

May 2022

SPRITE ON

The newsletter of the
Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc



Brutus is ready to rock!! Well done Keith

The Sprite Car Club of Queensland Inc is open to and welcomes owners & drivers of all vehicles. Our marque is Austin Healey Sprites, MG Midgets and all of their derivatives.

Club Information

Website

<https://www.spritecarclub.com/> Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1737942263157816/>

Correspondence

All correspondence is to be address to The Secretary: By mail:
Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc,
PO Box 252,
Salisbury, Qld, 4107
By email: secretarysccq@yahoo.com.au

Meetings

Club Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at The Mustang Rooms, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside.
The formal meeting starts at 8pm but you are welcome to arrive anytime after 7pm for a sausage sizzle and a chat.
Sausage sizzle and refreshments are available subject to the Covid safe plan. Contact the President for more details.

Membership

Joining Fee:

New members pay a joining fee of \$100.00 paid pro rata depending on the date of joining. This fee includes the joining fee, annual membership fee for all family members residing at the same address up to May, and 2 name badges.

Types of membership -

Full membership is for current owners of Sprites &/or Midgets.

Associate membership is for all others.

Annual membership:

Continuing members pay an annual membership fee which is currently \$72.00 and is payable in May of each year. This fee includes all family members who reside at the same address.

Club Banking

Details for direct deposits for membership fees, payments for events, purchase of regalia, etc: BSB: 034 002

Account Number: 613033

Account name: Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc

NOTE: Please use your surname, initial and reason for payment as the reference when making a payment.

Advertising

Members may place "For Sale" or "Wanted" ads in the Classifieds section at no charge. Classified ads will be removed automatically after a 3-month period, unless the editor is notified to either delete or extend the advertising period. Ads should be emailed to the newsletter editor. Contact the newsletter editor for further information.

For paid commercial advertising please contact the Treasurer.

Newsletter contributions

The cut-off date for contributions for the next newsletter is the 6th of each month but check with the editor for late inclusion possibilities.

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PLEASE NOTE:

The committee are having some problems with the club yahoo email accounts. If you send an email to any of these accounts please contact the member and tell them so they can confirm receipt. - Ed

PRESIDENT

Mark Gillman presidentsccq@yahoo.com.au Mobile: 0411 053 861
Personal email: markgillman@optusnet.com.au



VICE PRESIDENT

Miles Griffiths
Club email: membershipsccq@yahoo.com.au Mobile: 0488 218 848



TREASURER

Matt Creagh
Club email: treasurer SCCQ@yahoo.com.au Home phone: 3899 9804



SECRETARY

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Club email: secretary SCCQ@yahoo.com.au Mobile: 0418 887 199



Club Captain

Gary Hawkins
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Email: membershipscca@yahoo.com.au Mobile: 0432483228 Keith - 0412658415 Karen



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Facebook and Email Manager

Vacant

Gold Coast Chapter Representative

Gary Stevens
Email: gsls65@hotmail.com Ph: 5575 9934



Catering

Sunshine Coast Chapter Representative

Chris Thwaites Mobile: 0403 426 233
Personal email: cuthwa@bigpond.com



President's Report

Hello Sprite Car Club Members,

What a great month we have had in April with The Sprite Car Club of QLD. We had good numbers attend the North Coast and Gold Coast Chapter Meetings - it would be great if we could get more numbers like this for the general meetings in Brisbane. David Chapman and myself had a great turnout of 17 members at the club navigational run that was held on Sunday 24th. I am looking forward to another great month coming up in May.

The May general meeting will have guest speaker and club member Mike Millard come along to do a presentation about The Shitbox Rally he is doing with his son Nick. The committee has decided that we will be having FREE PIZZA on the night for all members that attend, we have also decided that all money raised on the night from the clubs raffles will be donated to Mike & Nick, any members attending on the night are free to make additional donations if they wish.

The May general meeting will also be the night when members will vote on two possible changes to the club's current constitution. The first change being voted on will be that the top four senior positions in the club can be held for a total of 7 years increased from 3 years. The second vote will be for new members applying to join the club - the approval process can be sent out to committee members by email or social media not just email.

The month of May is also that time of year when membership fees are due, membership manager Keith Gordon will be present on the night to collect payment from members, eftpos will be available as well. All members are also free to pay by direct deposit if they choose.

May also brings one of the biggest events on the clubs calendar - SPRITE EXPO. This year we are heading back to Pelican Park at Clontarf Redcliffe. I am hoping to see as many members as possible bring their Sprites and Midgets along for a great day out with fellow club members. The committee will be looking for volunteers on the day to help out, if any members would like to help, please let myself or any committee members know. There will be a club sausage sizzle and morning tea available, There will also be a coffee van, plus many raffle prizes will be drawn on the day. The Southside Morris Minor Car Club, The Austin Healey Owners Club and QLD Mini Owners Club plus other British cars will be joining our club on the day. The club committee and myself are looking forward to making this a successful event for our club.

Thanks

Mark Gillman

Club President



Observation Run - 24th April

I woke up this morning thinking what a terrible day for a car club run with so much rain around - how wrong I was. From 8.30am club members started to arrive at the meeting point. There was two MK1 Sprites and one Austin Healey together with a few tin tops. We had a total of 18 members ready for a great morning out. Most members kicked off the morning with a coffee and with a quick drivers briefing we started the cars one by one approximately 2 minutes apart.

The first car arrived back 2.5 hours after starting with most finishing around the 3 hour mark back at Cafe 63 Underwood. Run papers all handed in by teams were marked and after a yummy lunch, first prize was awarded to Gary and Bronwyn and last prize was awarded to David and Deb. Every member that came on the day had a great time. Today proved that just because the weather looks bad does not mean it still won't be a great day out for a Sprite Car Club Run. Thanks again for all members that attended on the day.

Thanks David and Mark





MG Nationals 2022

Held at Lake Macquarie, NSW over Easter. I attended and these are the Midgets that were at the Concours.

Editor



Sunshine Coast Report

Sunny Coast Dinner report: We met at the refurbished Glasshouse Mountains pub on the 12th April. There were 14 people in attendance. The pub is looking great now, very fresh and open. The food was great, everyone was happy with the meals. We will certainly keep this venue on our list.

Next meeting: Burpengary Tavern, Tues 17th, 6pm.
See you there,

Chris

Gold Coast Report

Our monthly meeting for April was held at the Gem Hotel , Alberton, just up the road from the Yatala Drive Inn. Come on, you all remember Drive Inn's!! (maybe not our youngest member Sephora).

Thirteen brave souls made it to the venue on what must have been the coolest night since last October. It was probably still 20 C but a pleasant change as we move towards winter. El Presidente a gave all of us instructions on being on time for his Sunday run starting at Underwood.

It was great to see Nev Mansfield and Mike Ovens come all the way from Brisbane. Our next meeting is at The Boathouse Tavern, Coomera.

Gary Stevens.



Ready for a makeover -Keith G

NEW Summer Shirts

With the hot Queensland Sun and the importance of Sun Protection, we have added some Long Sleeved Shirts to our Regalia Collection.

These shirts have UPF 30 sun protection. The Polo shirts are the same as the Life Guards wear.

The Mens and Ladies button up shirts can be ordered individually, but the Polo shirts, I need an order of at least 5.

If you would like a shirt, please contact me on 0412 658 415.

If you want the sizing measurements please contact me.

All shirts will have our Sprite Car Club Logo embroidered on them.

Karen

Polo
Shirt

\$45



Button
Up
Shirt
\$85



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MARK: 0411 053 861

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SPRITE • MIDGET • MORRIS • AUSTIN

2022 Club Runs

So far we have the following run dates penciled in.

WEEKEND RUNS

Sunday 29th May (Sprite Expo)
Sunday 12th June (Gary Hawkins Run)
Sunday 3rd July (Michael Dix's Run)
Remainder of year has not be settled yet.

Of course, all are subject to confirmation closer to the dates, but hopefully that is enough to help members make plans.

MIDWEEK RUNS (Mike Millard)

Thursday 28th April
Thursday 26th May
Thursday 23rd June
Thursday 28th July
Thursday 25th August
Thursday 22nd September
Thursday 27th October

Sunday SCCQ Xmas Party
4th December

THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES AND REPORTS
IS THE **SIXTH** OF THE MONTH SO THE
NEWSLETTER IS OUT BEFORE THE NEXT
COMMITTEE MEETING - WITH THE MINUTES
FROM THE LAST MEETING INCLUDED



Classic Car Clinic

Service. Restoration. Sales



CLASSIC CAR CLINIC IS NOW OPEN

Classic Car Clinic is now open with all new facilities more space and of course our continued affection for all things classic Sprite. You'll be welcomed by some new faces and familiar ones too.

Should it help in getting back from the new location, courtesy transport can be provided and we can also offer a pick-up service for your car too. We continue to operate during these times and we welcome your business and support. Please like us on Facebook and keep an eye on our feed for updates and invites to future events. Call us or email to make a booking and we look forward to seeing you and your car here soon.

37 Lemana Lane, Burleigh Heads, 4220
Our new phone number is 5659 1455
info@classiccarclinic.com.au





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A compact workshop where you and your car get personal attention

Fast, friendly, efficient service from the only supplier open 7am to 7pm, 7 days per week

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• We also service instruments from to-day vehicles

Regalia



Men's Maroon Polo Shirt
(Small to 5 XL)
Ladies' maroon polo shirt:
(8 to 18) **\$35**



Dress Shirt
(Special Order Only)
\$50 approx



Car Flag \$20



Cap (Two Styles)
\$25



Sticker \$4



Key Ring \$15



Old Style Grill Badge
\$35



\$4

Flat Caps
\$20



Button Badge



Cloth Badges
(Black or White)
\$10

Also Available -
LARGE NUMBER PLATE
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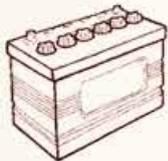
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for over 60 years

Sprite & Midget Catalogue Online Now

*50% of our catalogue is currently available online,
with a planned completion date of June '22*



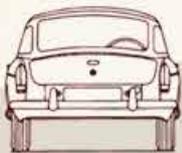
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APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting: Sprite Car Club of Qld
Mustang Club Room – Jean Howie Drive
Date: 8th April 2022
Chairperson: Mark Gillman
Minute Taker: David Chapman
Present: As per Attendance Book – 11 total members attended
Apologies: Miles, Carole, Rod C, Les Dalliger.
Next Meeting Date: 13th May 2022

Minutes of Last Meeting

No matters arising. Minutes for February meeting accepted by Karen.

President's Report

Mark welcomed everyone.

Mark spoke under general business. Mark G

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer detailed the financial status of the club to everyone who attended the meeting. This included income and expenses for the month and balances of the General account, Challenge account, Term Deposit account and Petty Cash.

If anyone requires any information regarding the club's financial position, please contact the treasurer.

Treasurer's report accepted by Karen and Keith. Matt C

Secretary's Report

Mail received March:-

2 x Bank Statements

1 x Goblin magazine

1 x Healy Torque magazine

1 x Morris Minor Club magazine

1 x email from Mike Dwyer.

1 x email from the Historical Club David C

Sunshine Coast Chapter

The members attended the meeting at the Bribie Island Surf Club. Very good meal. Cheaper price if you join the club. Approx 10 people attended. Next meeting at the Glasshouse Mountain Tavern on Tuesday 12th April.

Gold Coast Chapter

Members met at the Dog and Parrot. No numbers recorded. Next meeting 21st April at Gem Hotel.

Club Captain Report

Mid-Week Run Report Gary did not attend the meeting so no news reported.

Mark and David doing a navigation run on 24th April. Gary H

Membership

Keith reported 110 members. Deb Mitchell to stay on as an associate member. Membership fees the coming year due on 20th May. Keith to also follow up at Sprite Expo. Karen & Keith G.

Web / Forum

Current website proceeding well. Latest events are on the website. Website still in test phase. Mike has admin logon code and is fine tuning the site. The reason we hadn't had a bill for hosting as it was sent to the NSW Sprite Club instead of ours. The account has now be bought up to date. Mike D

Newsletter

Carole has sent out the latest newsletter. As always if there is anything to add to the newsletter please contact Carole. Carole C

GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business

Regalia:

Karen has sorted out all the items in regalia. Anything in stock will be offered at a sale price at the next general meeting in May and at the Sprite Expo in May.

Run:

Run on 24th April. This is going to be exciting. The cars will be sent off one minute apart. Bring a clipboard and pen. Cars will be heading down to Logan, Mt Cotton, Carbrook and coming by Mackenzie and Wishart. There will be prizes for various categories.

Sprite Expo:

Coming at the end of May at Pelican Park Clontarf. Mark G. said we are looking for donations for raffle prizes and volunteers to help on the day. Please advise Mark as soon as you can. Mark said if anyone can find sponsors to give us some giveaway goodie bags for the expo that would be fantastic.

Guest Speaker:

Mike Millard will attend the meeting to talk about his Sh#tbox Rally in June. All raffle proceeds at the May meeting will be donated to Mike. Mike will be taking his Sh#tbox car to the Expo.

Mark Gillman advised the meeting that we will be voting to change the Constitution in 2 areas at the May meeting. The Secretary to send the details by email.

Mark G approached by Repco Max at Logan to have a pop-up display of Sprites on a Saturday morning somewhere either in June or July this year. There is a food and coffee vendor there. A vote was taken at the meeting and 8 members volunteered to participate at this car show.

Mark G

Facebook/Emails Mark G advised that Scott Counsell resigned from the position of Facebook/Email. The club needs a new person in this position. Please advise Mark if you would like to take this opportunity up. Mark has volunteered to look after this position in the meantime. Scott C

Raffle Drawn

First prize: Karen

Second prize: Michael D

Third prize: Neville M

Fourth prize: David C

Meeting Closed 8.25 pm

"I have sighted this document and believe it is a true and accurate record of the meeting".

Signed:



It's Membership renewal time again.

Due date is 20th May, \$72
I will be at Sprite Expo to take Cash payments, EFTPOS will be available.
Thank you to the members who have already paid the fees early.

Direct Deposit details are
BSB.034002
A/C 613033
Cheques made out to Sprite Car Club of Qld.
Address to
The Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc. PO. Box 252, Salisbury, QLD, 4107

SPRITE EXPO. SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2022
LOCATION IS PELICAN PARK CLONTARF
Keith & Karen Gordon
Sprite Car Club of Qld
Membership Managers

Email: membershipsccq@yahoo.com.au

Mobile: Keith 0432483228

Cars & Coffee Events - held monthly.

View or bring your own muscle, classic, vintage, exotic, historic, rare and/or race cars and bikes. It is a great opportunity for like-minded enthusiasts to meet and enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and talk about all things motoring related. All types of cars and bikes are encouraged and welcome to join these family orientated events.

BRISBANE

Coorparoo: 1st Saturday of each month, from 7:30am, Samios Foods, 37 Turbo Drive Coorparoo
Taigum: 3rd Saturday of each month, from 6:30am, Taigum Square, 217 Beams Rd, Taigum. <https://www.carsandcoffeebrisbane.com/>

BRISBANE NORTH & NORTH WEST

North Lakes: 3rd Saturday of each month, 7-9am 21 Torres Cres North Lakes <https://motoring-diary.com.au/event/cars-and-coffee-north-lakes/>

Samford: 2nd Sunday of each month, from 7:30am, Shop 14, 19 Main Street, Samford Village
<https://www.bgsclassiccars.com.au/carsandcoffee>

SUNSHINE COAST

Coolum: 1st Saturday of each month, 7-10am at the German Bakehouse, 54 Junction Rd, Coolum Beach. (Also open next door for a \$5 entry fee is the private car collection of Frank Carroll and the Sir Henry Royce Foundation.) <https://www.facebook.com/carsandcoffeesunshinecoast/> <https://www.facebook.com/germanbakehousecoolumcafe/>

GOLD COAST

Currumbin: 1st Sunday of each month, 8-11am, 639 Currumbin Creek Rd, Currumbin <https://cartorque.co/car-shows/cars-and-coffee-currumbin-valley-qld-3535>

Ormeau: Last Saturday of the Month 8-10am Lahrs Road. All British Car Club

NORTHERN NSW

Byron Bay: 2nd Sunday of each month, 8:30-11:30, The Farm at Byron Bay, 11 Ewingsdale Rd, Ewingsdale (approx. 5 minutes drive from Byron Bay). There is a \$2 donation per car to cover costs. <http://byronbayspeedshop.com/cars-and-coffee-byron-bay/>

NOTE: Always check with the Club Website and/or Facebook page for any last-minute changes to the events or any new events which may not be included here. COVID 19 may have affected these events



What a waste!

Sprite Expo - 29th May 2022

Pelican Park, Clontarf



Come along to our annual Sprite Expo and display your cars

\$5 entry per show car.

Pay your membership on the day.

Huge Regalia sale on current stock

Eftpos available

Sausage sizzle, Raffles, Coffee Van, Trophies



AUSTIN SPRITE MARK IV

Back on the road for first time since 2004

If you look at the photo of this handsome Young Fellow on his first week of ownership in 2004 it is easy to believe that the Austin Sprite has been off-the-road for just short of 18 years!

I first met this car almost twenty years earlier than that when I popped over to Carl Stecher's home on a Saturday morning to pick up a "widget" of some description, and finished up fitting its Rear Telescopic Shock Absorber Conversion (it still has it!) on Carl's behalf....my then Wife and Mother-Of-My-Children "Lorette", probably justifiably, gave me the rounds-of-the-kitchen but we did not have Mobile Phones to let people know where we were in those days! The photo of the Midnight Blue Austin Sprite and the shorts of the Sprite and Ferrari owners at a Motorkhana at the Rocklea Showgrounds also attest to that era.



Eventually I learned that the Car was in fact an AUSTIN SPRITE....one of only 1022 made between January and July of 1971, after Leyland took over BMC and ceased paying the Royalty to the Healey Family... "Merry Christmas, Mr Healey!". From the end of July on, the "Sprite" name was dropped completely and the model continued only as an MG Midget. Of the eight known in Australia, Queensland has four of them, two in NSW of which Colin Dodds of "Sprite Parts" is one and a Red one that was recently offered for sale, and one each in Vic and WA.

The Car found me thrice in subsequent years:- It was Advertised in "Cars For Sale" in the Saturday "Courier Mail" at a ridiculous price, and then whilst on a subsequent Saturday morning cycle along Coronation Drive I left a Note on it in a parking space, with my fellow M.A.M.I.L's impatiently bleating as if we were on the final leg of the Tour de France!! Some time later I received a phone call because the Owner's Father heard that I had something to do with Buying and Selling Sprites!! About a week after I acquired my dream car, the Gearbox went "BANG", taking out the Clutch as well! I had said to the Seller that I did not like the sound of First Gear but he said "my daughter's boyfriend is a mechanic at the local garage and he rebuilt it!"I should have listened to the hairs creeping up on the back of my neck! (Wrong Cluster Gear!!).

The Engine/Gearbox came out, and the Gearbox went off to John Needham's "Old Car Garage" in Victoria.

I morphed from being a career “Merchant Wanker” to Spridget restorer, and “Frog Pond” #1” of Milton morphed to “Frog Pond” #2 at Mitchelton. A lot of great people gave me a hand over the years inc Nev/Troy Mansfield, Peter Dix, my Bro David, Graham Heath, Andrew Keepence, Andy Whitlock, Johnny Ray, Cas Michelek, Keven Duddy etc.....(even the then opposition:- Mark Boldry!). We were busy doing Restos but the Mark IV sat in the back of The Shed....however, I did manage to respray the black (why do people do that!!!!) Engine Bay with Midnight Blue while Andy was staying over (I think he was panel beating/spraying the ex-Oliver Benson/then Greg Runnegar “Old English White” Sprite Mark I?). The back-handed compliment was:- “I’m glad after my 30 years of spray painting that YOU got at least one Run!!”



The dream came to an end when my lovely Jen tired of me surviving on the Income of a Sprite Restorer (Me too!), and “The Frog Pond” (currently “The Frog Puddle” BUT still specialising in New Parts!!) had to relocate/downsize in a hurry! Sprite Car Club of Qld people too numerous to mention gave me a hand, but in particular and more pertinent to this long winded story, Wayne Reid.

Wayne grabbed my Car Trailer and the boxes of Mark IV Parts and took them to his Shed for safe-keeping.

That was 3 years ago! Somewhere during that period, Wayne (up to that point the “Minister-For-Everything” at Volvo Trucks) got a bit bored at night.

Thank You insomnia!!!

I started receiving Photos of the Mark IV inverted on a Rotisserie with its bottom getting painted.

In due course, photos arrived of refurbished Rear Ends, Front Ends, Brakes, Exhaust Systems, Ros-tyle Wheels, etc and eventually of the Car back on



its Wheels. Then came the Engine/Gearbox, Interior, etc,etc...including the crowning achievement which was the concealed Power Booster!



Some of the time I was domiciled out of his hair at my Daughter’s on the Gold Coast, but eventually when I returned to Brisbane (Fairfield “Lakes”...Ha! Ha!), he had to let me lend a hand!!

Most of you would be familiar with “Wheeler Dealers” TV Show (let’s face it, there is bugg...er, very little...else on Free-To-Air TV unless you are sucked into the “M.A.F.S.”

vortex). One of the Presenters is Edd China (subsequently replaced with the very similar “Ant” in the USA) who is a very industrious, hardworking, accomplished mechanic and engineer who does all the work, and the other is the one who sources the Parts and does all the talking, MIKE Brewer.....and no, Wayne doesn't even let me make the Tea!

ANYHOW, on Tuesday 15 March 2022 the 1971 Austin Sprite Mark IV was RE-REGISTERED!

The “sea trials” were let down by the Regulator (now fixed by Gary “Don't call me with your Classic pieces of er...POO...this is like being an Apprentice again” Yeo).

Registration Number “AAN 10” (that's also its Car Number Prefix) is now performing brilliantly!! A real pleasure is its genuine “British Motor Corporation” AM Radio in a genuine Centre Console sounding great on Radio Station 4BH with 60's/70's/80's music!



We hope to debut the Car at a Sprite Car Club of Qld Run very soon!

KEEP SPRIDGETING,

Mike Ovens
“The Frog Pond”
Mob 0409 342 423

FOOTNOTE -

The man who sold me the Austin Sprite on behalf of his Daughter was David Holloway, who was born and bred in New Zealand.

David was a Race Car Mechanic in NZ (Not surprisingly, including for Bruce McLaren) during the Tasman Series of races of which four were held in NZ and four in Australia during the Formula One “Off Season” each year.

Traditionally on the “Sunday Off” between one of the NZ races, the Driver's would gather at his Mum's house for a good old Sunday Lunch.

His Mum kept a Visitor's Book; one day David said to her:- “You know Mum, you have the Autographs of Ten World Champions in here!”

And she said, “No, Son, there are Eleven...Damon Hill when a young boy came with his Dad Graham, and HE signed the Book!!”

Keep Spridgeting - Mike Ovens.