



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

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Not much happening except preparing our cars for the new year

FEBRUARY

- 1st Cent Coast Gathering
- 8th Gnoo Blas
- 16th Presentation Lunch
- 21st Jervis Bay Visit
- 27th Slow Trip to Rally

IN THIS ISSUE

- P1.... Zig Zag Railway Visit
- P2..President's Message/C'itee
- P3..... Editorial
- P4 ... Reports
- P7 ... Christas Party Invite
- P11 ... Afters at Kurrajong Hts
- P12 ... Chapter News
- P17 ... National Rally
- P25 ... Slow road to Inverloch
- P25 ... AH All-Nighter
- P27 .. For Sale
- P29... Your Last Page



A busy morning making final preparations to the bonbons and the guessing competition and packing all into bags to decorate the tables on my arrival at the Sydney Rowing Club in Abbotsford. A beautiful location on the point along the Parramatta River.

The day commenced cloudy, then the sun broke and it turned out very warm. The first year we have opted for a lunchtime party rather than general meeting night or a Saturday evening.

The view from Watergrill function room across Parramatta River was glorious in the sun shimmering on the water. There was lots of movement on the water with ferries and sailing craft coming and going.

We had 41 booked for the lunch, however it was unfortunate that Larry and Helen Johns were not able to attend as Larry had a hip operation and couldn't make the

trip to Sydney. Hope your recovery has been good Larry and you are now back on your feet!

The car parking was horrendous for some with car park exhausted and the streets around in the club all spots taken. It was a bit of a walk for many and the only negative on the day.

Darryl and Cheryl Dobe opted for a leisurely and scenic ride on the Sydney ferries from Manly to Abbotsford and arrived feeling totally relaxed. It was also great to see Lincoln and Karina Sell who caught the train from their home in Yellow Ridge (Winmalee), John Thornton from Wollongong, Chris and Lyndell Hatch from Port Macquarie and the regular party goers that ranged from Kurrajong Heights, Central Coast and suburbs of Sydney.

Cont' Page 15



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 Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club 334 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford NSW 2118 on the 1st Wednesday of each month commencing at 7.30pm.

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

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Jim's Final Presidential Words

‘Tis the 29th December just  days before officially my term as president is over. Earlier this year I expressed my disappointment at the poor response from members and felt that the club needed to be led by younger members. I'm extremely pleased that the committee for 2025 includes representation from this cohort and who will ensure that the club continues. Exciting times are ahead. We are unique in that being single marque club that has been operating nearly 60 years after the last Big Healey rolled off the production line. I'm sure that someone will let me know of all of the others.

I note that Joe Biden is now handing out pardons as he prepares to leave office and feel compelled, as the outgoing president, to do the same. At the top of the list has to be Colin Goldsmith for abandoning his Austin-Healey to get involved with Toyota. Okay it has the fancy name



Jim Phillips

of Lexus, goes twice as fast in half the time, but does deserve a pardon for his ongoing contribution to the Club. Julie Lee is also on the list as by being so efficient in carrying out the role of secretary, it has made it difficult to recruit anyone for the position. Members need to be reminded of this when scrutinising the next secretary, who I'm told will ensure that in the future they will find it less difficult to find someone who can do a better job. Lastly on the list is Ray Roberts, who entertains us with dreadful stories and jokes. Unfortunately, some of these are so

bad that they are unpardonable.

As my final official paragraph as president, I want to reiterate what I've stated previously and that is my thanks for all those on the committee, who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of the club, and the members who have supported and encouraged me. It has been an honour to have this position.

Wishing you all and your families a healthy and prosperous 2025

Jim

Cont' Page 8

CLUB POSITIONS - 2025

Club Patron—Ross Bond

AHOC COMMITTEE

President - Dianne Lawler
19 Highland Crescent
Earlwood NSW 2206
0413 873 191
gregorymstrange@gmail.com

Vice-President - Graham Healey
0429 432 539
graham@thelobstershack.com.au

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

Treasurer - Julie Lee
0412 598 755
hedli@tpg.com.au

Social Secretaries - Jenny & Ross Penman
0408 465 547
penmans@bigpond.com

Editor - Patrick Quinn
"Wongaburra"
116 Warks Hill Rd.,
Kurrajong Heights 2758
0417 673 065
p.quinn@outlook.com

Historian - Joe Armour
0419 233 099
joea6@bigpond.com

Membership Secretary - Christine Lyttle
0410 201 373
membership@austinhaealynsw.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 - Helen Vance
0413 533 335
helenvance25@gmail.com

Public Officer - Alan Mitchell
PO Box 123
Marulan 2579
0412 898 656
mitchellaj@ozemail.com.au

Non-Committee Positions

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Chapter Coordinators | | |
| Central Coast | Colin Rule | 0467 563 523 |
| Illawarra/Sth H'lands | John Thornton | 0419 266 284 |
| Mid NthCoast | Phil Lorking | 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

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 Delegates - Dianne Lawler & Geoff Smith

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



Welcome to the AHOC New Year and its first issue of the Flat Chat Newsletter.

I'll let you all in on a little secret. One of my New Year's Resolution is not to complain about the lack of content for Flat Chat. So that's it, no more. If later issues just have minutes and committee/chapter reports, minutes you will know why.

So what's in this issue besides the normal committee reports and minutes? There some words by Denis Kasza on getting together at the Erina Men's Shed and previews on the next visit by the Illawarra and Southern Highlands AHOC Chapter.

The big news to be found on page 9 is that we are moving to Carlingford Sports and Recreation Club for our monthly meetings starting on Wednesday 5 February. Yes you did read that right, it's a Wednesday.

Over the last few days, I have been servicing our 2004 Mercedes-Benz and the Quinn Austin-Healey, built 50 years later. Chalk and cheese?

Yes definitely, as apart from that they both have oil in the engines that's about where the similarities finish. I use Penrite oil in both with the MB taking HPR05-5W40 at \$72 for five litres and Classic Light 20W-60 for the AH at \$57. Both take between seven and eight litres.

I don't have a hoist so with the MB it's moving the trolley jack from one side of the car to the other while placing the jack stands into position. Much of the suspension is made from aluminium so it's a matter of placing the jack under the steel bits. That takes time as does undoing the 12 screws holding all the plastic covers under the engine and transmission. Of course the spanner to undo the drain plug needed a hefty shove with my left leg while my back was braced up to the wall.

Oil drained! Wait for a few hours and reinstall the plug. Then refit the plastic covers while lying on my back. Manoeuvre the trolley jack and remove the jack stands. Now the simple part, change the filter which is a cartridge type easily accessible at the top of the engine. Empty the first bottle of oil into the engine, followed by another two litres. Did I mention there was no dipstick? You need to sit in the driver's seat and by pressing a few buttons in the correct sequence it tells you. Top up if necessary. Total time taken not including the draining time – four hours.

The Quinn Austin-Healey? Loosen the spin-on oil filter and then with the trolley jack and a piece of soft timber jack up the front of the car, and position the jack stands. Loosen the drain plug, slide the catch bowl underneath and remove the plug. Let drain for a couple of hours. Remove and replace the oil filter.

Fill with fresh oil, check with the dipstick and top up if necessary. Total time taken excluding draining - 45 minutes.

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 Wednesday of the month at Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club 334 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford. Starting at 7.30pm or enjoy dinner from 5.30pm.



Austin-Healey Owners Club (NSW) Inc Annual General Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held 5 December 2024 at
Strathfield Golf Club, 52 Weeroona Road, Strathfield NSW 2135**

PRESENT

Jim Phillips, Chair
Patricia Bancroft
Jeff Burton
Colin Goldsmith
Roger Harradence
Graham Healey
Richard Horwood
Denis Kasza
Peter Laurantus

Dianne Lawlor
Julie Lee
Christine Lyttle
Alan Mitchell
Jenny & Ross Penman
Caroline & Patrick Quinn
Roger Ramsay
Rod Richards

Ian Richter (Zoom)
Muriel & Ray Roberts
Colin Rule
John & Judy Sherman
Geoff Smith
Greg Strange
Ronnie Strange
Mark Sullivan

Jim Phillips, President and Chair of the meeting, noting that there was a quorum, called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm, and welcomed all attendees.

The Chair advised that no valid proxies had been received for the meeting. Apologies advised prior to and at the meeting were received on behalf of Harley Boggis, Vince & Natalie Cessario, Mal French, George & Liz Goodare, Bryan Levy, John & Fran Thornton and Helen Vance.

2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes of the 2023 AGM had been published in the January 2024 edition of *Flat Chat*, plus they had been included in the AGM papers which had been sent to members on 18 November 2024.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 7 December 2023 be verified as a correct record of the meeting.

Committee Report

The Committee's report had been included in the AGM papers.

RESOLVED that the Committee's Report for 2023/24 be noted.

Financial Statements

The Club's financial statements had been included in the AGM papers.

RESOLVED that the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2024 be approved.



Election of Committee Members

The Chair conducted the election of Committee members. Completed nominations had been received by the due date for the following roles, so each was duly elected by Members at the meeting:

- Secretary – Jim Phillips
- Treasurer – Julie Lee
- Club Registrar – Patrick Quinn
- Editor – Patrick Quinn
- Public Officer – Alan Mitchell
- Social Secretaries – Jenny & Ross Penman
- Public Relations Officer – Ross Penman
- Technical Officer – Greg Strange
- Webmaster – Helen Vance

Nominations were taken from the floor for the following roles, with each being duly elected by Members at the meeting:

- President – Dianne Lawlor
- Vice President – Graham Healey
- Regalia Officer – Colin Rule
- Membership Secretary – Christine Lyttle
- Historian – Joe Armour

Invitation to Honorary Membership

The Chair referred to the constitutional requirement that invitations for honorary membership be approved by Members each year.

RESOLVED that invitations to honorary membership be extended to Bob Cutler, Graham Healey and Patricia Bancroft.

Patricia Bancroft and Graham Healey were at the meeting and accepted their invitations.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7:45pm.

Chair

Date:

Minutes of the General Meeting

Thursday, 5 December 2024

Meeting commenced at 7:50pm.

Venue - Strahfield Golf Club and via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Jim Phillips (Chair), Patricia Bancroft, Jeff Burton, Colin Goldsmith, Roger Harradence, Graham Healey, Richard Horwood, Denis Kasza, Peter Laurantus, Dianne Lawlor, Julie Lee, Christine Lyttle, Alan Mitchell, Jenny & Ross Penman, Caroline & Patrick Quinn, Roger Ramsay, Rod Richards, Ian Richter (Z), Muriel & Ray Roberts, Colin Rule, John & Judy Sherman, Geoff Smith, Greg Strange, Ronnie Strange, Mark Sullivan.

VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS

N/A

APOLOGIES

Harley Boggis, Natalie & Vince Cessario, Mal French, George & Liz Goodare, Bryan Levy, John & Fran Thornton, Helen Vance.

MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the General Meeting held 7 November 2024, as published in the December 2024 issue of Flat Chat, be verified as a correct record of that meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In his outgoing address as President, Jim thanked everyone for their friendship and assistance. In return, Patrick thanked Jim for all the hard work and effort that he put into the Club.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Outgoing VP Geoff acknowledged how much he enjoyed being part of the Club, as he got a lot out of it.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In a further changing of the guard, Julie talked about the crossroads she'd arrived at eight years previously which led her to take on the role of Secretary (the other path would have meant selling her car!). It had definitely been the right decision, as she and Garry loved being really involved in the Club, but she was looking forward to moving on from the Secretary role and taking on a different challenge as Treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jenny reported on the Club's finances as at 30 November 2024:

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Term Deposits | \$110,000.00 |
| Cash Reserve | \$2,585.53 |
| Debit Card | \$303.82 |
| Main Account | \$23,632.34 |
| Total | \$136,521.69 |

Income

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Bank Account Interest | \$0.02 |
| Christmas Party | \$840.00 |

Jenny also thanked Jim for the support that he'd provided to her with the Treasurer role.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Christine reported on two new member applications (Murray West, Paddington and Ian Elbourne, Bathurst), however she was waiting on details of their cars and payment for their memberships.

Christine also thanked everyone on the Committee for what they did for the Club.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The main event coming up was the Club's Christmas Party on 14 December, with 38 RSVPs so far. Dianne was also still collecting contributions for the Christmas hamper raffle, with proceeds to go to Beyond Blue.



Denis and Dianne updated everyone on the plan to work more closely with the Sprite Club on some combined events, with a run to Fitzroy Falls a possible. Colin Rule and Richard Horwood also talked about their next events.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

Jim had nothing to report.

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

There was nothing to report from Pamela.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Patrick mentioned that he was a bit disappointed at the lack of contributions for Flat Chat, recalling that when he'd not long been a member of the Club, the President at the time (Ben Sellers) used to point at people and tell them they were going to be writing a contribution!

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Patrick had nothing in particular to report but he did mention that he generally had his stamp with him at meetings, for any members who needed a Conditional Registration form signed.



HISTORIAN

No report.

LIBRARIAN

Ronnie had nothing to report.

TECHNICAL OFFICER

As well as pointing out that his other half, Dianne, was set to be the first female President in the history of the Club, Greg echoed the sentiment from other Committee members that he loved being part of the AHOC. He was also proud to say that he'd chalked up almost 43 years as owner of his Sprite.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Ross had nothing to report.

CMC REPORT

Greg reported that the CMC was now meeting at a different venue, having moved from the Strathfield Golf Club like so many other car clubs. Julie mentioned that as a result of the difficulties she'd been having with the CMC affiliation form, she'd asked the CMC to provide more detailed guidance on what they wanted.

ASSOC. OF BRITISH CAR CLUBS REPORT

Christine hadn't attended the last meeting so had nothing to report.

CSCA REPORT

Colin Goldsmith's update was that the November TSOA SuperSprint had gone ahead, despite entry numbers being below break-even. It had apparently been a good day and was well run, so it was a shame that the TSOA had lost a bit of money on it, but they were to be commended for not pulling the plug.

Colin confirmed that the MX5 Club had joined the CSCA, so they were looking forward to having them join their first event in March.

One Raceway was now up and running but still restricted with running a maximum of four 95dB events per month. The canteen was no longer, so unfortunately a food truck was the only food option available!

REGALIA

Colin had a heap of great stuff for sale, including loads of books.



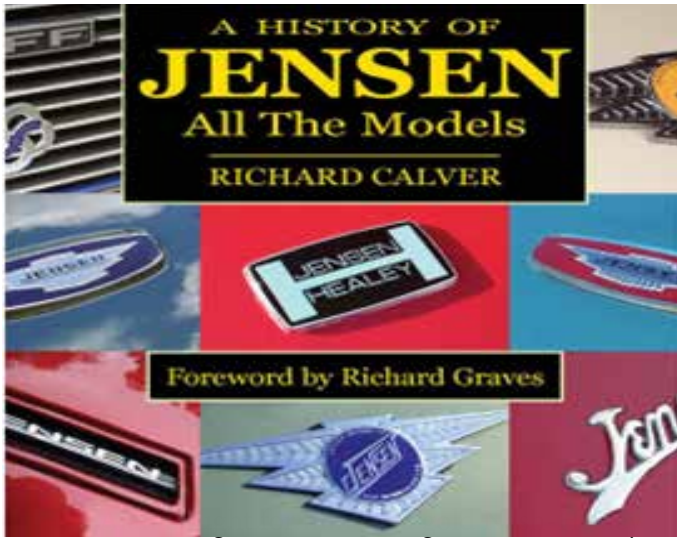
He'd also taken delivery of a final batch of windscreens, available at \$280 each.

SHOW & TELL

Alan Mitchell had a few things to report on:

- He bought for the Club's library a copy of Richard Carver's book *A History of Jensen: All the Models*, at a cost of \$22 – similar ones on eBay were asking \$250.
- Alan also had quite a few 1950s magazines in the library, e.g. 1954-56 *Modern Motor* and 1953-55 *Wheels*. He planned to take photos of any relevant

pages and upload to the website, then pass the magazines onto John Sherman.



model car and book for £250!

FOR SALE OR WANTED

- Dianne's five 48-spoke 15" wheel rims went into Colin's regalia stash.
- Patrick had bought in a bunch of old Motor Sport magazines free to anyone who wanted them.
- Stuart McColl had two 12-port heads for sale

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

Meeting concluded at 8:35pm.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

Cont'

Dianne's First Presidential Words



Welcome to 2025. A quick note to introduce myself.

Although still officially a New Zealander, Greg and I celebrated our 20th year of being together recently and I'm almost an Aussie.

My first car, while not an Austin-Healey, was a Leyland Mini and my second a Ford Escort. So I am used to British cars, and the changing of gears. I am also aware of the notion that if a distributor in a Mini gets wet, the engine won't start.

Greg and I own an Austin-Healey Sprite Mk3 and a 100 BN1. We work on many classic cars at our workshop, and I am quite adept at removing interiors for Greg to access the top of gearboxes. I am also

good at distinguishing noises in bodywork or engines while Greg does the fixing of the noises.

My favourite part of owning an Austin-Healey is driving in the country with the roof down; going somewhere new for lunch; and being with people who are happy to share their passions for the same experiences.

I can be contacted during the day at work on (02) 9319 2299 or evenings on 0413 871 191 .

Happy Healeying

Dianne Lawlor

**We are moving, we are moving
Home again ‘cross the town
We are moving stormy streets
To be together, to be free.**

(Thanks to Rod Stewart)



Yes we are moving our meeting venue to the Carlingford Sports and Recreation Club (colloquially known as CARLO).

It is understood that CARLO has an excellent bistro and that it’s open from 5.30pm.

We are also changing the night of the meeting to the first Wednesday of each month starting 5th February at 7.30pm.

CARLO is located at 334 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford with the entry off Evans Road.





Social Report

Jenny & Ross Penman 0408 465 547

gregorymstrange@gmail.com

Denis Kasza 0407 492 008

deniskasza@gmail.com

Trusting that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year and may 2025 be another great year of Happy Healeying.

The club's December activities began with the Central Coast Chapter's Christmas Run, followed by the visit to the Erina Men's Shed. The Club's Christmas lunch party was held on Saturday 14th Dec and the Mid-North Coast's regular meeting was on Saturday 21st. Read the reports of these events elsewhere in this month's Flat Chat newsletter.

Here are the plans for some interesting and exciting events coming up in the first half of 2025:

February will kick off with the Central Coast Chapter's gathering on Saturday 1st. Wednesday (yes Wednesday) 5 February will see our first monthly meeting at Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club. This will be followed by a visit on 8-9 February to the Gnoo Blas Classic, at Orange, to celebrate 65 years of Australian Touring Cars. Saturday 15th February is the Mid-North Coast's gathering, and our annual Awards Presentation Lunch is on Sunday 16th Feb at Julie and Gary Lee's, Niagara Park. The first event for Illawarra & Southern Highlands Chapters will be on Friday 21st February 2025 to the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum.

On Thursday 27th February the perambulation to the National Rally at RACV Inverloch, Victoria will begin, organised by Gordon Lynas. March 4-7 will be the dates for the National Rally. Accommodation is filling up fast at the RACV Resort Inverloch, so don't delay.

Sunday April 13th will see a morning run to spectacular West Head, departing from St Ives Showgrounds, followed by lunch at the Terry Hills Tavern.

Sydney Car Talk is also planned for the first quarter of the year, details TBA.

On Sunday May 25th there will be a drive through the beautiful Southern Highlands, for lunch at the Friendly Inn, Kangaroo Valley, via morning tea at Mittagong. This is going to be a combined event with the Sprite Car Club, at our invitation.

June will see Charlie's Run, which will be a sweep through NSW, visiting the various Chapters, details TBA.

Donald Healey's Birthday Display Day will be held on

Sunday 6th July at Parramatta Park and Shannons Classic will be on Sunday August 17th.

As you can see, it will be an exciting first half of 2025. Come along with your Austin-Healey or BJ9 to enjoy our club events, as 2025 again promises to be a stellar year.

Event: Central Coast Chapter workshop
Date: Saturday 1st February 2025
Venue : 109 Humphries Rd, South Kincumber
Please bring a contribution to morning tea
Contact: Colin Rule 0467 563 623

Event: Gnoo Blas Classic Car Show. Celebrating 65 years of Australian Touring Cars
Date: Saturday 8th February, Sunday 9th February
Venue: Orange, NSW
Details: January 2025 Flat Chat Newsletter
Contact: as above

Event: Mid-North Coast Chapter Workshop
Dates: Third Saturday of each month, beginning February
Venue: 79 Barton St, Croki
Time: 9am to 12pm (please register in advance)
Contact: Phil Lorking 0412 392 362
thelorkings@outlook.com
Please bring a contribution to morning tea

Event: Awards Presentation Lunch
Date: Sunday 16th February
Venue: Julie and Gary Lee's, 20 Siletta Rd, Niagara Park, NSW 2250
Time: 11.00am to 3pm
Contact: as above

Event: Visit to the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum
Date: Friday 21st February
Time: 11.00am
Contact: John Thornton 0419 266 284
john.thornton2011@outlook.com

Event: Sydney Car Talk Meeting
Date: TBA
Venue: Mortlake SLSC, 2 Bennett St, Mortlake
Time: 8.30am to 11am
Contact: As above
Please bring a contribution to morning tea. Sausage sizzle brunch provided

Event: Perambulation to National Rally
Date: Start 27th February 2025
Details: January Flat Chat
Contact: Gordon Lynas 0403 198 343

Event: National Rally, Victoria
Dates: 4th - 7th March 2025
Details: January Flat Chat

There are Delegates and then there are Delegates

To alleviate your concerns as to the difference between National Delegates and National Assn Delegates as can be found on page 2, Jim Phillips has penned the following explanatory words.

These are two different groups that are part of the Australian Austin-Healey club movement.

The National Delegates are two representatives from each of the clubs who discuss ideas that have, or may have, application across all clubs. These ideas are agreed by the individual club's committee to be raised so that they do not represent the views of a single delegate. Similarly, the decisions from the national delegates meeting can only be agreed by the club's committee.

Historically this group only ever met once a year at the National Rally presided by the host club. Obviously, this arrangement meant that ideas took years to implement. An example is the national magazine which you all receive, took years from the conception to the publication of the first prototype magazine. More recently and with the acceptance of Zoom meetings it was decided to give this group a more formal structure with an elected president and secretary and meetings to be held each quarter.

The National Delegates vote on the national Alan Jones Trophy as well as the Hard Luck Trophy for each of the

national rallies. Recently the criteria for awarding the Alan Jones trophy has been revised.

In some clubs the national delegates are advertised as being the contacts for overseas visitors.

The delegates representing the NSW club are the president, Dianne Lawlor and Geoff Smith.

The Association of Australian Austin-Healey Clubs.

The sole purpose of this association is to publish the Australian Austin-Healey journal. Being an association registered in NSW its members must be real persons and cannot be entities such as another incorporation. Consequently, each club nominates two members to be members of the Association. Members of the Austin-Healey Car Club of New Zealand are also members of the national association. This association also meet via Zoom which can be a challenge due to the four or five hour difference between Auckland and Perth. The Australian Austin-Healey is edited by Patrick Quinn and the editors of each of the individual clubs are involved in providing material. The management of the Association is mainly involved in invoicing clubs for the copies of each journal and paying the accounts. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

The members representing the NSW club are Jim Phillips and Gordon Lynas.



PENINSULA
SPORTS CAR
SERVICES

BRITISH & CLASSIC CAR SPECIALISTS

- Engine, gearbox, suspension & brake rebuilds & upgrades
- 5 speed gearbox conversions
- All servicing, tuning, repairs & restorations
- Extensive range of MG special tuning parts
- Moss master distributor for spares & upgrades
- VTO & Minator alloy wheel stockist & distributor
- Brad Penn oil stockist





VTO Wheels stocked & available in most sizes

Extensive Range of MG Special Tuning Parts

AUSTIN HEALEY & All MGs are our speciality Brad Penn Oil Stockist

Quality Repairs & Service to all British Sports Cars at Reasonable Rates

37 WINBOURNE RD, BROOKVALE N.S.W 2100

(02) 9907 2069 • g Morse@optusnet.com.au

peninsulasportscars.com

PLATINUM SMASH REPAIRS

Specialising in Insurance
and Private Work

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| TEL | FAX | MOB |
| 02 9439 9552 | 02 9438 5671 | 0418 964 774 |



Contact: Vince Cessario AHOC Member

info@platinumsash.com.au

13 Wilham Street - Artarmon NSW 2054

Membership Report

by Christine Lyttle

membership@austinhealeynsw.com.au

Well Christmas has been and gone for another year., I hope you enjoyed yours and Santa was good to you!

Best wishes for a Happy New Year and I wish you all a healthy, safe and enjoyable 2025!

New memberships in December were Murray West from Paddington and Ian Elbourne from Bathurst. Both memberships remain as pending as we are awaiting payment on website applications.

We welcome both Murray and Ian to our club and hope their membership can be finalised soon.

Thank you to the members who have sent changes to their details on the website - these have been updated (or will be updated if you have given a date for change). Please continue to send any changes to your details by email to the above.

With our social calendar prepared with lots of events I am sure to see you at an event soon!

Happy Healeying
Christine Lyttle

AHOC Christmas Hamper Raffle



Thank you to all those who donated goodies or gift vouchers for the Christmas Raffle of a food hamper which was drawn Lincoln Sell, Jim Phillips and myself at the Christmas party on December 14th. Through everyone's generosity we raised \$330 which the club will make up to \$500.

The Committee decided that the proceeds will be

forwarded to the Beyond Blue Foundation to develop better mental health initiatives.

The food hamper was won by Ross and Jenny Penman.

We hope to run another raffle this year.

Thanks, raffle organiser, Dianne Lawlor



Historic Vehicle Registration News

If you have a car on Conditional (Historic Vehicle) Registration you should read this.

Another year has slipped past altogether far too quickly. However, all is not lost if you have a car that was built in 1995 as any vehicle built in that year is now eligible for Conditional Registration.

Just a day or two back I received a call from a club member who has just picked up a 1995 Toyota Celica in excellent condition. He visited the local Services NSW office to ask for the necessary forms and somehow the conversation got around to needing a Blue Slip and hip, hip hooray he was given the correct advice.

Unless there have been some serious modifications you don't need a Blue Slip for the Conditional Registration of

a vehicle that has been previously fully registered. All you need is for me to certify your vehicle as roadworthy on the Historic Vehicle Declaration. Now for me to be satisfied that your car is roadworthy, I need to sight a Pink Slip or for the vehicle to be inspected by one of our three volunteer inspectors.


In case you don't realise it, the vehicle on Conditional Registration is not restricted to a car and can include a motorcycle, scooter or trailer. Also the AHOC doesn't restrict vehicles to marque only and all that are 30 years old are eligible. While all trailers 30 years and older we do have a Healey trailer within the club that was supplied by the Donald Healey Motor Company to the purchaser of a Healey boat.

Some members are still living in the past and sending envelopes with \$1.20 stamps. A stamp to post a normal letter within Australia is \$1.50, not \$1.20.

Here they 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 down 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.

Gregory Strange
Motor Mechanic



Between Abercrombie Street & City Road

117 Cleveland Street,
Chippendale NSW 2008
Tel: 9319 2299
Mobile: 0412 811 958
MVRL 35580

Erina Men's Shed

By Denis Kasza

The 10th Anniversary of the Erina Men's Shed on the Central Coast was held on Thursday December 5th and our club was invited to attend by shed President Jim Phillips, with the intention to display our cars and inspect the shed's workshop operations. Also available was the option to attend the church service commemorating the anniversary.

Four members with their cars went along and at morning tea we met shed members and some of their visiting womenfolk and learned about the shed's various operations and activities. After the church

service there was a barbecue lunch, following which we were given a tour of the facility, inspecting the woodworking area, the saw room and the metalwork area. Many impressive machines were to be seen and the whole operation was surprisingly large. We were also surprised to learn that there are more than 1,200 men's sheds throughout Australia, with nearly 400 in NSW, all supported by the Men's Shed Association.

Those present were Jim Phillips 100/6 BN4, Colin Rule 100 BN1, Greg Denning 3000 BJ8 and Denis Kasza Austin A99 Westminster.



Christmas Party - Cont'

As partygoers arrived, they were adorned with a red arm tag to obtain their drinks at the bar and numerous revisits back for further refreshments.

Members enjoyed sipping on drinks and mingling with other members purchasing raffle tickets while the two tables were adorned with the Austin-Healey decorated bonbons and the chocolate bars.

Many comments were received on the chocolate bars, which the majority opting to take with them at the end of the lunch.

The waiter allocated to our area was very thoughtful about the full attendance and was accommodating in commencing meal preparation to suit our members and hence asked them to wait until all had arrived. The meal would take 25 minutes to be ready and delivered to our table. The coming commenced at 1 pm and waiter asked me to usher everyone to their seats at 1:15pm to prepare for the food served at 1:25pm.

The man course was an alternate serve of: Salmon Fillet – freekeh salad, rocket, cucumber, edamame, pickled radish and Chicken Supreme – creamy mushroom ragout, seeded mustard, baby potatoes.

The main courses were served hot and delicious, receiving many positive comments on both choices.

Lots of chatter and movement around the two tables of 20 so that everyone talked to different groups.

After lunch was enjoyed, Dianne Lawlor drew the raffle prize with Jim Phillips and long serving member Lincoln Sell (son of life member Warwick Sell and Jennifer Sell) and the holders of the winning ticket were Jenny and Ross Penman. Congratulations to you both and many thanks to Dianne for arranging the beautiful hamper. She had been looking for contributions to the hamper for the last couple of general meetings and some people delivered items to their factory and others brought contents on the day of the



Christmas Party - Cont'

party. It certainly was filled with lots of items to enjoy and make Christmas special!

Following the raffle, the waiter organised for the share plates of: Lemon Meringue Tarts, Raspberry White Chocolate Sponge and Chocolate Ganache to be delivered to the tables. The lemon meringue tart was yummy. This was the only one that I had tried, so can't comment on the other two selections. There were leftover desserts, so a few people selected some to take home in a doggy box along with bonbons, the chocolates and the winners with their prizes.

Coffee orders were taken and served, and then it was time for another guessing competition, so the prizes were placed on the table. These were three jars, large, medium and small, filled with chocolates and lollies and with Christmas decorations on top to guess how many chocolates and lollies were in each jar. Voting forms were distributed to each and every one, and the jars were passed around the tables where you could survey them for a couple of minutes before making your choice on how many items were in the jar?

The forms were all collected and reviewed for the closest number under the total of items in each jar. I was assisted by Jenny Richter on the guesses and Julie Lee

who was collecting forms. The winners were: Karina Sell – small jar contained 62 and Karina's guess was 60, Julie Lee - medium jar contained 141 and Julie's guess was 136 and Judy Sherman – large jar contained 157 and Judy's guess was 150.

Seems like the ladies are the best at this guessing competition! Congratulations to you all and hope you enjoyed the treats.

The great afternoon, finishing around 4 to 4:30 pm when the majority left to go home or onto their next parties. The event was very good value at \$40 a head per member and subsidised by \$10 from our Club which also paid the drinks tab (unless you arrived early in which you paid for your first drinks).

For 2024 we changed to a lunchtime event at a member's suggestion, though it still seems that the Christmas parties have not been well attended in the last few years. Perhaps you can have your say on what type and time/day you prefer for this annual event. A suggestion has been made for Gosford Sailing Club next year. (There are and we're quite a number attending from the Central Coast area!) If you have a choice please let the club social team know well in advance so that we can make suitable arrangements.



Thank you to Christine Lyttle for the table arrangements, bon bons and chocolates.

AHOC Chapter News

Central Coast Christmas Run



Once again, clear skies and a beautiful day for our Central Coast workshop's Christmas run on December 7th. A big thank you to Jennie and Ian Richter for organised the day taking us through some spectacular roads with views of the Central Coast hinterland. We had 14 attendees, six Austin-Healeys plus a couple of tin tops.

The day started very well for Kerrie and me, with the aroma of freshly cooked, Portuguese tarts wafting through our home around 7.30am. All set to go to meet up with the gang at the Ourimbah rest area at 9 am.

We were on time in the old BN1 travelling through East Gosford around 8.30am when all of a sudden Kerrie says. "Oh no! I think I've left the oven on!" Well, what would go through your mind and thoughts at this instant?

Well, I calmly did a u-turn and travelled 18 km back to South Kincumber and yes! Kerrie was right. The oven was still on. So all is well that ends well. We called to Ian and Jennie explaining the situation and caught up with them and the rest of the crew at Somersby where we then continued on to our morning tea stop at the Mangrove Creek Dam picnic area. A really nice spot.

The Portuguese tarts really tasted special. One could say they were cooked twice, once in the oven and for the sec-

ond time on the floor of the BN1. We all had our coffee, cookies and cake for the last time in 2024. After leaving the Dam we took a leisurely drive to the Angel Sussurri Inn at Yarramalong for a lovely lunch and winding up the day around 2pm. What a great day!

Attendees for the day were Ray and Muriel Roberts TT, Ian and Jennie Richter 3000 Sebring Rep. Helen Vance and Adam Lethlean 3000 BN7 Mk1, Jim Phillips BN4, Julie and Garry Lee 3000 BJ8, Greg Denning BJ8 3000, Richard and Linda Cardew TT, along with ourselves, Kerrie and Col Rule BN1 100.

The next Central Coast workshop will be held February 1st, 2025. This will be a special event. We will be having our first swap meet, so that means if you have any surplus Austin-Healey parts, bring them along. This is your chance to get rid of some of your precious loot.

Again it's a 9 am start at 109 Humphries Road, Kincumber South. Don't forget to bring some cookies and cake to share, of course coffee and tea will be available as usual. All welcome. All you've have do is turn up.

I hope this report finds everybody and good health after a very busy 2024.

All the very best for now. Col and Kerrie Rule.



Mid-North Coast Chapter

18th December 2024

We were all to meet up at the “Riverview Café” Camden Haven for our Christmas lunch. However, December being a very busy month, a few of the group were unable to attend.

Those, who were able to attend were:- Tony Ash, Di & Al Bryson, Barbara & Glenn Roberson, Glenn Nisbett and Phil Lorking.

The day dawned wet and windy - “NOT” Austin-Healey weather. Tony began his journey in the BT7, however, after a few miles and a very wet right leg, returned home to change to the Nissan 200 SX, which I gladly accepted a lift in to the venue.

All in all, the meal was good and the company excellent.



Next Meeting Saturday 18th January in the Croki Shed.

Cheers Have a Happy and Safe 2025

Cheers Phil and Anthea Lorking

AHOC Illawarra & Southern Highlands Chapters

11:00am on Friday 21st February 2025

JERVIS BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

The first 2025 event for the Illawarra & Southern Highlands Chapters will be a visit to the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum at the corner of Woollamia Road and Dent Street, Huskisson, NSW 2540. The Museum has come highly recommended.

After our visit we will make our way to the Huskisson Hotel overlooking Jervis Bay to enjoy good food and some social chat.

Meeting and travel details to follow closer to the February event. Looking forward to getting started on our 2025 events.

John Thornton

Mobile: 0419 266 284

Email: john.thornton2011@outlook.com



FEB
16



AWARDS DAY PRESENTATION

Sunday Feb. 16 at Julie and
Garry Lee's, 20 Siletta Rd
Niagara Park 2250
Time: 11am to 3pm
Convoy Run Old Berowra
Toll Gates 9.30 dep. 10am
Details Denis 0407492008

Bought Two, Sold Three

By Patrick Quinn

Over the last couple of months there has been the occasion to tell the story of two BJ8s that we bought and imported from the US. One was an early 1965 model in Healey Blue (HBJ8L/31001) that is now owned by club members Tony and Samantha Bond and the other was in Colorado Red (HBJ8L/40032) now owned by Nick and Loula Georgouras who are also members.

The story of buying, importing, enjoying, selling, buying, enjoying and selling the blue car is long winded and while it's been told before, it's worth rendering again. The red car however was straight-forward although it was bought on eBay.

The story of the blue car is all true! Yes it is! Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent!



Still in the US and in left hand drive.

It goes back to the beginning of 2012 when we decided to buy a BJ8 from the US. It wasn't because I really wanted an Austin-Healey with wind-up windows and a glove box, but it was Caroline's suggestion. Being a dutiful husband I always do what I'm told, especially when it concerns buying an Austin-Healey. Besides it seemed like an enjoyable way to spend and make a few dollars.

Despite being then a 40+ year Austin-Healey owner I had never owned a BJ8, so was looking forward to it. So with a budget of \$40K I set forth to see what I could find. I thought about the condition of the car and decided against something freshly restored and overpriced. I certainly didn't want a car that needed stacks of work either as I already had plenty of that. More like a car that had been reasonably well looked

after or perhaps an older restoration with its gloss well-worn away. All the usual places were looked at – Hemmings, eBay, AH club magazines and so on. It didn't take all that long to find a white example in North Carolina and after a few emails I had arranged for a fellow owner to have a looksee. It got the thumbs down due to a few issues, plus it was a little over budget.

A couple weeks later the bloke who looked at the car told the story at a meeting of his local Austin-Healey club. Up popped the hand of another bloke who said he had a '65 BJ8 for sale. A flurry of emails and phone calls resulted in a done deal. The photos certainly appealed along with the list of things he had done to the car the year before which set him back just over US\$20K.

So what did he want for this piece of automotive treasure complete with new leather trim, carpets etc. etc? \$40,000. However this was in US dollars and in early 2012 our brave Aussie dollar would buy US\$1.0687 meaning that the cost to us was Au\$37,428.65. Whoo Hoo! Yes of course I shopped around for the best exchange rate and I must admit the banks were found lacking. A friend put me on to OZFOREX Foreign Exchange Services where the rate was between 1c and 1.5c better than the banks. May not sound much, but when you are looking at figure of around US\$40,000 that equated to \$600 of our money.



Being converted to right hand drive.

Rollercoaster

Then started almost three months of what I thought was an interesting rollercoaster ride of shipping the car from the US East Coast to Australia. I intended on selling the car and the thought of driving/selling a left-hand-car in a right-hand-drive world didn't appeal. I'm as capable of wielding a spanner as good as the next bloke but with the other Quinn AH slowly going back together after its engine disgraced itself on the way to the 2011 Adelaide Rally, I didn't want to do it.



On the way from Bacchus Marsh to NSW.

So I decided to have the car shipped to Melbourne where Steve Pike of Marsh Classic Restorations had agreed to do the deed for me.

For shipping I contacted a San Diego based company called 'Ship Overseas', but as they say in the classics – "The job isn't finished, until the paperwork is done." For instance it's not possible to ship a car out of the US unless you have a Certificate of Title. Then you need a Vehicle Import Approval before you can import a car into Australia.

Looking back it was a bit of a risk to ship by roll-on/roll-off, but if I didn't this story would be a little less interesting. The cost was US\$2,256.00 plus US\$600.00 insurance which was around Au\$2,694.00. I used a credit card to pay for this which was a mistake as my friendly(?) bank charged me a \$65 international transfer fee. Should have used OZFOREX as they charge just \$10 for transfer of less than \$10K and above that it's free.

The seller had a Certificate of Title, but a Vehicle Import Approval from the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Transport couldn't be applied



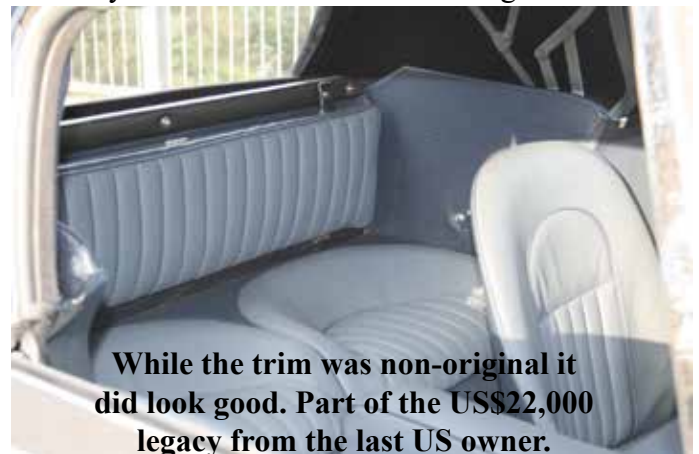
See, I said it was a good-looking car.

for until after the dollars had left the comfort of my account and the Bill of Sale or receipt had been received.

So I had the warm feelings of owning a 1965 Austin-Healey on the other side of the world but no approval to import it. The appropriate forms were received and I was comforted by the large letters on top of the first page which said –

DO NOT SHIP YOUR VEHICLE UNTIL AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR IMPORT APPROVAL.

Is it only me who sees some lack of logic in all this?



While the trim was non-original it did look good. Part of the US\$22,000 legacy from the last US owner.

Four weeks after I sent the forms in and paid a further \$50 the approval was received which in turn was sent to 'Ship Overseas'. While all this was going on I had to rely on the good graces of the seller to look after the car (and my money). However knowing that he was a member of his local Austin-Healey club did warm up my feelings.

Bon Voyage

A few days later the car was transported by trailer from North Carolina to Jacksonville, Florida for shipping on the Norwegian owned car-carrier *Hoegh Singapore*. If you have ever seen a RORO ship it looks like a floating rectangular box that would turn turtle at the slightest breeze.

Shipping from Florida to Australia! In anyone's mind, surely it would be straight to the Panama Canal and then across the Pacific? Not quite, as car-carrying ships are like a bus with a pre-determined route. If you have one car or a thousand it's a matter of putting out your hand and catching it to a convenient port.

Through the wonders of the Internet and www.marinetraffic.com I could see that the *Hoegh Singapore* headed south to Galveston, then to my dismay it sailed north of Cuba, across the Atlantic towards Africa. The ship's next port of call was Lagos, Nigeria followed by Cotonou, which is the largest city in the republic of Benin. Can't say that I had ever heard of Cotonou and I certainly had never heard of Tema, a major port in Ghana where it stopped a few days later.

By this stage I was thinking that the car was on a Cook's Tour of the world, but thanks to Dr Google I soon became knowledgeable of such places. My feelings did become quite cool when I read the phrase 'pirate activity'.

Then I noticed that the ship was due to stop at Dakar in Senegal before heading north to Spain. 'What about my car?' flashed across my mind which was



At the 2012
Concours.

followed by a flurry of emails resulting in me finding that the car was to be off-loaded in Dakar where it was to cool its tyres for five days before being picked up by the *Hoegh Seoul* heading south from the UK.

With images in my mind of the flying Ferrari in the film *Ferris Beuller's Day Off*, I was assured by *Hoegh Autoliner's* representative in Australia of sufficient security in Dakar.

On Time

The *Hoegh Seoul* arrived on time, picked up the car and headed south around the bottom of Africa to Durban, South Africa and then to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique which is only two countries south of Somalia – and pirates. Next it turned east across the Indian Ocean and its next stop – Fremantle. Despite being still a week and a half away I felt as if the journey was almost at an end. Then it hit a storm at sea and just before marinetraffic.com lost contact with the *Hoegh Seoul*, the local winds were being recorded at 65knots. The insurance cover was cold comfort.

My ship came in, literally, on 1 August, but while it was unloaded within a few hours there were still three or four days before the car was ready to be picked up. However this could only occur after I



On the side of the road near home. Actually I had run out of petrol and was waiting to be rescued.

paid out \$5,718.35 in various fees, including GST of \$4,354.08 which, as far as I could see, was 10% of no figure that had been spent.

Two weeks later I walked into Marsh Classic Restorations and saw the BJ8 for the first time. Steve Pike had picked up the car and done the conversion to RHD. Thankfully I couldn't see any signs of pirate

activity, but there was a lot of sand in the passenger side footwell. Steve said that he had vacuumed it three times which made me wonder what the countryside was like around Dakar – horizon to horizon desert.

The drive back to Sydney was uneventful. We took it to a few events such as the 2012 AHOC NSW concours. I was enjoying the car and must admit that it was put up for sale on Carsales.com.au rather reluctantly.

I suspect that everyone reading this would know what you can pay for a BJ8 in going condition. From anywhere in the high \$50Ks right up to \$140Ks so I priced the car at the lower end of the scale for an unrestored car, albeit reasonably well maintained. Our car certainly wasn't a concours winner, but it was ready to use and enjoy in any weather. Finished in Healey Blue with new trim and shiny 72 spoke chrome wires it was a good looking car. With that in mind it was listed at \$68,000.

Phone Calls

It sat on Carsales for a number of months and there were a few calls from telephonic tyre kickers, but nothing of worth. We took the car to the 2013 National Rally with a 'For Sale' sign on the screen, but nothing. Then in July I received a couple of emails through the Carsales system which didn't say much except to provide a phone number which I called. It was a gentleman by the name of Fred Bloggs (not his real name of course) who lived in Perth. It turned out that Fred was in hospital after a knee reconstruction and importantly he was interested in the 3000. After a short chat he said that it sounded exactly what he wanted and that he would send an \$8K deposit that day. As to the rest he was waiting to the end of the month for a business arrangement to finalise. That night our account was \$8,000 healthier.

It turned out that Fred was a builder, but clearly it had been a long time since he had swung a hammer. True to his word the \$60K arrived in the account about a month later and in the meantime the car sat unused, as I no longer considered it to be our car.

About six weeks later Fred and his wife Mabel (also not her real name) arrived in Sydney. In earlier

phone conversations Fred said that they would catch a cab to our home. We live about 80 kilometres from Sydney and I suggested that to save themselves a hundred or so dollars a train might be better.

I met them at the train station and my first thought on seeing Fred was 'You ain't going to fit!' He was about my height at 5ft 10in, but not quite the same elsewhere. Later at our home he didn't appear to be in the best of health. They were with us for an hour or so while we had coffee. We warmed to them both as they were nice people and he made mention of his collection of cars, but not in a way that sought to impress. The cars were housed in a purpose building and it sounded like no expense had been spared.

Cramped

On leaving, Fred got behind the steering wheel and was clearly cramped. I moved the steering wheel forward and the seat back as far as it would go, but it was still very tight. Remember it's a BJ8 and unlike the earlier models the seat could not go back further due to the rear suspension hump in the floor.

Their intention was to drive back to their hotel in Sydney and then on to Adelaide, put the car on a truck and they would fly back to Perth. I gave them a week to get there and called him. On telling me what had happened I was lost for words – a rare occurrence.

"I had trouble driving it so Mabel drove it along the coast to Melbourne and we sold it!"

They had got as far as Melbourne and went to The Healey Factory. There they traded the BJ8 for \$50K



Taking our turn while waiting to board the *Spirit of Tasmania*.

on a more expensive but fully restored BT7 Mk2. He said they had some overheating problems with the car and remarked on his difficulty in driving comfortably. Someone later said to me that as it's 1,040 kilometres from Sydney to Melbourne via the coast, Fred and Mabel's trip cost them \$17.31 per kilometre.

The following week Caroline suggested that we should buy it back from The Healey Factory. After initially thinking not to, I checked and found out they would sell the car as is for \$60,000 and failing that they would repair some chassis dents, paint underneath/wheel arches, paint the sump and machine polish the paint. I discussed this with Steve Pike who suggested that I offer \$57,500 which I did and it was duly accepted.

The sum was paid and Steve picked up the car for us. It wasn't long before Caroline and I travelled south, stayed with our daughter who lives in Melbourne, picked up the BJ8 in Bacchus Marsh and headed home.

Sold Again

The car went back on Carsales, but within a couple of weeks I found out through a friend of a friend, that a collector was looking for an Austin-Healey. I made contact with him and after a test drive did the deal for \$65,000.



At Clarendon House, near Launceston and our last day with the car.

The slight complication was that the collection was in Tasmania. So part of the deal was to deliver the car to the collector's address in Tasmania. Thankfully he wasn't in too big a hurry and February 2014 saw us heading south again for the ferry across Bass

Straight. The car was delivered, which was followed by a little bit of touring in a rental that was so exciting that I have completely forgotten the make and model.

The next stage was serendipitous as everything just came together. We caught the ferry back to Melbourne, had coffee with our daughter and then caught the train to Bacchus Marsh to take delivery of the red BJ8 that had arrived a couple of weeks prior. Stayed with Steve and Helen Pike overnight and had an uneventful drive back to Sydney.

While our history with the blue BJ8 was certainly convoluted, it was the opposite with the red BJ8. We saw it on eBay and it was again around US\$40K when the exchange rate was certainly in our favour. It was for sale by a dealer located on Long Island and in very similar condition to the blue car. In some time in its past the car has received a particle restoration and was a good driving car. We sent a deposit of US\$1,000 by PayPal and paid the rest again by OZFOREX.



The red BJ8 just down the road from home.

I arranged for the car to be tested by a local Austin-Healey owner who gave it the thumbs up. The dealer was very helpful, and this time shipping was arranged through Schumacher Cargo Logistics who was very helpful and efficient. Within a week the car was picked up and taken for shipping out of New York.

Again the transport was direct to Steve Pike and onboard a Chinese ship within a container it sailed south through the Panama Canal to a port in China where it was moved to a different ship for its ongoing journey to Melbourne. It arrived without a problem and Steve went to the docks to pick it up and take it back to Bacchus Marsh where he converted it to right hand drive.

We also used the red car for a time including to the 2014 AHOC concours on the Central Coast, before putting it up for sale on Carsales where it sold very quickly to Nick and Loula Georgouras who joined the AHOC.

Buying and selling the BJ8s was interesting, and a few dollars were made, but would I do it again? Probably not, as changing circumstances such as exchange rates now not being in our favour; the com-



Interior of the red BJ8.



The red BJ8 in Nick Georgouras' Ownership.

As to the blue BJ8 I am pleased to say it was sold once again, but this time by the collector to Tony

pletely unfair and illogical luxury car tax: and, the complexities presented by the asbestos requirements are all against it, unless the car is something really special.

Caroline was sad when the blue BJ8 was sold (twice), as it was/still is a lovely looking car, but she was assured(?) a couple of years later when the Healey Duncan entered the Quinn stable.

However, back in 2012 to 2014 it was fun.

Thank you to Ray Roberts for these photos.



Stan Goodwin, Ray and Ben Sellers with Ray's 100S at Orange while attending a 1990 Gnoo Blas event.



Ray and Austin-Healeys parked in the driveway of Ernie and Merle Clark during a Queensland Rally.



FROM THE AHOC Vic PRESIDENT

By now you would have probably seen the booking forms for the 2025 National Rally being hosted by the AHOC of Victoria at the RACV resort at Inverloch, a seaside town 140 kilometres south east of Melbourne. Following the running of the successful West Australian Rally at Geraldton, bookings are now open for the 2025 Rally to members of Australian Austin-Healey clubs.

If you have not been to a National Rally before, you should make the effort and join us at Inverloch, as I am sure you will enjoy yourself.

We have put together a great program of events and the location of the RACV resort is inviting. As well as daytime tours and events, we will gather each evening at the resort for dinner where you will meet new friends and catch up with old ones.

After the final breakfast together, there is the opportunity to travel to the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit to witness the first day of action at the largest Historic Motorsport meeting in the Southern Hemisphere.

Once registered for the Rally, we will keep you up to date with developments and events that will be in store for you during your time at the Rally.

Terry Wade





2025 AUSTIN HEALEY NATIONAL RALLY

TUESDAY MARCH 4 TILL FRIDAY MARCH 7

VENUE - RACV RESORT INVERLOCH VICTORIA

ADULTS ATTENDING:

(One person must be a member of a State or National Austin Healey Club!)

| | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1. | | 2. | |
|----|--|----|--|

PERSONAL DETAILS:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---|--|
| Contact street address: | | | |
| Suburb: | State: | Postcode: | |
| Telephone: | Home: | Mobile: | |
| Email address: | | State / National Healey Club Membership number: | |

Special Dietary requirements (if any):

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

RALLY COSTS:

| | | | |
|----------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Adults x | @ \$500.00 ea | TOTAL: | \$ |
| | | TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: | \$ |

****Full payment for adult and child tickets must be received by December 31st, 2024.****

**PAYMENT METHODS:**

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Payment by: <i>(please highlight)</i> | Cheque: | Direct Deposit: |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|

PAYMENT DETAILS:

| | |
|---|---|
| CHEQUE: Please make all cheques payable to: AHOC of Vic. Inc. Mail to: AHOC of Vic 2025 Rally, 59 Sanders Road, Frankston South, 3199 VIC | BANK TRANSFER (Preferred) : Please use initial and surname as reference: Account: AUSTIN HEALEY OWNERS CLUB OF VIC INC Bank: National Australia Bank BSB: 083-153 Account Number: 12 374 6259 |
|---|---|

PLEASE NOTE: RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED ON PAYMENT

ENQUIRIES: Email : 2025rally@healeyvic.com.au

HOW WILL YOU TRAVEL?

| | | |
|---|-----|----|
| Are you travelling to the National Rally in an Austin Healey? <i>(please highlight)</i> | Yes | No |
| If yes, what is the Model No / Type / Colour: | | |

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Refund Policy – The AHOC of Vic Rally Committee takes no responsibility for Accommodation bookings made directly with the RACV Inverloch or any alternative accommodation selected by rally attendees. Rally participants must check with their chosen accommodation providers regarding any refund policy offered.

Any refund of Rally Ticket costs will be at the discretion of the AHOC of Vic Rally Committee and no refund request will be considered post 31 January 2025 under any but extreme circumstances.

Disclaimer – All Rally attendees enter and participate in the 2025 National Rally solely at their own risk. By lodging a Rally Registration application, attendees release the AHOC of Vic Inc and it's Rally Committee from any and all liability for loss, damage or injury to participants or their vehicles.

Ticket inclusions - Your Rally Ticket includes 3 evening functions including entertainment, meals and drinks (limited to beer, wine and soft drinks.):

- 3 Evening functions at resort
- Various attractions at Port Albert
- 1 lunch
- 1 Farewell Breakfast
- Rally Pack
- A great time with all your Healey Friends!

IN ORDER TO CONFIRM REGISTRATION PLEASE POST OR E MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:

AHOC of Vic 2025 Rally,
 59 Sanders Road, Frankston South, 3199
 OR : 2025rally@healeyvic.com.au

REGALIA

Regalia order forms will be sent separately.

ACCOMMODATION

See separate accommodation booking form.

Accommodation to be arranged directly with RACV Inverloch



The Healey Factory

CLASSIC SPORTSCAR SPECIALISTS



**CAR SALES SERVICE SPARE PARTS
RESTORATION ACCIDENT REPAIR**

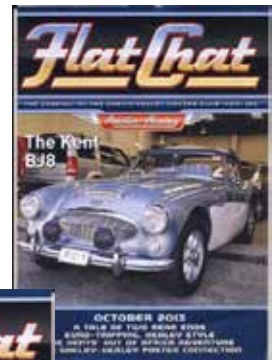
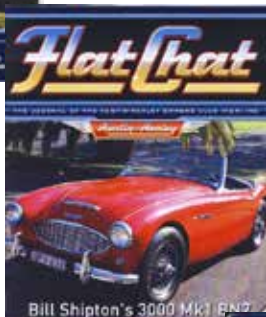
healeyfactory.com.au

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

Flat Chat Back Issues

Interested in receiving backcopies of Flat Chat?
Now available, digital copies of Flat Chat for 2005 through to January 2025.

That's 220+ issues for you to read at your leisure.
Free and gratis to members. All you have to do is to send a 1-3GB USB (thumb) drive to me at the below address along with a stamped self-address envelope.



Patrick Quinn
"Wongaburra"
116 Warks Hill Road
Kurrajong Heights
NSW 2758

You can give me the drive (& stamp) at a meeting.



Slow Road to Inverloch

You may have seen the flyer for this tour in last month's Flat Chat Newsletter. Since then, a number of people have booked, but there is still plenty of space for you to join us on what I'm sure will be a very enjoyable tour. The southeast coast is a beautiful part of the world and has roads that were largely laid out when our cars were new. In other words, they are great for cruising in an Austin-Healey! (Not too bad in a tin-top either!)

In addition to the details in last month's Flat Chat Newsletter I have included a second night at Lakes Entrance for those who wish to linger a little longer before driving home. If you wish to take up this option, please let me know when you make your booking.

As mentioned last month, this trip is for those who enjoy visiting a number of towns and having time to enjoy the scenery as they travel in the company of like-minded people.

The route is a leisurely wander to Inverloch via Nowra, Merimbula and Lakes Entrance before arriving at Inverloch in time for the National Rally, which starts on Tuesday 4 March. Even if you aren't attending the Rally, you can still travel with us to Lakes Entrance. As this is a perambulation to the Rally, the trip home is not included, but there are many options to tempt you on that return trip.

Depending on where your journey begins, I am planning to begin with a shortish drive to Nowra on Thursday 27th February, where we will stay at the George Bass Motel. This is off the main road, but centrally located in Nowra. We will meet to enjoy a welcoming drink and tasty dinner as we get together at our first stop. Nowra is 170kms (2hrs30) from Sydney.

On Friday 28th February we travel to Merimbula, staying for two nights. That is about 310kms and a 4hrs drive. There are a variety of pubs, restaurants and clubs in town for breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Saturday is a day for relaxing and enjoying this beautiful lakeside town.



Sunday 2 March will see us drive to Lakes Entrance, that is about 270kms or three hrs driving from Merimbula. As mentioned, you have the option of staying one or two nights here. Some of us will be continuing to Inverloch on Monday, however lakes Entrance seems a long way to go for a single night if you aren't going to the Rally, so please take the option of having another night here before returning home. Lakes Entrance is 254kms or 3hrs10 driving time from Inverloch.

There are a number of options besides returning the way we came, such as: returning to Orbost then heading via Delegate, Cooma and Canberra; continuing to Melbourne and returning via the Hume Highway; or perhaps trekking over the Victorian



Lakes Entrance - Photo – Visitvictoria.



High Country to Omeo, Bright and on via Albury or Corryong and Tumut. There are plenty of options, so get out your old maps and find an enjoyable route that Google Maps would never offer.

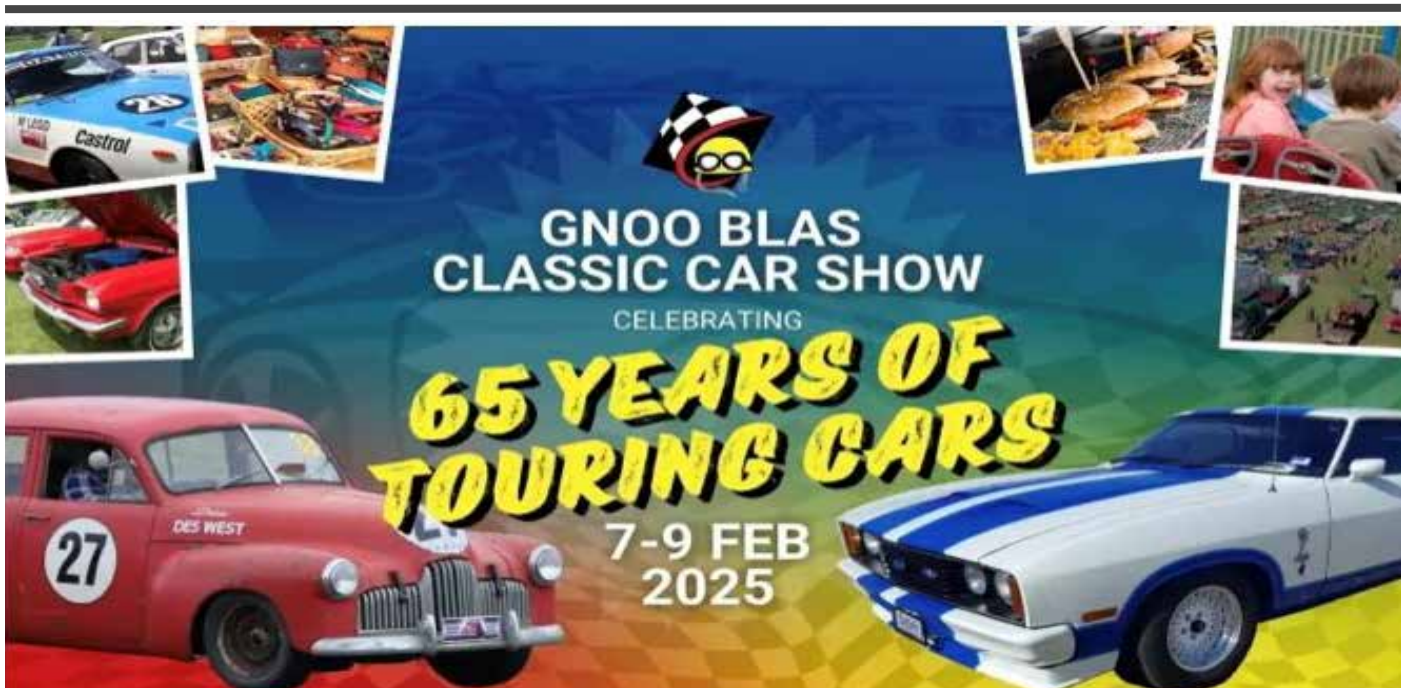
Unfortunately, the Victorian AHOC seems to have chosen a popular time of year for the National Rally. As a result, I have had to change some locations which has slightly increased the cost. Depending on the room option chosen, the accommodation cost

of this trip is \$400 per person on a twin share basis, plus \$110 per person for the second night at Lakes Entrance if you choose that option.

Please contact Gordon at glynas@icloud.com, or call me on 0403 198 343 to book your place.

Happy Healeying

Gordon



**GNOO BLAS
CLASSIC CAR SHOW**
CELEBRATING
**65 YEARS OF
TOURING CARS**
7-9 FEB
2025

The poster features a central blue background with a checkered flag logo. Surrounding the text are several inset photos: a blue and white touring car with 'Castrol' and '23' on it, a red classic car with its hood open, a child in a pink shirt, and a white and blue touring car. At the bottom, a red classic car with '27' and 'DES WEST' is on the left, and a white and blue touring car is on the right.

For more information see <https://gnooblas.com/>

FOR SALE



FOR SALE



Stuart McColl offers the following six-cylinder Austin-Healey spares for sale:-

Two 12 port cast iron cylinder heads. In excellent condition having not received any machining from when fitted new to a car. Have been cracked tested and both have valves fitted.

Triple SUs and inlet manifold as fitted to a Mk2 Roadster with exhaust manifolds.

Six knock-ons. Four are unused repros and two are re-chromed originals.

Repro front bumper with two re-chromed overriders.

Stuart may be contacted on 0412 551 878.

FOR SALE

Austin-Healey Windscreens



The AHOC is pleased to announce that there are a number of new Austin-Healey replacement windscreens.

They are extremely well priced at \$280 each, irrespective of the model.

If interested please contact Colin Rule on 0467 563 523.

Your Last Page



Spot the Austin-Healey.

Surely it couldn't be easier.



Must have been a long board.

My heavens.

Makes my bones and muscles hurt just thinking about it.

What is now Joe and Lenore Armour's Sebring 3000 BJ8 being put through its paces.



Monthly Meetings - Zoom ID 980 9019 7648 Passcode 336164

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club 334 Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford. Starting at 7.30pm or enjoy dinner from 5.30pm.