

# July 2022

## **SPRITE ON**

### The newsletter of the Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc



All rugged up at New Farm Park for the Fish & Chips Run

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](mailto: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:  
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Personal email: markgillman@optusnet.com.au



**VICE PRESIDENT**

Miles Griffiths  
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**TREASURER**

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**SECRETARY**

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**Club Captain**

Gary Hawkins  
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**Facebook and Email Manager**

Vacant

**Gold Coast Chapter Representative**

Gary Stevens  
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Ph: 5575 9934



**Catering**

**Sunshine Coast Chapter Representative**

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



# President's Report

Hello Members,

I can't believe we are in July all ready. I have been away for the last couple of weeks on holidays with Jeanette and Sephora, we had fantastic weather, it could have lasted just a couple of days more so we could have our yearly Sprite Expo together with The Austin Healey Owners Club at Carindale. I have spoken with the president and event organiser of The Austin Healey Owners Club and the event has been rescheduled for Sunday 14th August. Let's all hope it's third time lucky for our club.

Coming up on Saturday 16th July - yes that is correct, Saturday, The QLD Mini Car Club are holding their annual show and shine at 1376 Old Cleveland Rd, Carindale for a combined event with our club and The Southside Morris Minor Car Club. This has also been a excellent day and is always well attended by members of our club, please show your support as The QLD Mini Car Club have always supported our club in the past. There will be breakfast and lunch available to buy on the day and free morning tea and coffee available as well, there will also be trophies for best Sprite on the day voted by people's choice.

At the June general meeting we had a total of 22 full members come along and we were able to proceed with holding a vote to change the club's current constitution. 16 members voted for the changes and they have now been passed. Thank you to all the members that took the time to come along on the night and support these changes to The Sprite Car Club.

This month's North Coast Chapter Meeting will be held at the Bribie Island Surf Club Woorim - 12th July. The Gold Coast Chapter Meeting will be at The Gem Hotel - 14th July. All club members are invited to attend.

If there are any members that would like to organise a run or event please let Gary Hawkins know, he will be able to let you know what month's & dates are available.

It is also getting close to that time of year when we have our club AGM, if anyone is considering a committee position for 2022-2023 - all committee positions will be up for nomination at the October General meeting/AGM. New committee members with new ideas for the club are always needed. In the next month the committee will be looking at organising a Christmas lunch venue for this year's club Christmas party. We are currently looking at The Hamilton Hotel, an update will be sent out to all members once a decision has been made.

I look forward to catching up with members at our next club meeting or club event.

Thanks

**Mark Gillman**  
**Club President**



## River to Bay Fish & Chip Run - Sunday 12th June 2022

On a blustery morning we all assembled at New Farm Park as planned. With 3 Sprites, 1 Midget and various other marques, we had a sizable group, with a total of 13 club members joining the run.

As the Coffee shops at the park were very busy, we decided on a stop at Moora Park, Shorncliffe to get our caffeine fix. En-route to Shorncliffe I managed to avoid the Gateway Bridge (pleasing those that were on my previous run), and we joined the queue for coffee and cake (of course). It seemed that many others had the same idea, and it was a little disappointing to find that "Preece's" renowned Vanilla slices had sold out (we were told that we needed to be there before 8.30am to have any hope). Still there were other delights on offer which sustained us whilst we tried to find a nice spot out of the wind.

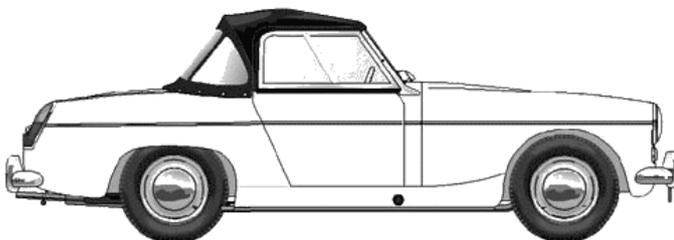
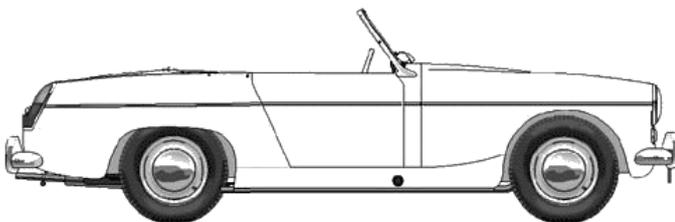
Following the coffee stop we headed along the waterfront towards Scarborough in search of a parking spot and a Fish & Chip shop. There was an abundance of Fish and Chip shops, but parking was impossible along the Scarborough waterfront, so we decided to head out to Sea Salt and Vine, where parking was available and we were able to secure a picnic spot to enjoy our Fish & Chips along with some great conversation and banter.

With the wind seemingly getting stronger and the cold setting in, we all set off for home from Scarborough, with everyone making in home safely with no breakdowns to report.

Thanks to all who supported the run, great to see so many in attendance despite the chilly weather. Look forward to seeing even better numbers for Michael Dix's run in August (details coming soon).

**Gary.**





## Sunshine Coast Report

The Sunny Coast dinner meeting was held on June 14th at the Big Fish Tavern, Caboolture. There were 11 members in attendance and we had a lovely meal and chat. Those members present demonstrated a poor knowledge of music trivia on the night, maybe it was because the beer was good and they haven't been doing the requisite amount of study. Oh well, try again next time. The choccies still went down well. Our next dinner meeting is to be at the Bribie Island Surf Club on July 12th, see you there.

**Chris**

## Gold Coast Report

Our June dinner was held on Thursday the 16th at one of our favourite venues, Hope Island Tavern, Hope Island.

Numbers were down for this month as the usual suspects that did not attend were probably at home fudging the figures for their tax return due at the end of the month!!

Those that attended were:

Sandra and Bruce Roberts

Dave Hibbert and daughter Rebekah

The Family Gillman

Deb Mitchell

Carole Cooke

and my wife Lindsey.

Next months meeting is at the Gem Hotel, Alberton

**Gary Stevens.**



## 2022 Club Runs

So far we have the following run dates penciled in.

### JULY.

8th General Meeting.

12th North Coast Chapter Meet  
(Bribie Island Surf Club at Woorim).

14th Gold Coast Chapter Meet.  
(The Gem Hotel)

16th QLD Mini Car Club Show & Shine  
Carindale.

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

### AUGUST.

12th General Meeting.

14th SPRITE EXPO

16th North Coast Chapter Meet.

18th Gold Coast Chapter Meet.

Sunday SCCQ Christmas Party  
4th December

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

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

Gary Hawkins (2022 Club Captain)

Tel: 0435 767365

email: gihawkins@bigpond.com



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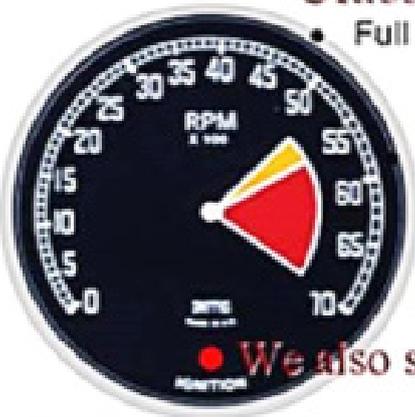


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### CLASSIC CAR CLINIC IS NOW OPEN

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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](mailto:info@classiccarclinic.com.au)

# REGALIA

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NAVY



BLACK



GREEN



SAND



STONE

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KAREN

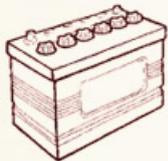
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## Sprite & Midget Catalogue Online Now

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



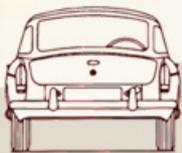
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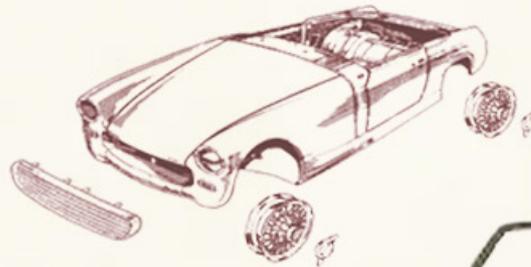
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# Mike Dwyer's England Trip

We went to England for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, and to visit family. Unfortunately, Mrs Sprite came down with the virus 2 days after arrival, and we had to re-arrange some planned visits, etc.

Did you manage to see the Jubilee Grand Parade, with all the Morris Minors in it? No Spridgets though.

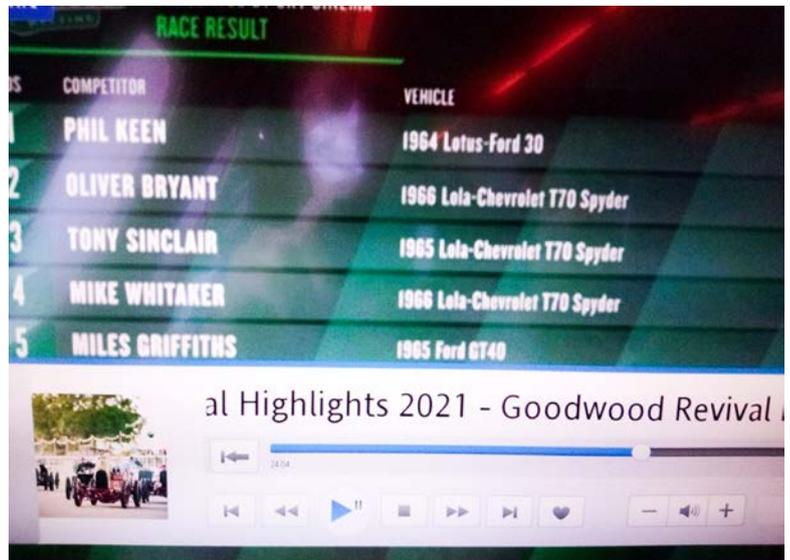
I went to a swap meet, the only thing worthwhile I saw was a late Midget gearbox (with reverse light switch and cable). The asking price was 185 pounds (about \$370). I asked for the seller's phone number which he gave me but when I phoned him later, the number was invalid.

I had intended to travel and meet up with Mark Boldry, but because of the re-arrangements, I phoned him instead. He said to say hello to all members, and inquired about what we had planned.

The weather was pretty good, warm, sunny and dry, the opposite of what Brisbane had been experiencing. There were a few classic car meetings but none near where we were staying. I did see 3 or 4 Morgans, a few Lotus models and an AH3000 on the roads, but no Spridgets.

We then travelled to Goodwood, but not for a car meet. There was a dog show called Goodwoof that Mrs Sprite wanted to attend. I did manage to walk around the hillclimb circuit, and have promised myself to attend one of the official car meets there on the next visit.

I did see a video from one of the 2021 events there. It turns out that our Miles Griffiths may have a secret life as a Ford GT40 driver. Check out this picture. Is this you Miles? And when are you going to bring it to Australia?



The locals there have a reputation of moaning about lots of things. One of the main ones this time was the price of fuel - upwards of 2.20 pounds per litre while I was there. This is about double what we are currently paying here. And guess what, it was mainly the owners of big thirsty SUVs who complained the most, just like here.

The July edition of Classic and Sports Car Magazine had an article about Fuel Crisis Classics, and included a Mk1 Sprite as one of the best trailblazers in this article

This particular car is available on the auction site below, for 22,000 pounds, about \$44,000. Could be a bargain.

<https://classiccarauctions.co.uk/cca032-lot-4848-1958-austin-healey-frogeye-sprite?el=4848&pn=1&pp=100>

Talking of prices, it seems other classic cars are holding up well. The magazine had a report of a 1955 Mercedes Benz 300 SLR (a sister factory car of the one in which Stirling Moss and Dennis Jenkinson won the 1955 Mille Miglia), being sold for EUR135M (about \$205,000,000). There was a S3 Land Rover going for 30,000 pounds (about \$60,000), and numerous AH models for between 50,000 and 110,000 pounds (double these for dollars).

I'll put the magazine on the SCCQ Library, it has some very interesting reading.

*Michael*





# AUSTIN-HEALEY SPRITE Mk1

ALASTAIR CLEMENTS, EDITOR IN CHIEF

**W**ith the exception of the Seven, you could argue that none of the others here would exist without this trailblazer. The original 'Frogeye' set the blueprint for the affordable, frugal, no-frills sports car, and it's no coincidence that the Fiat, Suzuki and Smart all echo its cheeky face.

Austin and Healey became bedfellows in 1952 with the 100, and little brother Sprite followed six years later, blending Austin A35 and Morris Minor mechanicals beneath a sweetly bulbous shape that made a virtue of its simplicity. The biggest irony of the model was that the famous 'eyes' were an afterthought, tacked on when stylist Gerry Coker's preferred pop-ups were abandoned on cost grounds. Yet the result is irresistible, combining with the smiling grille fronting that bulbous, one-piece nose to make it look impossibly cute.

Its purity of purpose continues inside, after you've released the door from the inside and, in my case, worked out how to pour a quart of human into a pint-pot of car. Yet once sitting snugly behind the two-spoke wheel, embraced by the aluminium trim that wraps around the cabin, you soon adopt a relaxed, elbow-on-the-door pose – though I'm not sure



Cheerful 'face' gives the Sprite real personality. Clockwise from above: pop-up lights were dropped on cost grounds; peppy A-series; spartan cabin

how fun it would be for anyone over 5ft 10in with the sticks 'n' screens weather gear in place.

This beautiful early car – identified by its painted 'screen supports' – wears an estimate of £20-25k at CCA's Summer Sale in June. That may seem a lot for such simplicity – no bumpers, no doorhandles, no bootlid – but a glance at the dash reveals what this car is all about. Fronting the vinyl-clad slab is a full complement of dials, including rev counter and oil-pressure gauge: it's small, but this is a proper sports car.

Turn the key, pull the starter and the 948cc A-series – the largest in our group – fires with a gurgle from its twin SUs. The pedalbox is tight, but every control feels beautifully weighted, if never weighty, and the whine of unsynchronised first is soon overtaken by the flatulent rasp of the little tailpipe as you work your way up through the short, slick-shifting four-speed 'box.

The Sprite brilliantly conceals the humble origins of its constituent parts, melding them into an entertaining whole that feels peppy and genuinely sporting without being truly rapid. And if you do want more pace, there were – and still are – endless tuning options for this engine, even without extending it past our 1-litre limit. The steering is fabulously responsive and full of feel, the ride firm but compliant, the handling entertainingly 1950s: you quickly find yourself

testing the limited grip from the skinny rubber that wraps those slender steels as you hang on to the huge steering wheel.

From 42.5bhp – with just 664kg to play with, that 0.5bhp is important – this charmer delivers thrills a supercar won't at twice or three times the speed (and many more times the cost). It quickly starts to dawn that you don't need more power. You don't need more luxury. You don't need more sophistication. Never has going green been so entertaining.

Thanks to Classic Car Auctions, whose sale is on 18 June ([classiccarauctions.co.uk](http://classiccarauctions.co.uk))



Sold/number built 1958-'61/48,987 Engine all-iron, ohv 948cc 'four', twin SUs; 42.5bhp @ 5200rpm; 52lb ft @ 3300rpm Transmission four-speed manual, RWD Weight 1464lb (664kg) 0-60mph 20.5 secs Top speed 83mph Mpg 43 Price new £678 Price now £15-25,000

# JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting: Sprite Car Club of Qld  
Mustang Club Room – Jean Howie Drive Date: 10th June 2022  
Chairperson: Mark Gillman Minute Taker: David Chapman  
Present: As per Attendance Book – 22 full members attended..  
Apologies: Wayne Reid.  
Next Meeting Date: 8th July 2022  
Minutes of Last Meeting Minutes for April meeting accepted by Rod Constable.

## President's Report

Please see under General Business. Mark G

## Treasurer's Report

Matt was away last month and he updated the report for April and he went through the May report also. 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.

It was accepted by Nev and Mike Matt C

## Secretary's Report

Mail received June:-

4 x Bank Statements

1 x returned membership from David Rhodes

1 x Goblin magazine

1 x email from Max Johnson from MG Car Club Qld informing of his resignation from the club.

1 x Jumpers and Jazz in July regarding their forthcoming festival.

1 x Shannon's Auction booklet

3 x Membership cheques received from Gilmore, Gray and Roberts.

## Special Resolution:

A vote was taken to amend the 2 special resolutions, as advised to all members:

With Part A – 16 voted in favour

With Part B – 16 voted in favour

Both resolutions were passed.

The constitution will be amended and will be registered with the Queensland Government.

We have 90 days to lodge and register this. David C

## Sunshine Coast Chapter

Meeting was held at the Burpengary Tavern. It was a very good night with 14 people attending. Next meeting will be on Tues 14th June at The Big Fish Tavern.

## Gold Coast Chapter

A good night was had at the Boathouse Tavern with 14 people plus Sephora. The next meeting will be Thursday 16th June at The Hope Island Tavern.

## Club Captain Report

Mid-Week Run Report Mike had a very good run mid-week. It was a small gathering of 4 cars, Midgets and Sprites which went from Brookfield to Fernvale.

Gary has organised a run on Sunday 12th June from New Farm Park to Scarborough, finishing with some nice fish and chips.

Michael Dix is looking to organise a run, southside, in August.

The All British Day will be held in September and the Sprite Club will pay the entry fee for members cars attending the display.

In October Mark Gillman said he would organise a run.

In November Rod C said he would organise a run on the northside.

In December will be the Christmas Party. Gary H

## Membership

Keith and Karen busy sending out emails to promote membership. So far 109 members. 27 members still to renew. We have had 2 members lost due to various reasons.

We had 1 new member join us, Bob Hall. Karen & Keith G.

Web / Forum Mike D is away overseas. No further news. Mike D

Newsletter Carole doing a sterling job. If you have anything you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Carole. Carole C

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### General Business

#### Sprite Expo: 3rd July 2022

As mentioned in our communication the Expo was cancelled due to the area being water logged. Mark has been approached by the Healey Club to join the Healey exhibition and the Sprite Expo together. Any British car is welcome on the day as expressed by the Healey Club. This is to be held at the Clubhouse facilities at Carindale. There is heaps of room as well as a BBQ and toilets.

Entry for the Sprite Expo is free commencing from 8.00am. We will have raffles and trophies for the different categories of cars.

The Sprite Club will run the raffles and any money made from this will stay with us. The Healey Club will run the BBQ and any money made from this will stay with them.

Volunteers are still required for the day. Please contact Mark if you can help out on the day.

Mark G also informed that the Mini Club is having its event on 16th July and all Sprites as well as the Morris Club are welcome.

### Christmas Party:

Mark G is reviewing the Hamilton Hotel for the Christmas Party. The venue came highly recommended by Karen and Keith. This is a central venue for everyone with heaps of parking. We are looking at Sunday 4th December. Mark G to talk to Deb to see if she would like to organise the party. At the next committee meeting the committee will discuss any subsidies to cover the cost of the party.

### Mike Millard:

Mike Millard has spoken about the Mystery Shibox Rally. Mike was leaving Monday week driving to West Wyalong meeting up with his son then both of them off to Port Lincoln to

compete in the Rally. Mike again thanked the club for its donation. He is hoping to get back in time for the Sprite Expo. If you wish to make further donations, please go to the Mystery Box Rally website and Mike has listed under Father and Son for donations.

Matt C:

Our Treasurer Matt C talked about his trip last month to see his daughter get married 29th April in Munich Germany. He followed this up with a cruise from Istanbul to the Greek Islands, a tour of Gallipoli which he highly recommended to everyone and finishing in Athens. A great trip was had.

Regalia:

Again, Karen has advised the offer of 50% off existing stock will be continued right up to and including at the Expo on 3rd July. Mark G

Facebook/Emails Mark G has been looking after this. It's been good communication by Mark. Rod H has agreed to take on the role going forward.

The members felt that the web page is still important as it is the first place anyone wishing to join the club goes to.

Mark G

Raffle Drawn

First prize: Mike M. – Tool set

Second prize: Rod C – Chocs and bubbly

Third prize: Nev M – Chocs and bubbly

Meeting Closed 8.50 pm

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

Signed:



## 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://motoringdiary.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/german-bakehousecoolumcafe/>

### 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>

### 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