lightly buffing them.

I am very pleased with the results and hope the look is maintained for years to come.



The Finished Result



# CAR SALES SERVICE SPARE PARTS RESTORATION ACCIDENT REPAIR

# healeyfactory.com.au

646 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham VIC 3132 (03) 9872 3900





# Larry's Nash-Healey - On the Road By Patrick Quinn

As an avid watcher for obscure things for sale, back in 2012 I noticed an engineless Nash-Healey Coupe come up in the US.

I remember thinking that it looked like a perfect recipient for a V8 and knowing that the American Motors (once known as Nash-Kelvinator) Rambler Rebel was assembled in Australia and sold well, it should be possible to find a suitable engine.

It didn't happen, as the Quinn Healey (1948 Duncan Saloon) came up for sale in the UK and that really had my name on it.

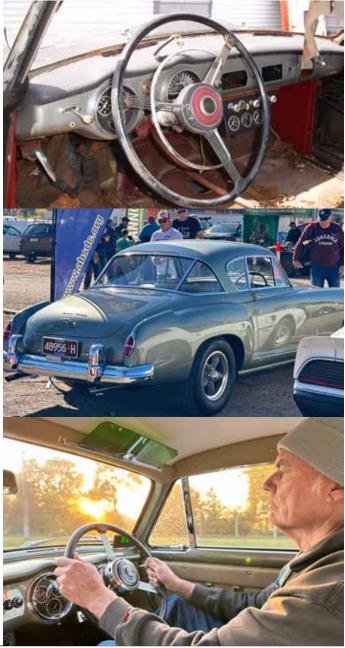
Then I heard that Melbourne based enthusiast Larry



Varley bought the Nash-Healey and imported it into Australia.

I have watched Larry's restoration with great interest, and even averted my eyes when he fitted a Ford V8 instead of an American Motors engine. Needless to say, when I saw photos of the car in the paddock at the Winton Historics a couple of weekends back, I was really pleased. I believe that Larry's standard of restoration is far superior to anything I could have done.

Looking forward to preparing a worthy article on the car and Larry's restoration for a future issue of the Australian Austin-Healey. Larry and Ling Varley are members of the AHOC NSW.





# Adventures with a Juliette (Part 2) By Gordon Lynas

Adventures (with the newly acquired Jensen-Healey) - Part 1, ended in mid-February with son Ben hopping into the driver's seat for a quick test drive. Off we went for a tour of Port Stephens, rounded the first corner, and ....

.... the engine died.

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We coasted to a halt at the side of the road close, but not close enough, to Ben's home at Corlette. Ok, open bonnet, check all wires are attached where they ought to be. One looked a bit dodgy, but nowhere near dodgy enough to stop all motion. I pulled off a spark plug lead and asked Ben to hold the exposed end next to a rocker cover (well I wasn't going to hold it myself, I knew what was supposed to happen next). So, I hit the starter switch. The engine buzzed, but Ben didn't jump or even profaned. Clearly there was an absence of spark.

We called the NRMA. A young mechanic arrived and looked at the car. 'Nice', he said, 'don't think I've ever seen one of those before'. Still, he checked a few things, then pulled out his trusty multimeter, which showed that we had only five volts at the coil. He wobbled a few wires about and magically the voltage leapt to over 12. 'Try that!' I did. The engine roared into life then, settled down to a nice even tick-over. Better just see if it will restart, I thought, and switched off. Then hit the starter again. Nothing!!! FIve volts at the coil once more! He valiantly played about for a while longer, but I'll not bore you with the details. Suffice to say that Juliette suffered the indignity of a tow back home on her first real run in my ownership.



We put her to bed in the garage alongside Henrietta, and there she remained untouched, as we had overseas visitors sporadically until the middle of March. Then it was Charlie's Run of which I have written in a previous Flat Chat Newsletter.

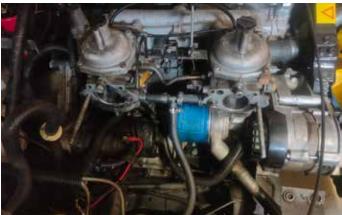
By the end of March, I had time to resume investigations with Juliette.

There are probably one or two of you who are wondering why we didn't check the ignition points etc. When the car failed in Corlette. I think this photo will explain it. You see the distributor is down there under the inlet manifold, about halfway between the carbs and the camshaft cover. It's difficult even to see it, let alone reach it !



There are parts of a 100's engine bay that need some dexterous threading of arms and hands through the available openings between bodywork and bits of engine, but with this car the Healey engineers really excelled themselves. I stood and contemplated it for a while.

Then I thought that if I took off the air cleaner and its duct and then the air box, I might just be able to get to the distributor. So I did, and thankfully I could.

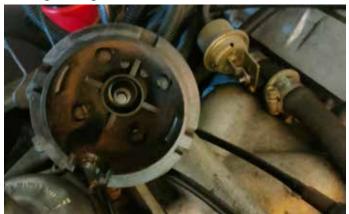




The distributor is held in by the usual clamp which is secured to the block by a single bolt on the top. (Thank any and all gods for that as I reckon a second bolt at the bottom would mean taking the engine out, or selling the car.) Unscrewing that, allowed me to pull the distributor out. Wriggling it through the gap between engine and bulkhead was another 15 minutes of fun, but then I had it in my hand. The only alternative seemed to be to take off the oil filter as well - but there are limits.

On unclipping the cover, I discovered a lovely jewel-like finish inside. It looked like somebody has sprinkled gold Christmas sparkle liberally around, except that this was actually brass shavings off the cap contacts and the rotor arm.

#### Not a good sign!



The rotor was of a type I'd not seen before, but was stamped Lucas, so it might have been correct.



Juliette has electronic ignition. Unfortunately, whoever installed it seems to have selected the wrong model. Why wrong? Wear marks on its top clearly showed that it had been repeatedly hit by the rotor. In other words the electronic unit was too tall for this distributor. The rotor in consequence of hitting the electronic ignition had cracked and was loose on the distributor shaft. Perhaps that was why it had been hitting the distributor cap contacts?

Result: Stuffed distributor cap, rotor and ignition unit.



However, returning to the subject of electronic ignition, I have had a Pertronics unit in my 100 for over a decade and while it is possibly fatal to mention it, this unit has performed faultlessly since installation.

So I emailed their agent in Melbourne. After a bit of toing and froing we identified the correct model for the Jensen, which I ordered. Three days later I received a very apologetic phone call to say that while the stock list showed one of these to be available, no one could find it, but there would be a new delivery of stock in a couple of weeks. So that meant a pause in proceedings, extended by 10 days in Port Stephens for the Regatta. My favourite sailing event, so not to be missed.

By now it was May, a new distributor cap and standard Lucas rotor had arrived, so it was time once again to pull on the rubber gloves and re-acquaint myself with Juliette's electrics. Further careful examination showed that a bit of the distributor main shaft was missing where the rotor should clip on. That was a definite 'OH SH\_\_!' moment, as there didn't seem to be anything else wrong with the distributor itself. It seems the repeated movement of the rotor might have provoked metal fatigue in the shaft. I'm no metallurgist, but I do recall reading that fatigue shows as a crystalline looking failure, as does this shaft damage and I can't think of any other reason for such.

Having been delayed in fixing Juliette by: overseas visitors; Charlie's Run; fixing Henrietta after she failed to proceed on said run; and then sailing in Port

FLAT CHAT NEWSLETTER

#### VOL. 11 ISSUE 6 pg. 24 Juliette cont

Stephens Regatta, not to mention a four day intensive French course, each and every one of which was highly enjoyable, excepting Henrietta's mishap, I was running out of time. Louise and I were booked for some grand-parenting duties in London. We were booked to fly out on 2 May, which we did, and there ends Part 2 of Adventures with Juliette.

At least I can order a new distributor while I'm away and we should be ready for reassembly when we return in June, and I can write Part 3.

Happy Healeying

Gordon

# FOR SALE



Austin-Heale

# FOR SALE



This 100 (BN1/213795) is for sale following the passing of its long term owner (1971). Sold originally in Sydney where it is still located and professionally restored in 2000/2001 with receipts.

Fitted with lots of LeMans goodies including SU H6 carbs, it is a good performer.

Also fitted with electrically assisted steering and Dutch clutch allowing the driver to either select gears in the normal fashion or moving a leaver on the gearknob.



For further information on the above two cars call 0417 673 065

BN1/224691 was delivered new in Sydney. Prior to its restoration with a new-oldstock BN2 chassis, it was used extensively in competition including the AHOC NSW team that raced at Calder in the '70s.

Mechanically, while far from standard, provides great performance without taking away reliability. It is fitted with a three-litre engine, two-inch SUs and a BN2 four-speed gearbox. Visually the car is in very good condition with no rust in the body work.



Austin-Healey BN1/147392 for sale due to age (therefore little use) .It is in immaculate condition. Asking around \$82k ono.

Please contact me on 0427 048 902. I don't want any online chat as I am tired of tyre kickers and scammers I will only discuss with genuine people who are really interested. If so please phone me. Ian Smith.



# This could be yours for US\$800

Seen just a few days ago for sale on Facebook. If you're wondering it's a 1965 or '66 BJ8. Probably needs more than an afternoon's work.







# Your Last Page



# Austin's Startling Offer 35 Miles per Callon-or 110 Miles per hour plus

to two Austin Somersets in the background of our 1 tore are about as different from the Austin Bealey 1 the foreground as they can possibly be. For the 10 Austin Somersets are probably the world's most witing automobiles – while the dualing Austin – 1

Brahey in waysperformable the most exciting. The 110 mp-h-plane Austin-Blandey is a shrilling competition expect our which has also and placed first in its disc this year at Seleting, Audress Air Forey Law, and Workhampton mess. All 129207 it is a fantasis large-like horazor dhe prior includer estrar-oust largers like horazor and defensive, severalise, train anges like horazor and defensive, severalise, train anges like horazor and defensive, severalise, train anges like horazor and defensive, severalise, train Inp. transmiss cover, leader upheldened backet watt and wire where? If you need a family car, on the other hand, th Somerest Solan at 1010° or the Canoneshik o 1000° will available out you care at questioning could half? Endo cares faite establish in conduct, por 10° balles are a global covine at model at shale you in Southern as question establish and the souther of the state with the state of the state of the state of the state with the state of the stat

interior jacking system. Incidentally, the lively 1954 Austin is more fan to drive than a family car has any right to be. With loar de forward, it handles like a sporte car, tarns on person- und parka where bigger cars can's. That about service? More than L400 Austin ters from ranat to reast in North America are by to service the 95,000 Austine most in duity here. More than 88,000,000 worth of spare parts for major deputs immus ownersight parts rerement alamst energybans.

Transmission on all Austin's models, and complete tails of Austin's world-wide deliveries, see your and Austin dealer or with to AESTIN MOTOR MPANY, 27-29 W, 37th Storet, New York, N. Y. "7.0.8. contail ports of entry. The model doesn't look very happy.

Odd way to display the new Austin-Healey 100.





Monthly Meetings - Zoom ID 980 9019 7648 Passcode 336164 We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Strathfield Golf Club Weeroona Rd, Strathfield. Starting at 7.30pm or enjoy dinner from 5.30pm