



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

## COMING EVENTS

### MARCH

1st Central Coast W'shop  
4-7th Nat Rally  
6th Monthly Meeting  
12th Committee Meeting  
19th Winery Tour

### APRIL

3rd Monthly Meeting  
5th Central Coast W'shop  
9th Committee Meeting  
9th Bundanoon Gallery  
13th West Head Run

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## 2025 Presentation Lunch

by Julie &  
Garry Lee  
Pics by Jenny  
Penman.



It was an anxious week leading into last year's Presentation Lunch, as the weather forecast was predicting a warm day, which unfortunately ended up being the case. Fast forward 12 months, and we're again scrutinising the forecast, but it's perfect this time – 22 degrees and sunny. Whew!

Barry's Spit Roast were on the doorstep around 10am, closely followed by our first helpers to finish setting up. Gazebos had to go up, tables and chairs put out, tea and coffee station prepared, then of course there was the traffic marshalling – marque cars had pride of place at the back of our property (along with a few interesting interlopers), whilst tin tops lurked in the front yard.

After everyone had enjoyed the usual delicious spit roast lunch, new President Dianne did the honours with handing out the class awards for the 2024 Show & Shine, with the worthy winners being:

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FB: [www.facebook.com/groups/681723625314952/](https://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.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past month has been quite busy, with the new meeting venue receiving a mixed reception following our first meeting there on 6th February. Following was a social working get-together at Richard Horwood's abode which saw us dismantling Denis Kasza's written off Austin Westminster. Denis has since purchased an Austin-Healey Sprite Mk2A to continue his active participation in Austin-Healey Owners Club events.

The Presentation Lunch held at Julie and Garry Lee's home on 16 February was very successful, no doubt assisted by the beautiful venue and a superb day weather-wise.

Personally, we are pleased to



report that the engine for our BN1 has returned from the engineers and is being prepped for installation.

We enjoyed our weekend at Orange with other classic car aficionados and am looking forward to the Austin-Healey National Rally

in southern Victoria next week.

There isn't a huge number attending the Rally, so for the rest of the club I trust that everyone enjoys driving their Austin-Healey while the weather remains summerlike.

Happy Healeying  
Dianne Lawlor

## CLUB POSITIONS - 2025

Club Patron—Ross Bond

### AHOC COMMITTEE

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Please send all Conditional Registration documents to Patrick's postal address at left

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PO Box 123  
Marulan 2579  
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### Non-Committee Positions

Asst Social Secretary Denis Kasza 0407 492 008  
Club Points Recorder Ken Offord 0407 678 228

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 Lawlor & 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 March issue of the Flat Chat Newsletter and I trust that 2025 continually treats you well.

So what's in this issue?

After doing without for a month, the minutes are back. Yes I know that everyone was looking for them in the previous issue, so I know what you will be looking for the moment you receive this issue of Flat Chat. The minutes are on page six and seven.

Unfortunately, the minutes are preceded by a couple of sad reports on the passing of Bob Cutler and Jenny Krause. Following are committee reports so you can read what's happening, and on from there you will find reports from the Central Coast, Mid-North Coast and Illawarra/Southern Highlands chapters. There also a report of the first Sydney Car Talk for 2025 and another on the gathering at Gnoo Blas.

Thank you to Ronnie Strange for his adventurous words of being controlled by his Austin-Healey for over 50 years. There are also

some words on parting with a beloved car that's been part of the family for 56 years.

There are things for sale starting on page 26 including a rather nice 3000 Mk1. Remember Australian Classic Car Magazine? Well on page 25 you will find an article on Healeys and Austin-Healeys that appeared in 1994.

Apart from taking the Quinn Austin-Healey to the Presentation Lunch on February 16, it hasn't left the garage. However, the trip was eventful, for good reason.

Our plan was to meet fellow members at Berowra and head north, but as happens (or as usual) we were running late and arrived at the start point 10 minutes after everyone had left.

We debated heading along the expressway and enduring the noise of

SUVs and 4WDs driving past, just having to get in front of a sports car. However, we decided the old Pacific Highway was the way to go.

Pleased we did and how pleasant it was. Not driving fast of course, but keeping within the speed limit in OD top. Sure the road surface is not billiard table smooth, but it was such a pleasure with other drivers/rides of older cars and motorcycles enjoying the same experience.

We actually caught up with the rest of our group and we all arrived at the home of Julie and Garry Lee together. A great day and we went home also by the old highway.

I trust you enjoy this issue of the Flat Chat Newsletter, and again 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 936 7291 9341 Passcode 434383**

**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.**



## Vale Bob Cutler – 15 August 1937 – 11 February 2025

By Patrick Quinn

It's sad to report the passing of AHOC honorary member Robert Cutler on Tuesday 11 February.

Bob had been associated with Austin-Healeys since 1958 when he entered his first competition event in his 100. Over the next few years he would race or hillclimb at such diverse locations as Gnoo Blas, Hume Weir, Tarrawingee, Bathurst, Catalina Park, Huntley, Waterfall, King Edward Park (Newcastle) and Silverdale.

However perhaps his greatest claim took place at the first race of the first meeting at the new Warwick Farm Raceway on Sunday 18 December 1960. A weekend that's also remembered for torrential rain.

The first race was for production sports cars, and Bob was on pole with motoring writer David McKay behind in a Morgan. The positioning was to remain for around three-quarters of the race, when Bob aquaplaned and spun in the appalling conditions, allowing McKay to get past. The race soon finished in that order, with the MGA of Harry Cape finishing in third.

Bob was raised on a tomato farm in the Narel-

lan-Oran Park area and went to school at Homebush Boys High School, whereby at the end of his schooling, he was first in the state in Technical Drawing.

He decided that he wanted to become an airline pilot, but found that without a scholarship he was unable. His second choice, electrical engineering took him all over the world working for Cable Makers. On retirement Bob and Helen his wife, moved to Eglinton, just north of Bathurst where they had a quarter horse stud.

I first met Bob towards the end of the 1970s after being introduced by Alan Jones. At a concours/display day held at Queen Elizabeth Park, Concord an unknown 100 had arrived on the scene, but it didn't take Alan all that long to discover that it was the ex-Bob Cutler car. It was for sale and in a short time sold to a collector, who still has it. (see July 2011 Flat Chat)

From then on Bob and I kept in contact, and he was a frequent visitor to our home when visiting Sydney from Bathurst. After a little prompting, Bob was keen on being more closely involved with the AHOC and he accepted invitations to attend events, espe-







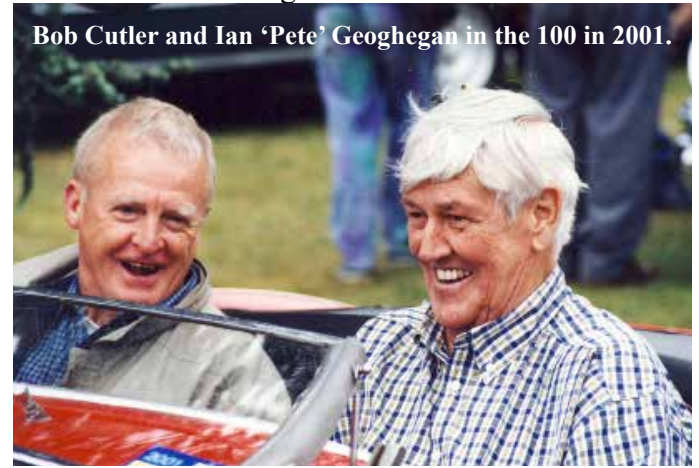
cially as the award presenter at our annual display and concours. Bob would also attend competition events where our club was involved.

He soon became involved again in Motorsport and became a CAMS Gold Stewart and eventually a Senior International Stewart, Clerk of Course, Track Inspector, State Executive Member and Board Member. Bob was awarded the Australian Sports Medal by the Governor General on 24 October 2000.

Unfortunately, the wind was knocked out of his sails

when Helen died, and it seemed that he was then marking time. We still saw him regularly; he maintained contact with the owner of his 100 and it was pleasing when he accepted honorary membership of the AHOC. He was pleased as well.

Suddenly the regular phone calls stopped, he moved to Molong and was difficult to contact. It was sad to receive the call letting me know that Bob had died.



Bob Cutler and Ian 'Pete' Geoghegan in the 100 in 2001.

### Vale Jenny Krause by Patrick Quinn

Sad to hear of the death of Jenny Krause on Sunday 23 February.

Jenny and Ken Krause were both AHOC members with a Mk2 Roadster and while not active, they still attended the occasional event. The last time both were seen was at the 2023 Presentation Lunch.

However, Jenny's involvement with the AHOC extends back to the early 1980s when Glenn and Jenny Boyd joined with a 100. In Glenn and Jenny, you could not find more enthusiastic members as they attended every meeting and event. Glenn was also very obliging with his time in helping fellow owners and Jenny was always by his side. Jenny took particular pride in her later acquired 3000 Mk1 that was sold new in Fiji.

They were very helpful during the 1980s when the first restoration of the Quinn Austin-Healey was coming to an end. For a time, I seemed to spend quite a bit of time at Narara on the Central Coast, and Jenny was always very welcoming in finding a place at the lunch table.

Unfortunately, Glenn and Jenny's marriage was rent asunder permanently and they went their separate

way, both remarrying. Of course, Jenny married Ken Krause and both became AHOC members.

Our condolences to Jenny's adult daughter Sandra and family and son Mark, his wife Amy and son Liam.

### From David & Shirley Mould

Good Morning, Patrick and Caroline  
I was much saddened to receive the note from Jim, with the news of Jenny's passing.

I have been meaning for (too) long now to drop you a line, but this has firmed my resolve to do so. Would you let Jim know that I appreciate his email and am grateful for the continuing news from and about things AHOC.

In their heyday at Narara, Glenn and Jenny Boyd were the centre of activity for Austin-Healeys, not only for those who lived locally, and many members were recipients of Glenn's unbounding energy, plus Jenny's quiet acceptance and understanding of the members who frequented their establishment.

There are many stories I can recall with activities at Narara - perhaps one day I will take the time to "tell a few tales".



## Minutes of the General Meeting

Wednesday, 5 February 2025

Meeting commenced at 7:35pm.

Venue - Carlingford Bowling Club

### ATTENDEES

Dianne Lawlor (Chair), Patricia Bancroft, John Burch. Kate Burch, Harley Boggis, Jeff Burton, Vince Cessario, Colin Goldsmith, George Goodare, Liz Goodare, Richard Horwood, Denis Kasza, Khoury Amer, Julie Lee, Gordon Lynas, Louise Lynas, Alan Mitchell, Ken Offord, Jenny Penman, Ross Penman, Jim Phillips, Patrick Quinn, Bob Ratcliffe, Rodney Richards, Ian Richter, Muriel Roberts, Raymond Roberts, Doug Ross, Colin Rule, John Sherman, Judy Sherman, Geoff Smith, Neville Stirton, Greg Strange, Ron Strange, Mark Sullivan, Helen Vance, John Wakeling, (38)

### VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS

N/A

### APOLOGIES

Christine Lyttle, Natalie Cessario, Mal French, Bryan Levy, Garry Lee, Caroline Quinn, Mark & Gabby Bancroft.

### MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the General Meeting held 5 December 2024, as published in the January 2025 issue of Flat Chat, be verified as a correct record of that meeting.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The president opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the new venue. As the next meeting will be held at the same time of the National Rally she sought an indication of who would attending the Rally and received an indication from seven members. Graham Healey to be contacted to see if available to chair the meeting and Julie Lee has indicated that she will take on secretarial responsibilities.

### VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

- A new laptop computer has now been purchased that Julie Lee has now updated with all past records that were available.

- Ken Offord has taken on the role of keeping the points scores which is one of the secretary's responsibility and organisers of events are asked to provide him with lists of attendees in the future.

- Correspondence received from:
  - \* CMC December *Preserve* magazine
  - \* *100s & 1000s* Vic mag
  - \* CMC Shannons Display day entry form (given to Greg Strange)
  - \* Details of Cooly Rocks event on June long weekend (Geoff Smith provided details and encouraged any member wanting to attend to contact him)
  - \* Denis Welch Motorsport has Austin-Healey Gearbox selector forks in stock

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Jenny reported on the Club's finances as at 31 January 2025:

Term Deposits	\$110,000.00
Cash Reserve	\$2,585.57
Debit Card	\$57.53
Main Account	\$19,767.67
Total	\$132,410.77

#### Income since 30 November 2024

Membership	\$425.00
Christmas Party	\$250.00
Windscreens	\$280.00
Interest	\$0.04
Christmas Raffle proceeds	\$330.00
Total	\$1,285.04

#### Expenses since 30 November 2024

Laptop	\$896.00
Christmas Party	\$1,744.90
Car Talk Christmas sausage sizzle	\$85.86
Donation to Beyond Blue	\$00.00
Presentation Lunch	\$66.80
Adobe Indesign	
Licence (2 months)	\$66.80
MSA Affiliation 2025	\$1,107.00
Management Liability Insurance	\$499.68
Flat Chat Book binding	\$82.50
Library Purchase (Jensen book)	\$47.00
Annual regulatory lodgement fee	\$56.00
Annual Zoom licence fee	\$246.29
Square transaction fees	\$0.95
Total	\$5,295.96



### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

With the apology from the membership secretary, the president provided details of her report contained in February Flat Chat.

New members in December and January were Murray West from Paddington, Ian & Paula Elbourne from Bathurst & Jodie Coall from The Junction.

### SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The social secretaries provided the meeting with the details of proposed events for the next 6 months as set out on page 6 of [ahoc\\_flatchat\\_newsletter\\_feb-25.pdf](#)

### WEBMASTER'S REPORT

Helen Vance introduced herself to the meeting and set out her vision for the website and facebook page.

The administrative side of the website is currently not available but developer working to secure the platform after another club was hacked. We have been reassured that none of our member's details have been compromised.

Members that currently have a FaceBook account were encouraged to become friends of the club's facebook account. Acceptance criteria for non members requesting to join to be discussed at the next committee meeting

### WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

Pamela Ross through the secretary advised that cards had been sent to:

Larry Johns, Caroline Quinn, Denis Kasza & Peter Flint.

### EDITOR'S REPORT

Due to the change of meeting day to a Wednesday, Flat Chat was sent out later, which was actually earlier than previous months.

### REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Another request received as to how to renew historic registration referred to article in Flat Chat.

### HISTORIAN

No report.

### LIBRARIAN

Ronnie had nothing to report.

### TECHNICAL OFFICER

Greg Strange advised that cylinder heads imported

from the UK were exempt from customs duty under the trade agreement with the UK Government. He is still awaiting his refund.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Ross had nothing to report.

### CMC REPORT

Ray reported that the CMC is not pushing for clarification on the issue with seat belts requirements enforcement by camera technology and it will be left to the individuals.

### ASSOC. OF BRITISH CAR CLUBS REPORT

No report

### CSCA REPORT

Colin advised that Sprite Car Club is hosting a super sprint on 15th March at SMP.

The Morgan Car Club has left the CSCA but the MX5 club have replaced them.

Most clubs are looking at their involvement with super sprints as they are becoming expensive to run therefore making entry fees prohibitive. Lotus is now running their day in conjunction with Shannons Display Day instead of the Morgan Club. MG Sydney are considering polling out whilst MG Newcastle will be running at One Raceway and Jaguar at Nth SMP.

### REGALIA

Usual array of books, umbrellas and goodies for sale.

### SHOW & TELL

Doug Ross tested members on the details of old motoring photographs that he had including a Ford Fiesta with Healey modifications.

### FOR SALE OR WANTED

Denis Kasza has replica of old car radio for sale

### GENERAL BUSINESS

Ray Roberts entertained the meeting with picture and stories of racing Austin 7s.

Geoff Smith provided details of his experience at the new Wakefield Park raceway. At the end of the day the Formula Fords were lapping 2 seconds faster than on the old track.

Patrick Quinn also shared his experience as a spectator on the day (see February's Flat Chat

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm.



## Social Report

Jenny & Ross Penman 0408 465 547

[penmans@bigpond.com](mailto:penmans@bigpond.com)

Denis Kasza 0407 492 008

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

February began with the Central Coast Chapter's gathering on Saturday 1st, followed by the Gnoo Blas Festival on February 8th-9th, and Sydney Car Talk also the 9th. On the February 15th the Club held its Presentation Lunch at the home of Julie and Garry Lee, preceded by the Mid-North Coast's Chapter meeting on the Saturday 14th. The Illawarra and Southern Chapter held their excursion on Friday 21st February. Read more about these events elsewhere in this month's Flat Chat.

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

March kicked off with the Central Coast Chapter's gathering on Saturday 1st, followed by a visit to Auto Brunch at St Ives Showgrounds on Sunday 2nd. March 4-7 are the dates for the National Rally.

While on Wednesday 19th the Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapters will visit Centennial Winery, Bowral and Artemis Winery, Mittagong.

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.

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 a run to the Cooly Rocks On Festival, Coolangatta via Harrington and Dorrigo, Ballina, Coolangatta, then Yamba and Port Macquarie. Please be advised that accommodation is filling up fast in Coolangatta and is to be prior booked by participants.

Donald Healey's Birthday Display Day will be held on Sunday 6th July at Parramatta Park and the Shannons Classic will be on Sunday August 17th.

The Chapters will be active as usual every month, with the Central Coast and Mid-North Coast's meetings being held on the first and third Saturday of each month respectively, while details of the Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapter's events are in Flat Chat.

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 promises to be a stellar year of Happy Healeying.

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

Event: Cars and Coffee Donington Auction AutoBrunch  
Date: Sunday March 2nd  
Time: 8-11am  
Venue: St Ives Showgrounds  
Meet point: St Ives Village car park  
Time: 7.30am  
Contact: as above

Event: Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapter  
Venue: Southern Highlands Winery Tour of Centennial Wines and Artemis Wines  
Date: Wednesday March 19th  
Details: David McIntyre  
Contact: 0408 705 902

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](mailto:thelorkings@outlook.com)

Event: National Rally, Victoria  
Dates: 4th - 7th March  
Details: February Flat chat

More dates and events coming in 2025:

April 9th - Bundanoon Art Gallery, Nowra  
Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapter  
Details: John Thornton  
Contact: 0419 266 284

April 13th - St Ives/ West Head run  
Details: TBA

May 17th - National Motoring Heritage Day  
Details: TBA

May 25th - Fitzroy Run to Kangaroo Valley with Sprite Car Club. Details: TBA

June - Run to Cooly Rocks Festival, via Harrington and Dorrigo. Details: TBA  
Contact: Geoff Smith 0458 777 339

July 6th - Donald Healey's Birthday Display Day  
Details: TBA



## Gnoo Blas Festival 2024

by Gregory Strange

We met our friends Chris and Stevka from the Chev Club at the Eastern Creek Service Centre for the drive to Orange, which was uneventful, except for a large truck that drove out across the highway, near Lucknow, blocking the road and almost causing a three-way collision.

That Gnoo Blas festival is a multi-club event with approximate 850 cars, trucks, agricultural equipment, motorcycles and bicycles on display. This year's display was the largest ever, with the Friday evening welcome barbecue held at Jack Brabham Park to kick off the weekend. We went to the local pub for dinner and entertainment.

Saturday's display packed the park with 850+ vehicles, with a few Austin-Healeys, big and small. We parked our Sprite with the BJ8 of Greg and Kerry Poole from Bathurst and a BN1 and BJ8 from Cowra.

John Kitchen from Bathurst brought along a collection of replica Victorian cycles, a penny farthing, and an American flyer.

The flyer is like a penny farthing, but with the small wheel is at the front that does the steering. John also had his 1867 Bone Shaker bicycle, which is the oldest cycle in Australia. John won the individual display award.

The evening's entertainment was at the Service Club starting with a buffet dinner and followed by a talk from Colin Bond, who raced Sprites early in his career. Also



talking was Ray Berghouse from Chevron Publishing and founder of Australian Muscle Car magazine. The subject matter was many photos relating to Touring Car Championship, its development and changes over the decades. The first championship was in 1960 at Gnoo Blas with only one race a year.

Will Hagon spoke and introduced 'Bomber' Moxham who raced at the Gnoo Blas circuit in 1953, the first year of racing. He also drove a Ford V8 in the 1953 Redex trial. I had great pleasure in speaking with Mr. Moxham, as my father Malcolm was in the 1953 Redex trial in Car 16, a Morris Minor.

On the Sunday morning, we met at the gardens and drove to Lake Canobolas for morning tea and a camel ride if you wished. Lunch was at the Waratah Sports Club.

The trip home was uneventful and relatively calm along the Great Western Highway. We have been to Gnoo Blas many times and have booked a motel for next year. A good weekend away.





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## Membership Report

by Christine Lyttle

[membership@austinhealeynsw.com.au](mailto:membership@austinhealeynsw.com.au)

New membership in February:

Brian Keat from Glenwood with a 1955 100 BN1. We welcome Brian to our Club and hope to see him at an event shortly. Also pleased that active associate member Denis Kasza will be considered for full membership at the next committee meeting as he is now the owner of a marque car.

The former months of December and January memberships that we are still awaiting their finalisation are for Murray West from Paddington, Jodie Coall from The Junction and Richard Golding from Baulkham Hills (son of the late Geoff Golding).

It is very sad to report that we have lost two members during February:

- Hon Bob Cutler from Molong, passed away on 11th February. It was pleasing to see that Bob attended the 2024 Presentation Lunch at the home of Garry and Julie Lee. Rest in Peace Bob and keep those wheels spinning with all your car friends on those heavenly roads;
- Jennifer Elizabeth Krause, passed away Sunday 23 February 2025, late wife of Ken Krause of Wyee and first wife of the late Glenn Boyd from Narara. Jenny had suffered with an illness for some years now and may she Rest in Peace. Our condo-

lences to Ken, Sandy and Mark and their respective families. Jenny was an active member of the club over the years since the 1970s. Patrick Quinn had informed me of this sad news yesterday and unfortunately it was too late to make arrangements to attend though I was able to watch the live stream of the service on Friday 28 February 2025. Thank you to Jim Phillips and Colin Rule for attending the service and sorry if I missed any other members that attended that I could not recognise on the screen.

Patrick has prepared Vales on both Bob and Jenny published in this month's Flat Chat.

Thank you to the members that have sent changes to their details, these will be updated once our website is up and running. Please continue to send any changes to your details by the above email.

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

Looking forward to our general meeting on Wednesday 5 March at the new location and new day of the week at Carlingford Sports and Recreation Club, hope you can all come along for this meeting. Meet in the Dragon Bistro from 5.30pm. I was not well enough to attend the meeting in February so am looking forward to the new location,

Happy Healeying  
Christine Lyttle



**Pleased that it wasn't my car that was making all that music.**





## Historic Vehicle Registration News

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

I seem to spend a lot of time quoting Professor Julius Sumner Miller with his often said saying "Why is it So?" Miller used the saying so often, that it became the name of his early ABC black and white television programme.

So why is it so? For the last few years at the bottom of this page I have included the steps that need to be taken when you renew the Conditional Registration of your car. During that time, I have reworded it numerous times in an effort to make it as simple as I possibly could.

Has it worked? Are members remembering what's involved annually? Frankly the answer is no, as I am still

receiving questions, I am not receiving a stamped self-address envelope or whatever. Sure I can understand when a member has only had their vehicle on Conditional Registration for 12 months and they are renewing for the first time. Happy to assist by sending a copy of Flat Chat so they can read the process and hopefully recall it in following years.

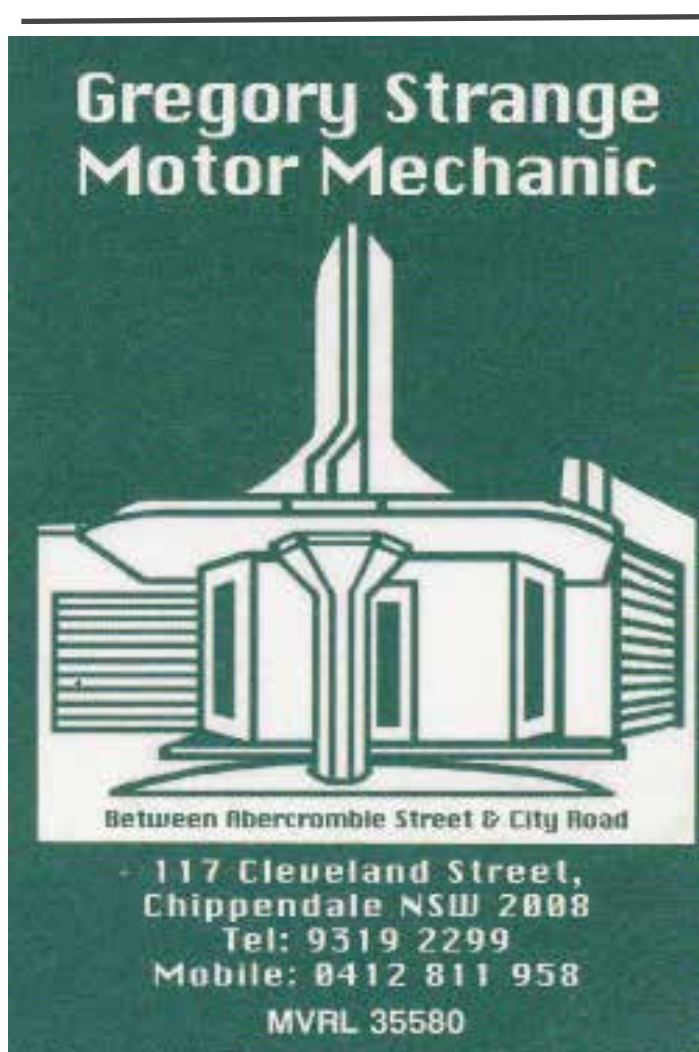
However what about members who have had their vehicle on Conditional Registration for some years and they still need to ask.

### WHY IS IT SO?

Well here they are again - the instructions on renewing the Conditional Registration of your car through the Austin-Healey Owners Club of NSW. **PLEASE READ!**

- 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.

**DON'T FORGET THE STAMPED (\$1.50) SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.**



**Gregory Strange  
Motor Mechanic**

Between Abercrombie Street & City Road

117 Cleveland Street,  
Chippendale NSW 2088  
Tel: 9319 2299  
Mobile: 0412 811 958  
MVRL 35580



### Presentation Lunch cont'

- 100: George and Liz Goodare, 100M
- 100/6: Jim Phillips BN4
- 3000 Mk1: Graham Healey, BT7
- 3000 Mk II: Roadster: Neil Biddle, BT7
- 3000 Mk II: Convertible: Rod Richards
- 3000 Mk III: Bryan Levy
- Modified: Neville Stirton, 3000 Mk I
- Sprite: Dianne Lawlor & Greg Strange
- Miscellaneous: Caroline & Patrick Quinn, 100 BN3/1
- People's Choice: Joe & Lenore Armour, Healey Le Mans Coupé

Next up were the annual awards for 2024. Colin Rule made it back-to-back Male Club Champion awards, whilst I was very relieved to hand over the weighty Lady Club Champion award to Dianne Lawlor. Editor Patrick Quinn awarded his Scribe of the Year to Ronnie Strange. The Ross Bond Trophy (for competition) went to Patrick Townshend.

Still on microphone duties, Dianne advised all present that it had been the Committee's unanimous decision (not hard when there'd only been one nomination!) that the 2024 Club Person of the Year, AKA the Alan Jones Memorial Trophy, had been awarded

to Jim Phillips. Aside from the many Committee positions Jim held or helped out with over the course of the year, comments from Committee members in support of Jim's nomination included his willingness to always assist and put his hand up for jobs that needed doing, his promotion of the marque through his 100/6 being his daily drive, and his long-standing role as one of the Club's representatives for the National Association.

And then it was time for the trophy that nobody really wants to win. After hearing about some very worthy nominations, those gathered voted on Helen and Larry Johns as the recipients of the Hard Luck Trophy – their second win in six years!

Formalities being over, everyone enjoyed chatting over some tea/coffee and cake (special mention to Jennie Richter and Christine Lyttle for their delicious contributions!), before heading for home around 3pm.

Thank you to the 49 members and three guests who attended, and the impressive tally of 17 marque cars. And thank you also to everyone that helped both before and on the day to make it a really successful event!





**Presentation Lunch cont'**

Dianne Lawlor receiving the Lady Club Champion trophy from Julie Lee.



Colin Rule receiving the Male Club Champion from Dianne Lawlor.



Liz Goodare receiving the best 100 award.



Bryan Levy receiving the best BJ8 award.



Rod Richards receiving the best BJ7 award.



Neville Stirton receiving the best Modified award.





## AHOC Chapter News

### Central Coast Chapter



The new addition to the March 1st Central Coast workshop was a shiny red 1967 Austin-Healey BJ8 purchased by Roger Ramsay. Earlier in the week Roger and I drove to Shepparton, Victoria, picked up his purchase and blasted up the Hume returning home to Ettalong in eight hours. This gave me a couple of days to get ready for the workshop on Saturday morning. (Interesting that Roger's newly acquired BJ8 [HBJ8/L/39573] spent most of its Australian life in Sydney, before being secreted away to Victoria. PQ Registrar)

A total of 11 intrepid enthusiasts (and eight cars) turned up on the morning ready for 'Healeys on the Hoist' and a good Austin-Healey chat.

Roger's new acquisition was first up, and yes we did tighten up a few nuts and bolts. By the way, we should all be aware that nuts and bolts do come loose on our old cars.

We also welcomed a new member, Brian Keat from Northwest Sydney. He has recently purchased a 100 BN1 project. We welcome Brian to the AHOC and the Central Coast Chapter.

The highlight of the morning was the presentation of the Alan Jones Memorial Trophy to Jim Phillips who wasn't with us at the Presentation Lunch two weeks beforehand. On behalf of the Club Julie Lee presented Jim with the trophy. Well-deserved Jim. In addition, we also had a great selection of give-away Classic Car and Flat Chat magazines which created a lot of interest.

Participants for the day were:- Roger, Ramsay BJ8, Geoff Smith 3000 Mk1, Julie and Garry Lee BJ8, Ken Offord, Brian Keat, Richard Cardew Sunbeam Alpine, Doug Ross, Col and Kerrie Rule BN2, 100/6 for sale as well as the Bond 3000.

We finished up the day with the traditional coffee, cookies and cake. All done around 12:30 pm. Our next workshop will be the first Saturday in April which is the 5th. Once again it is at 109 Humphreys Road Kincumber South. All you have to do is turn up. Oh yes, don't forget to bring a plate to share.

So take care, stay safe and Happy Healeying. All the very best for now. Colin and Kerrie Rule





## Mid-North Coast Chapter February 15th Meeting

Present:- Tony Ash (3000 MkII roadster), Al and Di Bryson (MkI Sprite), Chris and Lyndell Hatch, Glenn Nesbit, Glenn and Barbara Roberson, as well as Phil and Anthea Lorking (3000 Mk1).

Chris brought his Leyland 1275 LS Clubman for registration inspection. Tony Ash wanted the balance and mixtures checked on his 3000 in preparation of his trip south to the Victorian Rally. All Good! The right rear axle oil seal was replaced two weeks prior and was also a success.

Al Bryson is getting soft and has fitted a power booster to the Sprite brake system. Much interest was taken by the Sprite owners present. The fitting

looks factory by the design and quality of the brackets and pipework Allan made.

Quite a bit of interest was shown in the engine from Simon's 100. The block is now clean and prepared for assembly. Everything had been restored and balanced not too long before the car was put in a shed out the back of Taree. The bores still showed faint hone marks, while the crankshaft looked and measured like it was just machined to -10. However, the cylinder head required new guides and valves.

After all of that hard work, it was time for a cuppa with cake/hot sausage rolls, and a good chat to solve the problems in the world.

Happy Healeyng  
Cheers Phil Lorking





**AHOC Illawarra & Southern Highlands Chapters  
Friday 21st February 2025  
Austin-Healeys at Husky Maritime Museum**



Most of our attendees met at the Nungarry Rest Area Southbound and together we made our trip south to Huskisson. Austin-Healey drivers were Ernst Jensen (BT7) and David McIntyre (BJ8), while members included Rob Sassall, Colin Goldsmith, Fran and me. Friends included Brian and Jackie Carnegie, Terry Robinson and Jeff Goldsmith. Local AHOC members Gerry South (100 BN1) and Rex Kilner (100 BN1) met us at the Museum, while Gerry's wife Bernadette met us at our luncheon location.

We arrived at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum and met up with Gordon and Louise Lynas, who took advantage of the event to spend a weekend in Huskisson.

The Huskisson Maritime Museum houses the Lady Denman ferry. The hull of which was commissioned by the Balmain New Ferry Company in 1911 and constructed by Joseph Dent's family on the shore of the Currumbene Creek at Huskisson. It was completed in 1911 and towed to Sydney for the fitting of steam engines, by Chapman & Co, with the completion of the deck and cabins fitted at Mort's Dock.



The Lady Denman was retired in 1979 and was returned to her home at Huskisson in 1980 and is the only remaining wooden vessel of her kind in NSW. The Lady Denman Heritage Complex received a Federation Grant to house the vessel in a purpose-built display wing at the museum. The new annex was constructed within three years.

To move the ferry, a "dry dock" was built adjacent to the existing museum building. The "dry-dock" was flooded and the ferry floated in. It was a "very big" project. Not as simplistic as I described.

After spending a fascinating time at the Maritime Museum, we moved onto our luncheon venue. We found out at the last minute that the Huskisson Triathlon was to be held on the following weekend, meaning that Friday was 'set up and road closure day' for the event. We visited The Pelican Café & Restaurant at Kingfisher Reserve, Island Point Road,





St Georges Basin. Recommended by Gerry and Bernadette South it was a magic location on the water at St Georges Basin with great food and wonderfully pleasant proprietors.

There was however more to come, and the café is located next to the St Georges Basin boat ramp. Gerry explained that the massive hard stand concrete parking area and ramp was originally built during World War II as a base for 107 Squadron of Vought Kingfisher amphibious aircraft. These aircraft had

been re-located to St Georges basin from a base at Rathmines. The 107 Squadron was mainly involved in anti-submarine patrols.

Both these venues came recommended and I can only add my recommendation to place both on your list of places to visit.

Remember, there are always more photos on the club web site.

John Thornton



Local AHOC member, Gerry South is pictured, pointing out his contribution to the big concrete pour required to build the “dry dock”.



Propellor from HMAS Sydney.





**Austin-Healey Owners Club - Illawarra and Southern Highlands Chapters  
Wine Tasting at Centennial Vineyards Bowral  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2025**



When: 19 March 2025. RSVP by 9th March 2025

Cost is \$15 per head for the wine tasting.

Centennial Vineyards guided wine tasting experience is \$15 per person, with \$5 redeemable when you purchase a bottle of wine. You'll have the opportunity to sample up to eight wines during a guided tasting experience.

Followed by lunch at Leila's at the Grand, Bowral. Authentic, traditional Lebanese cuisine.



RSVP to David McIntyre by 9th March 2025

Email: [david.l.mcintyre@gmail.com](mailto:david.l.mcintyre@gmail.com)

Phone: 0408 705 902

Schedule: Meet at Mittagong RSL 10:30am; Wine Tasting at Centennial Vineyard 11:00-12:00; lunch at Leila's 12:30

Members from the Illawarra meet at All Saints Anglican Church at Albion Park 9:00am



### Sydney Car Talk - February 9 - by Denis Kasza It was head down, tail up.

The first Sydney Car Talk meeting of 2025 was held on Sunday February 9th, with 15 people attending in five Austin-Healeys, a MGB, a Corvette and various BJ9s.

The focus of this event was a car stripping clinic, which involved Denis Kasza's Austin A99 Westminster, which was unfortunately written off in a nasty t-boning accident by the errant driver of a Landcruiser on the January 15th .

Various parts of the Westminster found very good homes. Firstly the short motor, which will be reborn in a Big Healey, through Richard Horwood and Neville Stirton; the cylinder head, carbs and manifolds, will find their way into an Austin A95 Countryman through Tony Groom of the Austin Car Club; the

headlights are already doing sterling service in Bryan Levy's BN1; and finally the rest of the car was purchased by Ken and Leo Thompson of Rylstone in the Hunter Valley, who will put it to good use in their restoration of two Austin A99s.

Thanks firstly to Neville Stirton, who did most of the wrenching on Denis' car and to Ray Roberts, who was on hand to offer his electrical expertise with the Westminster's headlights and the removal of the car's radio.

Denis also wishes to express his gratitude to the club in general via the many members who showed up to help with the salvage of his car and who helped make the day a success with their interest and encouragement.

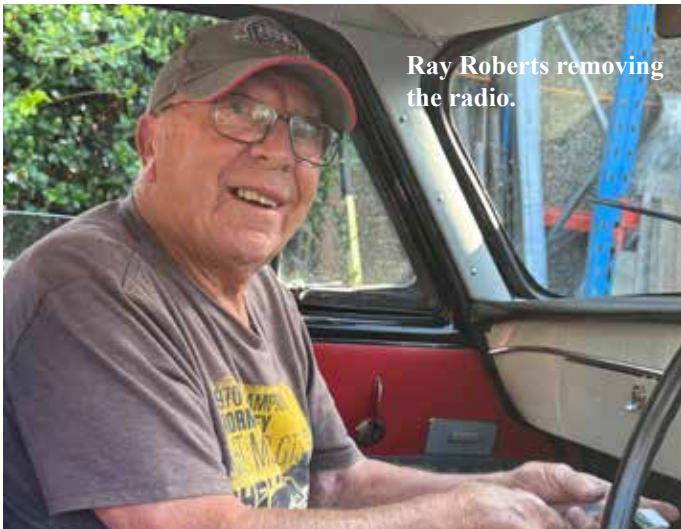




Special thanks to Richard Horwood, who again very generously made his premises available for Car Talk and to Mark Sullivan, who manned the barbecue and helped in many other ways.

Finally, thanks to Susie Doctor, who baked a terrific chocolate cake for morning tea and to those members who very kindly praised Denis' first attempt at a bacon and egg pie.

Those present were: Ray Roberts, Richard Horwood (BN1), Rod Richards (BJ7), Ronnie Strange (BT7 Mk2), Mark Sullivan, Bryan Levy (BN1), Ross Penman (BJ8), Colin Goldsmith (MGB), Ron Birch (Corvette), Harley Boggis, Denis Kasza, Neville Stirton, Tony Groom, Ken Thompson and Leo Thompson.



Ray Roberts removing the radio.



Ronnie Strange and Rod Richards discuss tactics.



Denis Kasza keeping an eye on how it's going.



Time for a break?



How can we lend a hand?



Bryan Levy's 100 receiving new eyes.



## Adventures with Ronnie

My Austin-Healey has owned me for nearly 50 years and on average we have had ADVENTURES totaling nearly five per year.

Some of those I wouldn't value as ADVENTURES, more like catastrophic calamities, diabolical disasters and biblical level break downs. Some of those you have read about in FLAT CHAT over the years, via reports of ADVENTURES in England, France and Australia. They were the ADVENTURES worthy of writing about, the rest were not worth putting pen to paper.

They were ADVENTURES of the past, but we continue to thrive in spite of them. As we grew old together the so-called ADVENTURES became more varied and more frequent.

The car's ADVENTURES are treated by Mechanical Strange, while mine are treated with frequent visits to the hospital.

You're permitted to have unlimited past ADVENTURES.

You're permitted to have only one present ADVENTURE (it's the law) You're permitted to have unlimited future ADVENTURES.

The present ADVENTURE is minor in comparison, replacing the leaking oil in the steering box for non-leaking oil; thinking about sucking the leaking oil out doesn't strike me as overly ADVENTUROUS. Alternatively I could turn the car upside down. Now that would be a sort of ADVENTURE!

Mechanical Strange says he has a device at his Chipendale garage to suck oil or, did he say deviant?, There's lots of them around that part of Sydney.

Future ADVENTURES are really exciting and something to look forward to. My car converted itself to renewal electricity with a \$5 million grant from the honourable Chris Bowen some years ago, except when the wind didn't shine and the sun didn't blow, I had to stay at home or drive my Cadillac Commadore instead.

The car then converted itself to nuclear energy which is obtainable from George who has the key cutting and shoe repair shop in Neutral Bay. He is the local authorised dealer in such commodities.

George excitedly whispered to me the other day and told me about his new ADVENTURE, blue, yellow, red & green nitrogen. When all the customers had left the shop clutching their fuel rods and stuff, George opened the safe and brought out a glass container with something in it I thought he was taking to the pathology laboratory, "no! no! no!" said George this is yellow nitrogen, get your car to bring you in here after dark and we'll do the ADVENTUROUS conversion.

If it doesn't run good with this new propellant said George I have some 98 I can let you have for \$4.98.9 per litre, smells better than the electric and nuclear stuff as well. He invited me to invest in this 98 stuff, but I said I'm a bit busy at the moment, need to go across the road to the UNADVENTUROUS food people for a couple of bananas and a mango; I said I'll think about it.

What an ADVENTUROUS future we'll all have to look forward to.

RONNIE

Editor's Note:- As mentioned, every journey in an Austin-Healey is an adventure.



## All Things Pass

By Patrick Quinn

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of assisting member Patricia Burge-Lopez sell her late husband's 100.

While I had met Peter Burge-Lopez a number of times over the years, I had not met Patricia until she made initial contact with us.

The car was advertised, and it wasn't long before a call and offer was received from a gentleman in New Zealand. He was first and offered what was being sought. He must have been sleeping next to his computer and looking at all the Austin-Healeys that came up for sale. There would have been 10 to 15 subsequent calls from would-be buyer, however, it was purely a matter of 'first come, first served'.

While there was no problem exporting the 100 out of Australia, there are a number of hurdles for the buyer to import it into New Zealand. These took time, but I kept in contact with Patricia until the tilt-tray truck picked up the car to take it to the shipping port.

While watching the car being loaded, we talked about how she felt and wasn't surprised that it was

with a lot of sadness and some relief.

Patricia and Peter first met in 1969 when he had already owned the car, having bought it from his brother-in-law the year before. The 100 became a family car and the only time it wasn't used was when they moved to Queensland for a time. On return it was put back into use and apart from when it was professionally restored, it's been used continually. Sadly, Patricia's children and grandchildren were not in a position to take it on following Peter's passing.

Understandably Patricia was saddened, as she and Peter had owned the 100 for their whole married life and to see it being taken away after 55 years would tug at the heart strings of anyone.

Patricia said that she realised that it had to happen, but part of her life was being taken away.

Yes while all things must pass, it doesn't make them less sad, and I am sure that I speak for all AHOC members in extending to Patricia the very best wishes for the future





## Christmas Party Lunch



The 2025 Christmas Party Lunch has been booked at the Watergrill Restaurant at the Sydney Rowing Club in Abbotsford (same location as last year). We hope by getting in early with the date that we can secure the date in your calendars.

**SAVE THE DATE** in your calendars now and book in early. In 2024 we had 39 attendees and this year we have booked for 50 and hopefully we have such a good response from attendees that I need to increase the booking!

Further details will be available as we get closer to the date!

Look forward to seeing you all there!

Happy Healeying  
Christine Lytte

---





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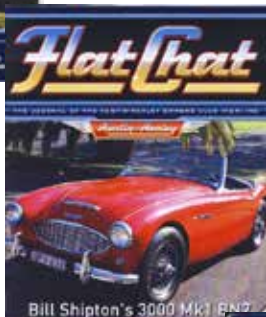
### Flat Chat Back Issues

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





# Rare Healeys at Amaroo

**"Rob, when was the last time your car saw the light of day?"**

**"Six years ago!" came the response.**

So started the chain of events that saw the last racing car of the Donald Healey Motor Company (DHMC) hit the track once again.

The event that enticed it out of its lair was the Super Sprint Third Round of the Combined Sports Car Association 1994 Calendar at Amaroo Park, organised by the Austin-Healey Owners Club of NSW. Club life member Joe Armour hit upon the idea that the supersprint would be the perfect occasion to gently(?) parade some of the rarer Healeys and Austin-Healeys that reside in Australia.

Convincing Rob Harrison to bring out his Healey XR-37 was no mean feat. However, such an event would be perfect for a cantankerous racing car that had run very few miles since a very hectic 24 hours in 1970.

The Healey XR-37 started life as a coupé designated SR and ran at Le Mans in 1968 and 69, entered by the DHMC, with a Tasman series Coventry Climax two litre V8 (ex Jimmy Clark) – however, it was hopelessly overweight. With a change of rules for 1970 the car was rebuilt as an open sports prototype equipped with a three litre Repco-Brabham V8, courtesy of Sir Jack.

The XR-37 ran faultlessly in the 1970 Le Mans 24 Hour and was in 14th place on its last lap when an electrical fault put it out of the race. Rob purchased it directly from the DHMC following the running at Le Mans and imported it to Australia, minus its engine. An ex-Denny Hulme Tasman Series Repco-Brabham V8 was soon purchased. However the car now runs a Traco-Rover V8 while the Repco awaits a rebuild.

So a fine winter's Sunday saw the XR-37 at Amaroo Park exactly as it was raced at Le Mans, except for the engine, some 24 years earlier. Other rare Healeys and Austin-Healeys on the day included the Healey Silverstone of Warwick and Jennifer Sell, the two Austin-Healey 100S cars of Ray Roberts and Murray Wells, the 100 BN3/1 (six

cylinder prototype) of Patrick and Caroline Quinn, the ex-Ross Bond racing 3000 Mki and Joe Armour's Sebring 3000.

The Healey Silverstone is one of 105 built during 1949 and '50 with Riley 2.4 litre running gear. Ray's 100S has a long Australian racing history and was previously owned by three times Australian Grand Prix winner Doug Whiteford, then John Roxburgh and novelist John Cleary. The 100S of Murray Wells is the reconstruction of a totalled New Zealand car. The BN3/1 of Patrick and Caroline Quinn is the original six cylinder prototype produced by the DHMC.

While not a works car, the ex-Ross Bond Healey holds a special place in the hearts of those of us who remember the heady days of marque sports car racing of the sixties and early seventies. Now owned and beautifully restored by Colin Rule from the central coast, it was made special with Ross Bond at the helm once again. Joe's Sebring 3000 ran at the '65 Sebring Twelve Hour Race driven by Australian Paul Hawkins and the then British Saloon Car Champion, Warwick Banks. The spoils included a first in the under three litre Sports Class.

Of course, the day at Amaroo centred on the Super Sprint especially, since the entrants paid cash money to punt their cars around the track.

However the rare cars were given the chance to show their wares on the track. "It is not a race" we were told, and "passing is not allowed!" Five laps later, the adrenalin was flowing like the amber liquid during the days of six o'clock closing, but sadly we were flagged in.

The XR-37 circulated with great aplomb and apart from the oil trying to escape from the engine it ran without trouble. Rob came back to the pits fired with enthusiasm and looking forward to other opportunities to use his car.

The rest of the day was a series of photo shoots for the owners and their vehicles and a chance to do what classic car owners do best – gasbag to other owners about their cars.

*Patrick Quinn*



L to R: BN3/1, Ross Bond 3000 and the 100/Ss of Murray Wells and Ray Robens, with the Silverstone in the distance



## FOR SALE - AUSTIN-HEALEY 3000 MK1 BT7

Advancing years mean I have to offer my interesting 1961 BT7 for sale.

The car was built up to fast road spec in the 90s/early 2000s by Steve Pike and Bob Rowntree. Engine and gearbox by Bob with 'Tulip style' ratios. Aluminium guards, alloy fuel tank, large Le Mans style quick release filler cap, factory hardtop, excellent soft top and tonneau, side exhaust and mild negative camber at the front.

Not unlike DD300 to look at. Mine for the last 10 years with limited use and great fun to drive. On Conditional Registration with recent pink slip.

Offers around 82K sought

Tim Lewis 0407 481 285 in Braidwood





**FOR SALE**

Peter Ford is offering for sale the following:

Austin-Healey five stud 3000 brake drums at \$100 a pair.

1 x Race Fuel tank. 40 litres capacity. \$150.00.

Contact Peter on 0412 084 062

**FOR SALE**



**FOR SALE**

David Harries has the following items he no longer needs:-

BJ8 Tonneau Cover

100 Bonnet

Set period tools in leather pouch

David may be contacted on 0420 488 804



## 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 \$300 each, irrespective of the model.**

**If interested please contact Colin Rule on 0467 563 523.**



### Your Last Page



Couldn't be easier.

Taken in Boston, USA during the 1960s.

Better rush as it probably be gone by the morning.



Fires don't just happen to electric vehicles.



Monthly Meetings - Zoom ID **936 7291 9341** Passcode **434383**

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.