

# The Octagon

The Official Publication of:  
THE MG CAR CLUB OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

January 2016



*Members enjoying the companionship before the Buffet supplied by Colleen Hardie*



**Affiliated with The MG Car Club (UK)  
and member of the  
Confederation of Australian Motor Sport**



## 2016 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	Tony Ford	0400 202 474	tonyford@westnet.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Iain Trainor	9206 5624	iainmact@gmail.com
		0411 789 434	
SECRETARY	Doug Bush	0452 561 398	dougmga@msn.com
TREASURER	Chris Hart	9371 0227	chrishart@westnet.com.au
CLUB CAPTAIN	Graham Forbes	0468 740 816	graheath100@gmail.co
COMPETITION SEC	Rami Brass	0412 081 446	rami.brass@rsmi.com.au
SOCIAL CO-ORD	John Bell	9477 6303	j.jbell@bigpond.net.au
		0409 155 144	
EDITORS	Graham and	9343 6752	mgccwa.editors@gmail.com
	Moyra Mitchinson	0401 375 644	
MEMBERSHIP SEC	Richard Gusterson	0409 105 957	richgus@bigpond.com
SAFETY FAST CO-ORD	Terry Banton	9291 8877	terwan@iinet.net.au
WEBMASTER	Ian Campbell	92934171	hotdog1@iinet.net.au
		0401450536	

### NON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons	John and Val Goff, Tim Harland		
Librarian	David Pitcher	9362 1702	david.pitcher39@gmail.com
Catering Coordinator	Colleen Hardie	0423 393 183	hardie52@gmail.com
Regalia	Chris Hart	9371 0227	chrishart@westnet.com.au
Auditor	Peter Manning	9383 9247	pmanning45@hotmail.com
Cams Delegate	Tony Ford	0400 202 474	tonyford@westnet.com.au
Building Maintenance	Chris Hart	9371 0227	chrishart@westnet.com.au
Trophy Co-Ord			
Tech Event Co-Ord	Position vacant		

**Clubrooms:** 112 Hardy Rd, BAYSWATER.  
**Postal Address:** G.P.O. Box U1924, PERTH, W.A. 6845  
**Enquiries:** (08) 9487 3100 (recorded service)  
**Website:** www.mgccwa.com  
**ABN:** 46 629 758 330



**General Meetings held at the Clubrooms on the third Tuesday of every month**  
**(fellowship from 7:30, formal proceedings commence at 8:00 p.m.)**  
**All members and visitors are welcome.**

### A very Happy New Year

To all our members  
we hope you all had an enjoyable  
Festive season and are fully  
refreshed for a busy MG year.

In this edition we have had  
several contributors who have  
taken photographs that have been  
used throughout the magazine.

Mick Manaszczuk, John Bell and  
Annette Gusterson

Thank you



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# President's News

Welcome to 2016! Last year was another busy one for the Club, with a range of Successful and enjoyable social and competition events being conducted. A snapshot of the year's highlights for the Club is given in the AGM minutes printed elsewhere in this Octagon.

The big event for 2016 will, of course, be the MG National Meeting at Easter, hosted jointly by the 3 WA MG Clubs. With nearly 300 Registrations received to date from MG enthusiasts around Australia and overseas, and a fantastic programme of social activities and competition events, this Natmeet promises to be a memorable experience. Doug Bush and the Natmeet Organising Committee have pulled out all stops to ensure that the Natmeet runs smoothly and that Registrants receive great value for their registration fees. Nearly 70 of our own Club members have registered – if you haven't done so yet, check out the Natmeet website at [www.mg2016natmeet.com.au](http://www.mg2016natmeet.com.au) for programme details and the online registration system.

I hope that your New Year's resolutions include some that involve having fun driving your MG! Check out the Events Calendar in this Octagon and on our website [www.mgccwa.com](http://www.mgccwa.com), and mark down some dates in your diary. After all, life isn't a dress rehearsal...

This month there is a Breakfast Midweek Run organised by Eddie Preston on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, while we will be mixing with the Rolls Royce set on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> for the traditional Twilight Run – a sedate and relaxed affair in keeping with the stately progress of the Rollers. Details of both Runs are in this Octagon.

Club membership renewals are also due and payment options are given in this Octagon. For those with a concessionally registered MG, please remember that you must continue to be a financial member of an approved Club for your vehicle's licence to remain valid.

I look forward to a very busy 2016 and am confident that Club members will continue to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that has long been the hallmark of the MG Car Club of Western Australia.

Finally, I extend a warm welcome to new members

*Tony Ford*



## Welcome to New Members



Rod and Barbara Carson:  
Red 2003 MGTF

**We welcome one new committee**  
**member to make up the MGCC of WA**  
**Committee for 2016**



**President**  
Tony Ford



**Vice President**  
Iain Trainor



**Secretary**  
Doug Bush



**Treasurer/  
Regalia**  
Chris Hart



**Club Captain**  
Graham Forbes



**Safety Fast**  
Terry Banton



**Competition  
Secretary**  
Rami Brass



**Social  
Co-ordinator**  
John Bell



**Membership**  
Richard  
Gusterson



**Webmaster**  
Ian Campbell



**Librarian**  
David Pitcher



**Editors**  
Graham and Moyra  
Mitchinson



**Catering  
Co-ordinate**  
Colleen  
Hardie

## **President's Annual Report:**

The MG Car Club of Western Australia provided a range of events and activities during 2015 for the benefit of its members.

There were great social runs and convivial lunches in the company of Austin Healey, Jaguar and Triumph owners on the monthly Midweek Runs. Competition events included superkhanas at Midvale and the RAC Driving Centre organised by Rami Brass, the Economy Run, the very popular annual Show'n'Shine (this year held at Ascot Racecourse as a 'dress rehearsal' for the 2016 Natmeet) and of course the Grass Gymkhana held in conjunction with our friends in the Austin Healey Club. The (damp) Gingin British Car Day, Toodyay's Moondyne Joe Festival and other Sunday social runs were ably orchestrated by John Bell and enjoyed by many Club members. The Open Day at the Clubrooms organised by David and Colleen Hardie was also enjoyable and well attended by Club members and guests.

This year also saw the creation of the Southern Chapter, organised by Colin and Karen Bell. The Chapter appears to be growing in numbers and is a credit to their great enthusiasm.

The MGA Register was also active under the guidance of Colin Cleaver, with a number of breakfast and lunch runs being organised during the year. Indeed, the WA MGA brigade did well in 2015, with 7 MGAs being shipped to Britain to take part in the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lands End to John o'Groats Tour!

The 2015 Safety Fast Run travelled to Busselton via scenic southwest drivers' roads and again was superbly organised by Terry Banton and his team and greatly enjoyed by all participants.

Club members also enthusiastically supported the VSCC Northam and Albany 'round the houses' regularity events, both as competitors and spectators.

The monthly magazine, the Octagon, continued to keep members informed of the Club's activities and events during the year and our Editors, Moyra and Graham Mitchinson, are to be congratulated on putting together a fine publication each month – particularly the June edition, being organised from Alaska!

Planning for the Easter 2016 MG National Meeting in Perth, which is being hosted by the Club in conjunction with the MG Owners Club and the MG TC Owners Club, progressed very well during the year under the able chairmanship of Doug Bush. The 2016 Natmeet website [www.mg2016natmeet.com.au](http://www.mg2016natmeet.com.au), incorporating an online registration system enabling payment by both credit card and Paypal, was developed early in the year and has since been kept updated with essential information. A CAMS Permit has been granted for the event, which incorporates 3 motorsport competition activities, and a Post Natmeet Tour has been organised. We have to date recorded over 280 registrations for the National Meeting from MG enthusiasts in Australia and overseas, including nearly 70 from our own Club – a great effort.



While there remains much to do, the foundations have clearly been laid for a fantastic and successful event!

The Club website ([www.mgccwa.com](http://www.mgccwa.com)) has been updated with Club news and events during the year by Ian Campbell, who has done a great job in keeping the website current.

The Club's membership rose to 224 during the year, with many new members taking advantage of the online membership application process. Also during the year we implemented a new web-based Club management system, 'OurCarClub', which has enabled membership details and other Club records to be more easily and professionally managed. I record my thanks to Richard Gusterson for taking on the Membership Secretary role at short notice during the year and for his enthusiasm and dedication in this role.

I also sincerely thank all of those Club members who cheerfully organised events, took photos or wrote articles for the Octagon, catered supper for General Meetings (ably co-ordinated by Colleen Hardie) or otherwise participated in the Club's activities in 2015.

Finally, I extend my appreciation to the hardworking and dedicated 2015 Club Committee members, who have supported me in the many and varied tasks that running a Club of over 200 members entails. In particular, the efforts of Secretary Doug Bush and Treasurer Chris Hart deserve to be acknowledged. In any Club, these roles typically account for the lion's share of paperwork and our Club is no exception.

I look forward to 2016, particularly the National Meeting over Easter, and am confident that Club members will continue to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that has long been the hallmark of the MG Car Club of Western Australia.

**Tony Ford**  
**President 2015**

**MGCC WA**  
**proudly supports**  
**this worthy organization**  
**for youngsters with**  
**cancer.**



# General Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Meeting opened at 19:50**

Club President in the chair

**Visitors:**

**Apologies:** John Bell, David Pitcher, David Manning

**Minutes of previous meeting** held on 17 November 2015 – printed in the Octagon: Motion to accept Minutes: Proposed by Sara Fry, Seconded by Graham Forbes and agreed as a true record.

**Correspondence In:** 5 x other Club Magazines, 1 x Natmeet registration Form, 1 x Flyer from Australia Post re price increase in stamps, 1 x Letter from Canteen asking for another donation. Correspondence be accepted, moved by Chris Hart, Seconded by Val Goff and approved by the meeting.

**Business Arising:** None

## REPORTS

**Vice-President:** Iain T, nothing to report

**Secretary:** Doug B, nothing to report

**Treasurer:** Chris reported that at the end the last month the Club was \$3377-0 in arrears but that was explainable as we had just paid the year's rent on the Clubrooms to City of Bayswater. The Club funds stood at \$xxxxxx at the end of November. The Treasurers Report was proposed for approval by Chris H and seconded by the Vice-president and approved by the meeting. Chris then proposed that the following cheques be approved for payment; C Hart, Beer Wine & soft drinks for the AGM \$287-25, Postage \$48-10, Stationary \$3-98. All Sports- Club Badges \$160-00. Colleen Hardie for tonight's pre-AGM Supper, \$299-91. The payments were proposed for acceptance by Chris H, Seconded by Graham M and approved by the meeting.

**Membership Secretary:** Richard G. reported that the membership was now standing at 224 [warm applause]

**Competition:** Rami: nothing to report

**Social:** John Bell an apology so no Report

**Editors:** Graham & Moyra advised that they needed all contributions to the January 2016 Octagon with them by 18<sup>th</sup> December, please.

**Safety Fast:** Terry B, nothing to report

**Club Captain:** David H was pleased to present Club Badges to; Mick Manaszczuk, Peter Turner, Alex Spargo and Chris and Derek Slaney. That was his last duty as Club Captain as he was standing down at the AGM.



**Regalia:** Chris said that there was an ample supply of Natmeet T Shirts available and on display around the Clubroom. They were \$25-00 each.

**Librarian:** Apologies given so no report.

**Webmaster:** Ian Campbell said that the Club had some fantastic people and he thanked them all.

**AOB:**

**2016 Natmeet:** Doug gave a short update on progress.

Registrations to date were 274 via the Register Now process and 14 manual ones. The Early Bird discount option had now closed. The Natmeet Concours Judging Panel, led by Colin Cleaver, spent 3 hours the previous evening sorting out the Class Judges. The Post Natmeet Tour number is now 37 people. Two additional items of Regalia have just been added, namely, Natmeet Logo Lapel Pins and the Cap retaining Clip-on Lanyards with the MG logo, both items available at the bargain price of \$5-00. Tony F advised that he had uploaded to the Natmeet Website a daily route sheet for each day of the Tour; these are downloadable individual PDF files that can be used by any user of the site.

Part 1 of the General Meeting concluded at 20:08. There was then a 10-minute intermission before Part 2.

## CLUB AWARDS FOR 2015

**The Club President** announced that it was his pleasure to be able to announce the recipients of the 2015 MGCCWA Awards:

The '**Octagon Award**' was presented by the Magazine Editors and went to *Jim Clark* who had willingly contributed to the magazine and also drawn the cartoons for the same. Unfortunately he was not able to be present tonight.

The '**Attendance Award**' for the Club Member with the highest number of attendances at a variety of listed events; the President was very pleased to ask *Graham Forbes* to accept this Award.

The '**Outstanding Club Member**' was the next award. This year the award went to two Members who had given a tremendous amount to the Club. They had been the prime movers behind the organising of the 'Southern Chapter' that was growing in member strength. The very worthy recipients were *Colin and Karen Bell*.

Next was the '**Presidents Award**', which is decided upon solely by the Club President and Tony said that this year he was awarding the honour to the wonderful, hard-working Catering coordinator, *Colleen Hardie*. [Tonight's supper was a superb example of Colleen's culinary skills.]

The '**Classic Sports Champion**', is awarded to the most successful member competing in a number of VSCC type competitive events held during the year. This year's recipient was *Richard Gusterson*.

Next was the '**Ladies Club Champion**'. Tony said that in recent years this award had been a bit of a monopoly but this year a new challenger had emerged and beaten the field. Tony was pleased to announce *Moyra Mitchinson* as the worthy winner.

The '**Intermediate Club Champion**' for 2015, beaten by just one point was *Rami Brass*.

The '**Club Champion**' for 2015, for the first time for many a year, the overall Club Champion was a lady and Tony congratulated *Moyra Mitchinson* for her outstanding success.

There was a warm applause for all recipients, by the attendees of the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 20:38

**Doug Bush**

**Secretary MGCC WA**



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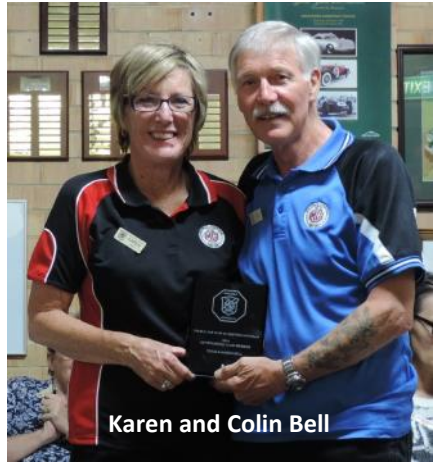
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## Award Winners For 2015



Colleen Hardie



Karen and Colin Bell



Graham Forbes



Richard Gusterson



Moyra Mitchinson



Rami Brass



**AGM/Presentation  
2015 Wind-up**

What a fabulous turnout for our AGM with a good mix of regular faces ,new members and somenot seen for a while. Every- one enjoyed a good catch-up and the lovely spread that Colleen had put on.



## CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE!

Club membership expires on 31<sup>st</sup> December each year, so unless you are a Life Member or an Honorary Member, or you joined the Club in the last quarter of 2015 (in which case your membership is valid until 31/12/2016), you will need to renew your membership to continue to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that has long been the hallmark of the MG Car Club of Western Australia!

Also, the Club has a register of roundly 40 MGs which are concessionally licensed by members. If your vehicle is one of these, please remember that you must continue to be a financial member of an approved Club for your vehicle's licence to remain valid.

Membership fees are unchanged from 2015 and are as follows:

**Single - \$85**

**Family - \$100** (includes spouse and children under 18 years)

**Pensioner - \$70** (single &/or family)

### How to Make Payment:

#### By Cheque or Postal Note:

Payable to MG Car Club of Western Australia Inc.

Post to: **The MG Car Club of Western Australia Inc.**

**GPO Box U1924, PERTH WA 6845**

#### By Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

**Account name:** The MG Car Club of Western Australia Inc.

**BSB No.** 066 111 **Account No.** 1002 5340

Please put your Surname and Member no. in the reference line (e.g. SMITH 1329) then email your payment confirmation to [info@mgccwa.com](mailto:info@mgccwa.com).



There are new long sleeve shirts with pockets at \$35 as well as the Barmah hats with MG logo or Nat Meet logo also \$35 now available.

Contact Chris Hart on 9371 0227 or [chrishart@westnet.com.au](mailto:chrishart@westnet.com.au)

There are also a range of caps \$20 in various colours

## **SOUTHERN CHAPTER**

First of all Karen and I would like to thank all the MGCC members who took part in forming the inaugural 1<sup>st</sup> year of the MGCC Southern Chapter. It has exceeded all expectations. Karen and I ran most of the events during this first year but I am pleased to say some members have now come forward to organise some of the 2016 events. This is very good news for all members as new destinations and lunch/picnic venues can be explored. We would also like to venture a little further South of Bunbury encouraging members further south to participate in those events.

This is a short breakdown of forthcoming events for 2016:-

### **SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2016**

Meet at Harvey Cheese Factory on South West Highway by 10am for a 10.30 departure, being organised by Kerren Stokes and Lindsay Campbell

### **MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**

Natmeet at Ascot Racecourse

**APRIL SOCIAL EVENT** Date to be arranged and organised by Geoff Ward

**JUNE SOCIAL EVENT** Date to be arranged and organised by Marian and David Blaxall

PS If any Southern Chapter members wish to run further events or have ideas of interesting venues/places to visit, please let me know.  
Karen and I wish all members a Happy and prosperous New Year.

*COLIN AND KAREN BELL*

*0417 212 140*



# **SOCIAL REPORT**

## **Breakfast Run**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Eddie Preston has kindly arranged this run for our club. It's an early start to beat the heat and is on roads most of us know so navigation should be easy.

Come along and give the MG a run after the holiday break.

Meet Gull Service Station corner of Canning Rd/Brookton H'way 7.15 am for a 7.30 start. (earlier if you want a coffee or fuel)

For further information or problems on the day Eddie's number is 0402 135 090.

## **Twilight Run with the RROC**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January

The RROC is arranging this run.

The run will start at our club rooms at 5.00pm for a 5.30 departure. As this is a picnic outing please bring chairs, drinks, food and goodwill.

## **Social Run**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February

I'm looking for an organizer to arrange this run. Members of the committee are willing to assist any first timers.

Our contact details are on page two of this publication

*John Bell Social Co-ordinator 9477 6303*

# 2016 MGCCWA Calendar

Date	Event	Type	Organiser
<b>January</b> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Breakfast Run Twilight Run with RROC <i>General Meeting</i>	Management Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC RROC MGCC
<b>February</b> Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Twilight Run <i>General Meeting</i> Social Run	Management Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC MGCC MGCC
<b>March</b> Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Thur 10 <sup>th</sup> Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> (Easter) till Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run <i>General Meeting</i> Natmeet 2016 Natmeet 2016	Management Social Social Social/Comp Comp/Social	MGCC MGCC MGCC MGCC, MGOC, TCOC MGCC, MGOC, TCOC
<b>April</b> Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Northam Flying Fifty <i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run <i>General Meeting</i> Social Run	Social/Comp Management Social Social Social	VSCC, MGCC MGCC Austin Healey Club MGCC MGCC
<b>May</b> Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> Tue 3 <sup>th</sup> Thur 12 <sup>th</sup> Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> Tue 17 <sup>th</sup>	'Moondyne Joe' Festival Toodyay <i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run British Car Day GinGin <i>General Meeting</i>	Social Management Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC MGOC MGCC MGCC
<b>June</b> Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Thur 9 <sup>th</sup> Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Albany Classic Weekend <i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run <i>General Meeting</i> Social Run	Comp/Social Management Social Social Social	VSCC MGCC MGCC MGCC MGCC

*Please be aware that these dates could change so check each month's Octagon*

Date	Event	Type	Organiser
<b><u>July</u></b> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run Winter Woolies Run General Meeting	Management Social Social Social	MGCC Austin Healey Club MGCC, (Ian & Liz C) MGCC
<b><u>August</u></b> Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Thur 11 <sup>th</sup> Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Economy Run Midweek Run General Meeting Banton's Big Breakfast	Management Social Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC (Tony Ford) TBA MGCC MGCC (Terry Banton)
<b><u>September</u></b> Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Thur 8 <sup>th</sup> Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run Grass Gymkhana General Meeting	Management Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC Austin Healey Club MGCC
<b><u>October</u></b> Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> & Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Midweek Run General Meeting Safety Fast Run	Management Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC MGCC MGCC/MGOC/TCOC
<b><u>November</u></b> Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Thur 10 <sup>th</sup> Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> Have A Go Day Burswood Midweek Run General Meeting Social Run	Management Social Social Social Social	MGCC MGCC (Val Goff) MGOC MGCC MGCC (John & Jill Bell)
<b><u>December</u></b> Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Committee Meeting</i> General Meeting and AGM	Management Social/Business	MGCC MGCC

# MGB MARILYN & ME

## **Preface:**

My name is Colin Morrison and I live in Busselton, Western Australia. This small offering is for people at the crossroads in their life; who are in need of a new adventure or just need encouragement to get out and do something new with their life.

This is a simple story about how the purchase of a classic sports car, in my case, a 1969 MGB Roadster can change, re-direct, invigorate and set you off on paths not imaginable, hitherto.

I have always, in the back of my mind, wanted an MGB. I can remember as a kid seeing one on the front page of a magazine, cornering with one front wheel slightly off the ground. This image set the scene for this story.

In 2008 after selling the last of a long line of yachts, (a prerequisite) an MGB came on the market in the next town to ours. It was silver with two dark stripes down the bonnet. I purchased it. It was in the mid price range and needed a little work, but I thought it was so pretty. I had a small amount of rust removed and resprayed the whole car and a new brake cylinder fitted.

I decided to call my MG: Marilyn - after Marilyn Monroe. She is very pretty but requires constant high maintenance in the form of polishing and generally keeping her in tip top running condition. A fun pastime for me!

It seems you can get cheap MGBs that need a lot of work; mid-range that need a little work, or expensive ones where the restoration is complete.

So you have to be an optimist, glass ½ full person, or don't bother. I look at it as an investment. You can have \$10,000 in the bank and look at your statement each month or you can get a MGB spend a little improving your investment and have a lot of fun with it. As these cars are getting rarer every day your investment dollar can only improve.



## CHAPTER ONE

### MARILYN

Marilyn is a 1969 MGB Roadster. This British sports car is one of the most successful sports cars ever built, with more than half a million made between 1962 and 1980.

At its height of popularity the Abingdon MG Factory was making more than 50,000 a year. Spare parts are therefore easy to obtain and a whole industry has been created to keep MGB owners on the road.

There are MG Clubs in many countries around the world. We have Clubs in each state of Australia which are a great source of information. You may wish to purchase any brand, my mate, Rod, is a Triumph man. However I like the look of the MGB and access to spare parts is a bonus.



*Marilyn*

As mentioned earlier, you must be an optimist to own a British sports car.

There is a price to pay. If you break down, as I have, you must not feel humiliated being towed to the garage. Think of it as a new experience! Then there is the up-keep, but what 45-50 year car old doesn't need attention? (People fall into that category too!)

If money is not a problem, just buy a fully restored MGB. You may have to endure jokes from friends who will offer to buy you drip trays and so on, but what the heck! And of course you must have a proper garage to keep your MG out of the elements and warm in winter.

So armed with a mobile phone, weather forecast and a tow rope in the boot, we are ready to have some fun.



*Rallying with friends in Albany, WA*

The Albany Rally we competed in was our first real test for Marilyn – a road journey of over 400km just to get there – she came through with flying colours.

## **CHAPTER TWO LIFE ENHANCEMENT**

With Marilyn came a new direction in life. Until now life had revolved around sailing, having owned, raced and sailed many yachts, over a period of 45 years. So this was new territory to us, with a whole lot to learn. Up until now, being a non car enthusiast, technical books from the library, car books from second hand shops, car shows on TV, internet car programs etc became my passion. Then there are MGB accessories from all the sites that service MG owners. I wanted a MGB T-shirt for Christmas (I got one!).

I also began reading about famous racing car drivers from the 1950s. I re-discovered Juan Manuel Fangio, from Argentina, the greatest driver of all time. Just search the German Grand Prix 1957, if you don't believe me. My dear friend Klaus sent me two Fangio books plus a DVD which take pride of place in my bookshelf.

Now that I am an enthusiast I joined the local Veteran Car Club, as my MG was over 25 years old.

The Car Club will be mentioned later as it deserves its own chapter.



Marilyn becomes a focus. Friends and visitors who come to stay wish to go for a ride. I offer to take neighbours for a ride into town in Marilyn, if they buy the coffee!



They must, however wear a Fremantle Dockers Football hat or scarf, as I am an avid fan of this Western Australian AFL team.



*Marilyn was used to transport my youngest daughter, Amber, to her wedding in Denmark, WA.*



Marilyn, and other MG owners from the PGMGCC (Port Geographe MG Car Club) take neighbourhood kids to their school ball. Colleagues at work have requested Marilyn for 'special' transport duties also.

### **CHAPTER THREE** **THE LOCAL VETERAN CAR CLUB (VCC)**

Marilyn was registered with the local car club and we were made to feel most welcome. The Club meets once a month on a Sunday morning. After the meeting a drive is organised and this is usually to a winery, country pub or cafe for lunch. Alternatively we visit a nearby town, place of interest to car owners, or stop in a park and enjoy a BYO picnic lunch.



*Morning tea during a local Car Club rally*

Also a drive is organised once a month, during the week, for members who can make it. We have met some wonderful people, including my mechanic, through the club.

My wife and I entered our first rally, soon after joining and had to fill in an entry form where we had to predetermine our speed. We got issued a set of instructions which included questions to answer along the route. So armed, we set off one Sunday morning at one minute intervals covering a course of approximately 100 km.



We had a morning tea break at a local beach, then armed with a new set of directions proceeded to the finish, at the Clubhouse. After a BBQ lunch the results were announced. Amazingly, we jagged a second place which was beginners' luck I'm sure, as it has been our only podium finish to date!

Car Clubs are an excellent place to meet like minded people. The cars are many and varied with the owners having lots of stories to tell, such as "car type" holidays down Route 66, USA.

Also there is the story of a man who went to the markets to buy some broccoli one day and came back with a Rover! (see picture below). He went past a car display, saw an old Rover going very cheap, so he bought it. His wife never got the broccoli, but it would make an excellent number plate name!



Car people have lots of experience which is very handy for a novice like me. There are at least six MGBs in the club. My grill was a bit dented so a fellow MGB owner kindly gave me a spare one that he had in his shed. There is the MG Car Club in Perth, the capital city. We plan to join that later and travel up to MG rallies and organised events.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MG CAR CLUB**

PORT GEOGRAPHE M.G. CAR CLUB is the evolution of our neighbourhood MG owners.

Each Saturday morning at 10.30am a group of us meet at the local cafe for coffee and chat.

Within the neighbourhood group, two of us had MGBs. Peter has a beaut red one so I signed him up to the local VCC. Peter and I used to always talk about our cars and the car club at morning tea.

Patrick, another regular, got sick of us talking about our cars and announced he was going to purchase one. Patrick is a widower and at 83 years young, we thought he was joking. Two weeks later he turns up to Saturday morning coffee, in his MGB! He was signed up to the VCC.

Then Alan, another regular coffee goer thought he was missing out and announced he would like one. However, due to certain conditions Alan opted for an MGY, being a bit more comfortable, not a B, but still an MG.

All four of us live within a kilometre radius and the coffee shop is our unofficial meeting place.



*The line up of MG cars forming PGMGCC*

We have a flag we take to coffee meetings. We take our Four MGs to special occasions such as members' birthdays or bon voyage dinners and the like.

If any one of us want to go for a drive, a quick message is sent to the others and we always have company. Another rule is that if anyone of us is on holidays they must send a post card to: PGMGCC address: the cafe.

The next chapter will explain how the four cars evolved and made it to our little neighbourhood club.

They each have a different story, perhaps your future story?

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **THE EVOLUTION OF THE PGMGCC**

It is worth explaining the origins of the four cars that make up our little club. It may inspire you to begin your own, in your area.

#### **1. MARILYN A SILVER MGB MK 2 1969 -**

#### **COLIN MORRISON'S STORY:**

I have explained how Marilyn came about. I needed a new direction after having sailed and owned yachts most of my life. The weekend after I sold my last yacht an MGB came on the market, in the next town; fate. So Marilyn came into being. She was mid-priced and needed a little spent on her. I had a local mechanic look at her on his hoist. She came from the USA, had no rust underneath and the engine was sound. I liked the colour as it would match my hair in years to come! I kept the stripes as it made the car a little more sporty and distinctive.





## 2. PJF 008 A RED MGB 1968 RESTORATION JOB -

### **PETER FORT'S STORY:**

In my late teens I always wanted my first car to be a red MGB. Instead it was a mini cooper S. Thirty eight years later after many motor cars and many miles I purchased my MGB.

In 1987 I met a gentleman who specialised in restoring minis and MGBs. He casually suggested, one day, that I should "do one up", that is restore a MGB.

On his advice I purchased my car in October 1998. The wreck I purchased had been stripped back to help restore another B, not even an engine!



My car had been stripped and used to restore a MGB that now lives in Brunei. My Bs restoration started immediately and some twenty months later PJF 008 hit the road. A new car, a new everything, with zero mileage.



In 2003 we moved to Augusta in Western Australia. Much to my wife Jan's objections, I sold my MGB to a fellow I had done National Service within 1966-67. We did not know one another.

Five years later I had the opportunity to re-purchase the B; I did. PJF 008 had done 700 kms. She still looks like new now and has travelled 14,700km. Our B enables us to have many enjoyable outings and social times with other MG owners; the Port Geographe MG Car Club and members of the Veteran Car Club of Busselton. We are also members of the MG Car Club of Western Australia and hope to become more active in this Club in the near future.



### 3. BRONZE (RUFUS) 1968 MGB FULLY RESTORED -

#### **PATRICK AYERS' STORY:**

My new toy only took a little encouragement from two other MGB owners to acquire. I had always wanted a sports car but a family of four children made it totally impossible to justify.

Now I am on my own it has become a necessity I had to have whilst I still had a driving licence. It all started from the morning coffees that we (a group of neighbours and friends) arranged to have every Saturday morning. Two of them were MGB owners and spoke of the Car Club, its events, and of course suggested that I should buy one, not thinking that I would do so.

I studied all MGBs that were available in Western Australia and made arrangements to inspect four; one in Mandurah and three in the Perth suburbs. My daughter lives in Perth so I called to see the car in Mandurah on the way up. It was OK but needed a lot of renovating. Two more in Perth were very similar. Then I came on the one I bought, it was fully restored and like new.

The final decision was made because the colour, a golden bronze, it matched my golden retriever dog Rufus. My daughter Jane, Granddaughters Natasha and Brittany were beside themselves when I told them what I had done. They promptly had to have rides around Mosman Park and Cottesloe. I was an 'old man' with a bevy of young chicks; at least that was what onlookers thought! I was like a dog with two tails. I had a new toy six weeks after the first suggestion from my friends and it proves you don't have to be a young blood to enjoy open air motoring. As a bonus you gain a whole group of new friends all with their pride and joy antique or veteran cars.



*Patrick, with Rufus and his MGB*

#### 4. MGY 1950 CLOSE TO ORIGINAL CONDITION -

##### **ALAN HUCKINS' STORY:**

After deciding to buy an old car and after some encouragement from my newly found friend Colin, I started to look on the internet for something suitable. Bearing in mind the recently formed PGMGCC, I thought an MG would be great but felt MGBs were quite prolific. I was encouraged to sit in and try a MGB but found it too difficult, mainly because of old motor bike injuries.

When researching I came across, by accident, an MGY. I was unaware that MG had manufactured a sedan model vehicle. This car took my interest and I needed to find one to see if I could fit in. However, all the ones I could locate were on the east coast, in Melbourne or Sydney, thousands of miles away.

It is now September 2014 and one Friday evening we happened to be watching an episode of George Gently, an English TV series set in England in the sixties. On this particular Friday night show there was a very interesting Jaguar car shown, but very briefly. I liked the look of this car so grabbed my ipad to Google it and what came up on my screen blew me away.

There was a picture of the Jaguar on one half of the screen and on the other was a black MGY which had come onto the internet for sale, that very day. It was in Sydney so it was too late to ring, (NSW 3 hours ahead of WA time) so I rang first thing on Saturday morning.



*Kerry the previous owner of the MGY*

The seller of the MGY, Kerry, was 82 and didn't have a computer. Kerry's daughter came to the party and some emails were organised to be sent.

On the following Sunday we had been invited, as passengers, on a rally run by

the Veteran Car Club of Busselton. Afterwards I said to my wife I was crazy to contemplate going to Sydney to look at an MGY when there were plenty of cars locally and in Perth for sale. Why fly across the country to inspect, organise transport, have it inspected over here for registration, and so forth.

However upon returning home after the rally, emails had arrived of Kerry's MGY. The car looked beautiful; Kerry has lovingly looked after it for 50 years. It became evident he loved this car and wanted it to go to a good home.

I had never bought a car sight unseen but when Kerry advised me that he had another potential buyer coming to look at the car on the following Thursday I decided, with my wife's encouragement and agreement, to buy the car and transfer funds into Kerry's bank account, forthwith. Kerry kindly invited me to stay in his home for the three nights I was to be in Sydney.

The deal was done and all within 72 hours of the first phone call. Subsequent to the funds being transferred, I made arrangements to fly over to Sydney to arrange for its transportation by truck to Perth (approx.4000 Kms) I would pick up the car from Perth and trailer it to Busselton (approx. 230 Kms)



*Alan, the new proud owner, arrives in Busselton from Perth*

I was now a MG owner and therefore qualified to join the PGMGCC. We are looking forward to social outings and have been accepted (along with Peter & Jan and Patrick) as members of the Busselton Veteran Car Club.



## CHAPTER SIX

### SIDE EFFECTS OF AN ENTHUSIAST

As an MGB owner a whole new world opens up: the interest in car magazines, books, DVDs and all things MG from the MG accessory outlets. Gifts become presents for owners and the cars themselves.

My great re-discovery was Juan Manuel Fangio. I am now a full bottle on the “greatest F1 driver of all time”. Also Stirling Moss and Peter Collins are great heroes now; how skilful and brave they were. In their days, there were no seat belts or any of the safety gear racing drivers take for granted today.

My next birthday request is a Fangio T shirt. (family – take notice!!!)



Other great gifts for the car enthusiast can also be requested: MG mugs, coasters, seat covers, T shirts etc.....

Holidays can now be arranged around MG (Abingdon) and classic car galleries. Fangios car museum in Balance, Argentina perhaps or maybe a trip down 'route 66' with like minded friends. If you have the funds try the Classic Driving Tours.

### **CONCLUSION:**

An MGB can become a good friend, to be looked after, polished, admired, shared and loved. The MGB is the most popular sports car ever made. It is stylish, affordable, has the legroom, (remember Patrick - 6'4"), simple 4 cylinder engine, is economical but still is lively enough and has the throaty "MG" sound.

Spare parts are easy to obtain and the car is easy to work on. Because of the numbers and their age most MGs have had a lot of work done on them so the upkeep is not huge.

B's are more than a classic car they become a way of life. So when your football team is not winning, leave the TV and polish the spokes; the world becomes a much better place.

The aim of these writings is to provide a sort of blue print of what you can do if you want new experiences in your life. Select your own "MGB", select your own meeting place, invite friends to partake, take up new, sometimes out of your comfort zone, activities. Patrick did, at 83. As they say: you can be comfortable and sit on the couch watching TV all your life or you can get out and 'do it'.

**COLIN MORRISON**  
**BUSSELTON WESTERN AUSTRALIA MAY 2015**

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**The Deadline for articles to be included in the February edition of the Octagon will be Thursday 28th January 2016**  
**Thank you. M & G Editors**



## ROCKER BOX RACING

Ladies and Gentlemen now is the time to put on your thinking caps and exercise your mechanical fingers.

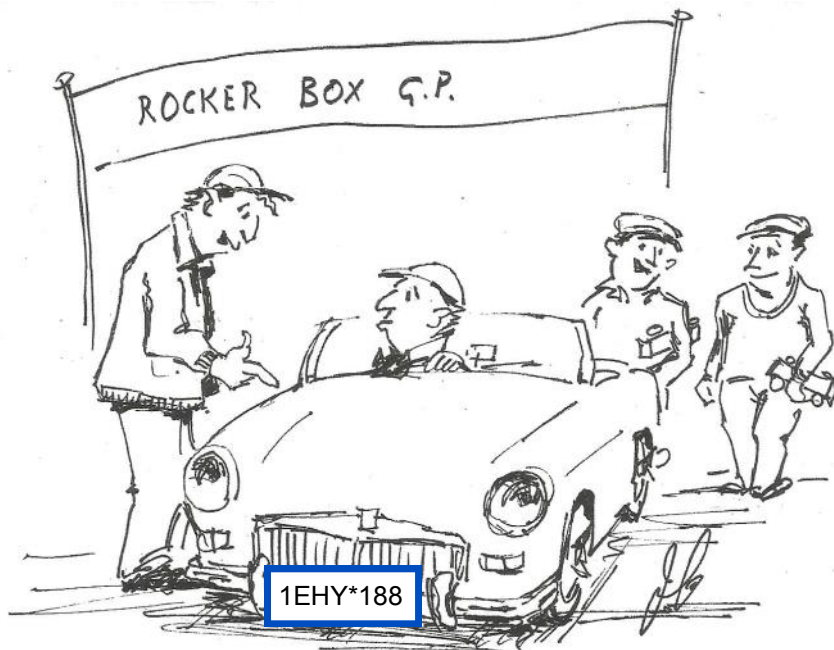
It is not hard to acquire a rocker box cover and convert it into a very fast machine. We hope to have a few going by the February General meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> so that any kinks can be ironed out in plenty of time before the "Natmeet".

Graham Forbes has built a fine ramp to start the vehicles.

### ROCKER COVER GUIDELINES

#### The Racers:

1. The racers shall have no power source. All motive force is provided by gravity.
2. Racers shall be based on a rocker cover from any M.G. or a rocker cover of the same silhouette.
3. The racer shall be no more than 40mm longer than the rocker cover base.
4. Wheel track shall be no more than 200mm.
5. Racers shall have four wheels, no more than 155 mm diameter.
6. The maximum racer mass to be no more than 3 kg.



YES, BUT YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT  
OFF THE CAR.



## IN MEMORY of PAM YOUNGBERG

After a 15 year battle with Leukaemia, the last one of which was spent continuously in and out of hospital with the last 8 weeks in severe pain, Pam passed away on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

Pam fought courageously and put on a brave face even attending outings over the last few weeks.

The service was requested to be private.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Bruce and their sons Trevor, Travis and Jason.



## Spreading the word

Whilst on holiday in Tasmania, Richard and Annette Gusterson came across an MG club outing outside a local pub in Cygnet. They got talking to some of the members and told them about our “Natmeet” hoping to entice several to make the journey west. See it never hurts to spread the word and although they may not have gotten a positive answer at the time, we hope that after some thought maybe one or two might wish to check out our City and surrounding countryside with their MG’s.

*Annette Gusterson*



## FOR SALE AND WANTED SECTION



### 1967 MGB Project - \$3000

Complete but semi-stripped, unreg  
not drivable but can be rolled

Located in Port Kennedy

Contact: Jason Catling 0409 894 377

[cattjace@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cattjace@yahoo.com.au)

### 1980 MGB GT V8 - \$25,990

Car trailer available at additional cost

*For further information contact:*

David Hansen 0431 855 506



### 2004 MG TF - \$14,000

Great condition, engine overhaul

Contact: Darryl 0468 300 327

[chocoadam0@gmail.com](mailto:chocoadam0@gmail.com)

### MG RV8 1995 - Oxford Blue - \$28,500

Excellent condition

Engine, suspension and brakes updated

Contact: KEVIN KELLY 9761 4021

0418 913 511

[Nedkelly4@yahoo.com](mailto:Nedkelly4@yahoo.com)



### 1997 MGF Green - \$7,500

Suspension upgraded

Contact: Geoff Ward

0402 404 804

9534 8952



### **MGB Roadster 1972 - \$12,500**

Very good condition, Overdrive fitted  
Concession licence can be transferred  
to any club member

Contact: Mike Smith 0427 476 854  
[mjsprecision@hotmail.com](mailto:mjsprecision@hotmail.com)

### **MGA 1959 Left hand drive - \$7,000**

British Racing Green, spare motor

*For further information contact:*  
Brian Hanks 0405 334 568



### **1967 MGB - \$17,000**

Fully restored, overdrive

*For further information contact:*  
Les Power 0408 907 433  
(08) 9331 2460

### **1955 MGA 1600 - \$28,500**

Totally restored

Contact: David Russell 0416 377 157  
[davidrussell@iinet.net.au](mailto:davidrussell@iinet.net.au)



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### **Wanted - Overdrive unit to suit 1968 MGB**

Contact: Mark Rookledge 0417 092 139  
[mtrook@iprimus.com.au](mailto:mtrook@iprimus.com.au)

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