

April May 25

## **SPRITE ON**

The newsletter of the  
Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc



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.



**Neville Mansfield - 20.5.1944 - 19.2.2025**

## 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 82  
Morningside. Qld. 4170  
By email: [secretary@spritecarclub.com](mailto:secretary@spritecarclub.com)

### Meetings

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month 7.30pm, normally at The Mustang Rooms, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside. and other locations as scheduled. Check the calendar for exact dates and locations.

<https://www.spritecarclub.com/about-us/>

### 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 or 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 second month, starting December 2023, but check with the Editor for late inclusion possibilities. **Please send articles in Word**

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**PRESIDENT**

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Club email: [president@spritecarclub.com](mailto:president@spritecarclub.com)

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**Media - Facebook and Email Manager**

Scott Counsell

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**Gold Coast Chapter Representative**

Mark Gillman

Club email: [goldcoast@spritecarclub.com](mailto:goldcoast@spritecarclub.com)

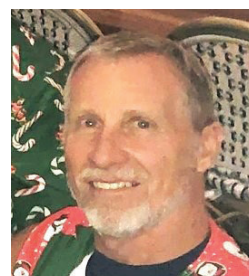
Mobile: 0411 053 861

**Sunshine Coast Chapter Representative**

Gary Hawkins

Club email: [sunshinecoast@spritecarclub.com](mailto:sunshinecoast@spritecarclub.com)

Mobile: 0435 767 365





## President's Report, March 2025.

I hope that everyone is dry and doesn't have property damage after our recent rain event; we're all good here except for a very boggy lawn and driveway. Unfortunately, the rain and flooding meant that I had to postpone our Bribie Island run and garage day, this was annoying, but I didn't want to risk people travelling on flooded roads. Luckily the route is set and ready to go, we will send out the new date soon.

The sausage sizzle prior to the last general meeting went well, there's nothing quite like a sausage and onion on bread, thanks to Mark D for organising and Mark G for cooking. Much appreciated. Eat your heart out Bunnings.

The Committee (particularly Mike) have been working on what is needed on the website, there's a lot happening so keep an eye on it. I really like the events calendar; you can view it by each month or in a list. Have a look under the Events heading. The Committee are also working on role descriptions for all committee positions, this will help people that are thinking of taking up a Committee position in the future.

Don't forget the Sprite Expo is on May 18<sup>th</sup>, in Pelican Park. This is always a good day and a chance to catch up and have a chat to people you haven't seen in a while. The public love it too, we had a lot of people looking and asking questions last year.

As discussed at the last general meeting, we're going to "zoom" the next meeting so you can attend from home if you can't attend in person. This will be our first zoom attempt at a general meeting so you can give feedback after and let us know what you think. We will send out the zoom link and instructions in the week prior to the meeting. It's very easy to set up. Note that we're still having the actual meeting at the Mustang clubrooms so come along if you can.

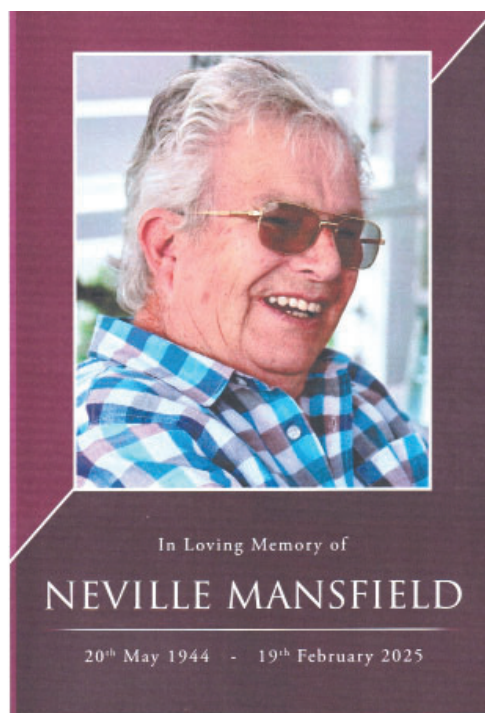
See you soon

**Christine Thwaites**  
**President**



March 4th was the funeral for Neville Mansfield, 11am Lakeview Room, Albany Creek Crematorium.

Many Sprite Club members attended to bid Nev farewell.





# 2026 Sprite & Midget National Challenge

**Murray Bridge, South Australia**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Bulletin 2 - April 2025**

Welcome to Bulletin 2 for the 2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge.

Planning continues to progress for the South Australian based 2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge. With the draft program coming together the National Challenge will follow the format listed below:

<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Welcome Event &amp; Registrations Dinner</b>	<b>Murray Bridge</b>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	AM - <b>Display Day</b> PM - <b>Social Drive to Mount Barker</b> with a <b>Scenic Observation Run</b> to Murray Bridge <b>Dinner</b>	<b>Murray Bridge</b>  <b>Murray Bridge</b>
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Motorkhana – Bitumen</b>  <b>Social Drive</b> - Murray Bridge and Surrounds <b>Dinner</b>	<b>The Bend Motorsport Park</b>  <b>Murray Bridge</b>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Super Sprint</b>  <b>Social Drive</b> - Adelaide Hills and Motoring Museums <b>Presentation Dinner</b>	<b>The Bend Motorsport Park</b>  <b>Murray Bridge</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Farewell Event</b>	Venue - TBA

With 65 Expressions of Interest registered so far, plus about 50% having paid a deposit, the 2026 National Challenge is starting to gain momentum, so these bulletins will keep you updated with the latest developments.

The Accommodation will be at the Bridgeport Motel in Murray Bridge, where there are several room options for guests, plus secure underground parking for vehicles:

- Twin share - single travellers who wish to 'bunk in' with another single traveller.
- Single – for those travellers who would like a room to themselves
- Couples - who get the full room for themselves.

Pricing for the Social and Competition Options, including Accommodation and Meals, etc will be available soon.

For those with a motorsport interest the Marque Sports Car Association SA will be conducting the Peter Hall Memorial 6-Hour Relay Sprint on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026 at the Mallala Motorsport Park for those wishing to stay on and either enter and compete in a Team or help and spectate at this annual event.

<http://www.msCasa.com/>

Or if you wish to stay and enjoy the Adelaide Hills and all it can offer here is a guide from the RAA that might give you some ideas of places to visit, taste and enjoy.

<https://raa.foleon.com/samove/autumn-2025/adelaide-hills>

Here are some other links that might help stir your interest in the event

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray\\_Bridge,\\_South\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_Bridge,_South_Australia)
- <https://bridgeporthotel.com.au/>
- <https://www.thebend.com.au/>
- <https://strathalbynmotormuseum.com.au/>
- <https://motor.history.sa.gov.au/>
- [https://www.spriteclub.com.au/?page\\_id=12814](https://www.spriteclub.com.au/?page_id=12814)

For more information please contact the organising committee: [2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au](mailto:2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au)

# Calendar of Events 2025

**PLEASE NOTE - SOME RUN EVENTS HAVE AN APPROXIMATE DATE TO SHOW THAT IS BEING ORGANISED FOR THAT MONTH. DETAILS WILL BE UPDATED WHEN INFORMATION IS RECEIVED.**

**ALSO, MOST RUNS NEED TO HAVE NUMBERS CONFIRMED WITH COMPANIES, SO PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND SO ORGANISERS KNOW YOU ARE COMING.**

## APRIL

**11th** Club Meeting Mustang Rooms Jean Howie Drive Morningside 7.30pm, Contact Miles Griffiths for more details Ph 0488 218 848

**15th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Glasshouse Tavern, 10 Reed St, Glass House Mountains 6pm  
Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**16th** Gold Coast Dinner - Shearers Arms Tavern - 23 Peachey Rd, Ormeau, 6.15pm Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

## MAY

**6th (the April run in May)** Meet at 10.00 am in the carpark opposite the Mt Cootha Botanic Gardens on Mt Cootha Road Travel to visit a car collection at Chapel Hill (morning tea) followed by another collection in Brookfield (SCQ member). Lunch at cafe in Brookfield. A relatively short run, but some nice cars and great company! Organiser Mike Millard (mobile 0417 560 255)

**8th** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

### GOLD COAST RUN TBA

**14th** Gold Coast Dinner - Shearers Arms Tavern Ormeau - 23 Peachey Rd, Ormeau, 6.15pm  
Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

**18th** SPRITE EXPO, Pelican Park Clontarf. (near Information Center, close to toilets)

**20th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Burpengary Tavern 262 Bruce Hwy Eastern Service Rd, Burpengary East 6pm Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**22nd (The May run in May)** Details to be finalised, but mark this day in your calendar! Organiser Mike Millard Ph 0417 560 255

**25th** Rain back up date for Sprite Expo

## JUNE.

**5th** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**8th** Chris & Stuart run to Bribie Island Watch for Event details to be posted. for further details ph **Christine Thwaites** on 0403 426 233

**13th** Club Meeting Mustang Rooms, Jean Howie Drive Morningside 7.30pm Contact Miles Griffiths for more details Ph 0488 218 848

**17th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Big Fish Tavern , 459 Pumicestone Rd, Caboolture, 6pm. Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**18th** Gold Coast Dinner - Shearers Arms Tavern - 23 Peachey Rd, Ormeau, 6.15pm Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

## JULY

**3rd** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**15th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Beerwah Hotel, 53 Beerwah Parade, Beerwah. Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**16th** Gold Coast Dinner -Dublin Docks Tavern, Harbourn Town Shopping Centre, Harbour Town Dr, Biggera Waters 6.15pm, Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

**23rd (The June and July run)** Details to be finalised, but mark this day in your calendar! Organiser Mike Millard (mobile 0417 560 255)

**25-27th** Morgan Park Racing, Warwick

## **AUGUST**

**7th** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**8th** Club Meeting Mustang Room, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside 7.30pm Contact Miles Griffiths for more details Ph 0488 218 848

**13th** Gold Coast Dinner -Dublin Docks Tavern, Harbour town Shopping Centre, Harbour Town Dr, Biggera Waters 6.15pm, Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

**15-17th** Weekend away in Hervey Bay. Phone Alex Robertson for more details Ph 0420 858 386

**19th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Beachmere Tavern 2 James Rd, Beachmere, 6pm. Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**22-25th** Leyburn Sprints, **Historic Leyburn Sprints**

**27th** Details to be finalised, but mark this day in your calendar! Organiser Mike Millard Ph Ph 0417 560 255

## **SEPTEMBER**

**4th** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**12-14th** Morgan Park Racing, Warwick

**16th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Bribie Island Surf Club, Bribie Island Surf Life Saving Club, 2 First Ave, Woorim, 6pm Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**17th** Gold Coast Dinner -Dublin Docks Tavern, Harbour town Shopping Centre, Harbour Town Dr, Biggera Waters 6.15pm, Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

**21st** All British Day (**DATE TO BE CONFIRMED**)

**24th** Details to be finalised, but mark this day in your calendar! Organiser Mike Millard Ph Ph 0417 560 255

## **OCTOBER**

**2nd** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**10th** Club Meeting and AGM Mustang Room, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside 7.30pm Contact Miles Griffiths for more details Ph 0488 218 848

**15th** Gold Coast Dinner - Helensvale Tavern, 8 Sir John Overall Dr, Helensvale 6.15pm Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

**21st** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Burpengary Tavern, 262 Bruce Hwy Eastern Service Rd, Burpengary East. 6pm. Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

## **NOVEMBER**

**GOLD COAST RUN TBA**

**6th** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**18th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Glasshouse Tavern, 10 Reed St, Glass House Mountains 6pm Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**19th** Gold Coast Dinner - Helensvale Tavern, 8 Sir John Overall Dr, Helensvale 6.15pm. Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

## **DECEMBER**

**4th** Wide Bay Catch up. details to follow. Ph **Alex Robertson** for further details Ph 0420858386

**7th** Christmas Lunch - Tingalpa Hotel 1563 Wynnum Rd, Tingalpa more details to follow

**9th** Sunshine Coast Dinner - Sundowner Hotel, 8/14 Aerodrome Rd, Caboolture, 6pm, Contact Gary Hawkins for more information Ph 0435 767 365

**10th** Gold Coast Dinner - Helensvale Tavern, 8 Sir John Overall Dr, Helensvale 6.15pm. Contact Mark Gillman for more details ph 0411 053 861

**12th** Club Meeting Mustang Room, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside 7.30pm Contact Miles Griffiths for more details Ph 0488 218





# SPRITE EXPO

18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

PELICAN PARK, CLONTARF.

IN SMALLER AREA NEAR INFORMATION CENTRE, CLOSE  
TO TOILETS

8AM TO 1PM

- ❖ DISPLAY YOUR CAR \$5 ENTRY PER VEHICLE
- ❖ INVITED CLUBS –INCLUDING MORRIS AND MINI  
CARS WILL ALSO BE ON DISPLAY
- ❖ TROPHY PRESENTATION 12.30PM
- ❖ LOTS OF RAFFLES
- ❖ COFFEE VAN ON SITE
- ❖ SAUSAGE SIZZLE & COLD DRINKS



**PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN BOAT TRAILER  
AREA**



## Club Captain's Report

Morning All,

We still have a few months with no runs organised. If you would like to organise a run, please let me know. If you need any help or advice, also let me know.

Dont forget about Sprite Expo, being held on 18th May in the smaller area of Pelican Park closer to the amenities. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Even though Morgan Park Sprints were on the calendar for both February and April, Keith was unable to attend either of these events, so I was unable to write anything about it. All being well, we will be there the last weekend in July, and will do a report for you all.

**Karen Gordon**  
**Club Captain**  
Sprite Car Club of Qld

Ph 0412658415.  
email [captain@spritecarclub.com](mailto:captain@spritecarclub.com)

## Gold Coast Chapter Report

Hello Sprite Car Club Members,

The March Gold Coast Chapter Meeting was held at The Boathouse Tavern, this was the last time at this venue for the 2025 calendar year, for the next three months we will be meeting at The Shearer's Arms Tavern at Ormeau.

The next run/event for the Gold Coast Chapter will be on 25th May. Gary Stevens will be organising a Tweed Valley run with lunch to follow, details will be sent out to members closer to the date. This will be a good opportunity for members to get their cars out for a drive in the cooler months. If there is anyone that net-would like to arrange a Gold Coast run/event please contact me directly so that I can add it to our Gold Coast Club Calendar.

Should any members have any questions or queries regarding the Gold Coast Chapter please contact me on 0411 053 861 or email me at [markgillman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:markgillman@optusnet.com.au). I look forward to catching up with members at the next meeting or social run/event.

**Thanks Mark Gillman**

[markgillman@optusnet.com.au](mailto:markgillman@optusnet.com.au)



## That Mob Up There In The Wide Bay Area!

Well, we changed our meeting days from Tuesdays to Thursdays from April onwards. Supposedly, this suited members better, but someone may well have been nervous about the date of the first Tuesday in April this year! Anyway, the whole crew of 8 turned up on Thursday at Café 63 in Hervey Bay two days later than April Fools' Day for a sumptuous feast from their immense menu.

We discussed upcoming events and decided that we would try to get down to some other chapter get togethers in the near future. Most of us will also be at Sprite Expo next month.

We did some more planning for the Wide Bay Weekend Wander happening in August this year. Initial responses from our members see a likely increase in attendance over last year's successful Club weekend away up here.

We have also invited members of the Wide Bay chapter of the MG Club to be more involved this year, so there will be lots happening at this weekend.

***Cheers from Alex***



## Sunshine Coast Chapter Happenings

The monthly dinner meetings in February (Morayfield Tavern) and March (Bribie Pacific Hotel) were well attended, with good food, excellent conversation and of course plenty of laughs in abundance. The trivia quizzes were hotly contested and Cheryl added a nice surprise in refilling the Cadbury Favourites box with only Turkish Delight. (I wonder what happened to all the chocolates that were substituted)?

Chris & Stuart had a run planned for Sunday the 30th of March, but as seems to be the norm this summer, it had to be postponed to a later date given the ridiculous amount of rain that we have had in the past few weeks.

Our next get together will be the Sunshine Coast Chapter dinner meeting at The Glasshouse Tavern at 6.00pm on Tuesday the 15th April.

Details will be up on Facebook within the few days. Look forward to seeing you there!

***Gary Hawkins***





# For Sale

## Bugeye Sprite '61 Mk2 with M1 front

MUST SELL ASAP!!!

1961 model, 1098 motor with rib-case gearbox, disc brake front. Fibreglass bonnet, new paint, new leather interior, new interior carpet, new canopy. Drive Sound CarPlay device also installed.

Mini-lite mag wheels, British racing green colour.

Car is in excellent condition, turn key car ready to be driven and enjoyed by new owner. Am very negotiable as he's not undercover!

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## Minutes of General Meeting Mustang Club Rooms

<b>Date</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2025	<b>Commenced</b>	7:30pm	<b>Concluded</b>	8:15pm
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair: Christine Thwaites (CT) President</b> Present: Matt Creagh (MC) Treasurer, Mark Derbyshire (MD) Vice-President, Keith Gordon (KG) Membership, Karen Gordon (KKG) Club Captain, Scott Counsel (SC) Media. Apologies: Mike Dwyer (MY) Website, Miles Griffiths (MG) Secretary.				
<b>Members</b>	Carole Cooke, Walter Williams, Leona Counsel, Mark Gillman, Rod Constable, Mike Millard, John Hardy, Paul Gytevay. Apologies: John Godfrey				

Item	Detail	Action
1.	<b>The meeting was opened.</b> Minutes of prior meeting held 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 2024. The minutes were tabled and adopted by Walter Williams, seconded Scott Counsel.	
2.	<b>Actions from previous meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christine sent letter of thanks to Tingalpa Hotel and also requested the date of 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025 for this year's Christmas party.</li> <li>Sprite expo – Karen has booked Pelican Park closest to the toilet block. Date 18<sup>th</sup> May, with a rain date of 25<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>Club calendar – Karen has taken over the club calendar and notified members of this.</li> <li>Miles completed minutes of meeting rapidly and Chris sent these out within 7 days of meeting.</li> <li>Membership – discussion on types of membership continuing.</li> <li>Guest speakers – we will aim for one every second meeting.</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>President's Report.</b> Letters of thanks were delivered by Chris to our prize donors – Bursons, David Chapman and JAS Oceana. The manager of JAS was most surprised, noting that he never usually hears back from clubs that he has donated to. Zoom meetings: we will try a zoom meeting for the April meeting. Stay tuned for more information on how you can join the meeting.	CT to set up zoom meeting in April
4.	<b>Treasurer's report.</b> Matt tabled the report and explained transactions in the prior two months. The report was adopted by Karen Gordon, seconded Carole Cooke	
5.	<b>Secretary's Report.</b> No report as Miles unable to attend meeting.	
6.	<b>Membership Report.</b> Keith noted a new member who accidentally joined the Austin Healey club instead of the Sprite Car Club. An easy mistake to make. It has now been sorted out by Keith. That takes us to 110 members.	
7.	<b>Club Captain Report.</b> Karen noted that the calendar for 2025 is looking good. Still a couple of months without runs. The calendar is on the F/B page under the heading FEATURED. It will be on the website when the update is completed.	Any member that wants to do a run to let Karen know for inclusion on the calendar.
8.	<b>North Coast Report.</b> See newsletter	

9.	<b>Gold Coast Report.</b> Mark G reported that Troy's fish and chip run - had a good run with 28 people attending, a most enjoyable day. As the weather was very poor, most people did not bring Sprites with 2 attending. Mark noted that no email went out about the run, it was on F/B but some people are not on F/B. Scott will now email out all runs as well as them being on F/B	
10.	<b>Media Report:</b> Scott reported updating the email lists of members for emails. He agreed that activities will need to be emailed as well as on F/B.	Scott will ensure that all activities are copied from F/B and emailed out.
11.	<b>Website report.</b> No report as Mike unable to be at meeting. He has informed us that the website is being updated and should be ready for use soon. Stay tuned for more news on this.	
12.	<b>Regalia Report.</b> No significant news.	
13	<b>Newsletter Report.</b> No issues, need more articles so think about telling us what is happening with your car or a run you have attended.	
14	<b>General Business: From Committee.</b>	
14.1	<b>Membership.</b> Limited feedback about types of membership has been received.	Chris to write a short summary of how she feels we can manage membership. Members to discuss and comment on this.
14.2	<b>Club Constitution:</b> Discussed the need for a standard constitution that is just tweaked to our specific needs.	Committee will follow this up. Any member that has an interest please discuss with a committee member.
13	<b>13 General Business: From Floor.</b>	
13.1	<b>Club Meetings.</b> The sausage sizzle was a held prior to this meeting and was a great success. These will be held regularly. Meetings will continue to be second monthly with zoom being trialled for the April meeting.	
13.2	<b>Impromptu runs:</b> Rules for these have been sent out but need to also be easily accessible. They will be on the webpage when update completed.	
13.3	Mark Derbyshire noted that racing is an important part of our club, and although we don't have many members racing at the moment, it is nice to hear how they are going and what is happening in that space.	A racing report in the newsletter would be of interest to members. Chris to ask racers to do a short review of racing events.
13.4	<b>Next General Meeting.</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.</b>	
14	<b>Meeting Closed.</b>	



## Lionel Otto Instruments

124 Evans Rd., P.O. Box 9, Salisbury, 4107

P: 3277 3888 F: 3277 8520

E: [info@ottoinstruments.com.au](mailto:info@ottoinstruments.com.au)



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  - Special senders made to order

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## Classic Car Clinic

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



The Sprite Club is sad to see Classic Car Clinic has closed. We thank you for your support for our Sprites and Midgets over the years



# Regalia



MENS POLO  
SHIRTS \$45 Sizes S – 5XL  
LADIES POLO SHIRTS \$45  
Sizes 8 - 18



UNISEX LONG SLEEVE POLO SHIRTS  
\$45  
SIZES SMALL TO 5XL  
COLORS – BLACK, YELLOW, NAVY,  
RED AND WHITE  
SUN PROTECTION SHIRT – UPF 50

MENS OUTDOOR LONG SLEEVE SHIRT \$85  
SIZE XXS-7XL

LADIES OUTDOOR LONG SLEEVE SHIRT \$85 SIZE 8-24  
AVAILABLE IN GREEN, BLUE, SAND, NAVY AND BLACK  
UPF 50



BUCKET HATS \$25  
SIZES M/L AND L/XL



FLAT CAPS \$28.00



CAPS \$28.00 AVAILABLE IN  
BLACK OR MAROON AND  
GOLD



BEANIES \$15

KEY RINGS \$15



CAR FLAG \$20



GRILLE  
BADGE \$35



CLOTH SEW ON BADGE \$10 AVAILABLE BLACK OR WHITE



50 YEAR GRILLE BADGE  
\$20



50 YEAR  
CLOTH GRILLE BADGE \$15

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE ANY REGALIA,  
PLEASE EMAIL ME AT [regalia@spritecarclub.com](mailto:regalia@spritecarclub.com)**



"The Gordini is the sole surviving member of the works rally team."

Frank, the Membership Secretary of the Austin Healey Sprite Drivers Club expanded on why his club makes an appearance every year.

"It's a bit of exposure [being at the Grand Prix]," Frank said.

"A lot of people like to stop and look at these old cars. Most

people who stop and look have never seen a Sprite before.

"We've had a group of cars on display here for every Grand Prix since 2014. We've even done the presentation lap three times.

"Generally we display our cars at various historic race meetings. Ours is just a social club but we have plenty of members that race. A lot compete in hillclimbs or motorkhanas." ■

Part article about Car Clubs on show at the Australian F1 race at Albert Park, Victoria



Thanks to Mike Dwyer for his contributions to the Newsletter



*Editor's latest jigsaw*

Why do you have to "put your two cents in"... but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going? (taxes?)

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane? I've never seen a sign that says 'Two or more LIVE people needed to use the HOV lane'...



# SPRIDGET

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

With a little care, your MG Midget or Austin Healey Sprite can be kept running reliably through the year. David Lillywhite is your guide to fault-free convertible motoring.

**Y**OU WANT open-top fun? You want easy maintenance? You want budget buying and running costs? You want a Spridget — more correctly known as an Austin Healey Sprite or an MG Midget.

Small size apart, a Spridget is just so practical. It's no problem to run one every day, all through the year (yes, even in the winter), provided you follow a few basic maintenance tips — nothing difficult, and nothing more unusual than a grease gun needed in your toolbox to carry them out. Combine a

regular service following your manual with this article, and your Spridget will last longer, be more reliable and cost you less in the long term.

The range changed significantly in appearance between the launch of the first Spridget, the Mk I Sprite, and the last, the Midget 1500. Mechanically, though, most parts are similar, with the exception of the 1500's Triumph-sourced engine and Morris Marina-derived gearbox. This means we can cover all Spridgets in this article.

### SPRIDGET AT A GLANCE

- Austin Healey Sprite Mk I launched 1958. Nicknamed the 'Frogeye' (or 'Bugeye' in USA) due to headlight pods perched on bonnet. 948cc A-series engine, quarter elliptic rear springs, no boot lid, bolt-on sidescreens.
- Mk II Sprite and near-identical MG Midget Mk I replaced Frogeye mid-1961. More conventional looks, opening boot lid.
- 1098cc engines and disc brakes from October 1962.
- Mk III Sprite and Mk II Midget with wind-up windows and half-elliptic rear springs announced March 1964.
- Mk IV Sprite and Mk III Midget given 1275cc A-series engine, plus fully-folding hood, from October 1966.
- Austin Healey Sprite rebadged as Austin Sprite at end of 1970, then dropped altogether in July 1970.
- Rubber bumper Midget 1500 introduced October 1974, with 1493cc Triumph engine, Marina-derived gearbox, higher ride height and energy-absorbing bumpers.
- Last Midget built December 1979.

**HANDBRAKE:** a common complaint is that there is no adjustment left on the handbrake, despite the rear brakes being adjusted correctly. This is usually down to wear in the clevis pins at various points in the handbrake linkage. They are extremely cheap to replace, but check the parts they swivel in for wear as well.

**WAXSTAT JETS:** late 1500s often suffer from poor idling in heavy traffic, particularly when weather is warm. This is usually due to faulty Waxstat (or Capstat) jets in the SU carburettors, which can be converted to conventional jets. Moss sell conversion kits for £28.20, or you can buy replacement Waxstats.

**INLET MANIFOLD:** another common cause of erratic idling (on all models) is a leaking inlet manifold gasket. Grab the air filters while the engine is running and see if the assembly moves up and down, and listen for idle speed changing.

**VALVEGEAR:** for increased reliability, fit an external rocker oil feed kit to your 1500 engine. It costs £19.40 from Moss, and is easy to fit. At the same time, it's worth retro-fitting valve stem oil seals (part number AEK113 from Heritage suppliers) to reduce oil consumption.

**OIL COOLER:** 1500 engine runs hot in confined engine bay. Counteract this by fitting oil cooler, preferably one with a thermostat. Some kits incorporate an anti-drain back valve, which prevents the oil draining back into the sump overnight and so prevents oil starvation on start-up. Engine will last longer with these parts.

**BREATHER VALVE:** if oil consumption is excessive, there may be a split in inlet manifold-mounted engine breather valve's diaphragm (not all models have this valve). Replace valve.

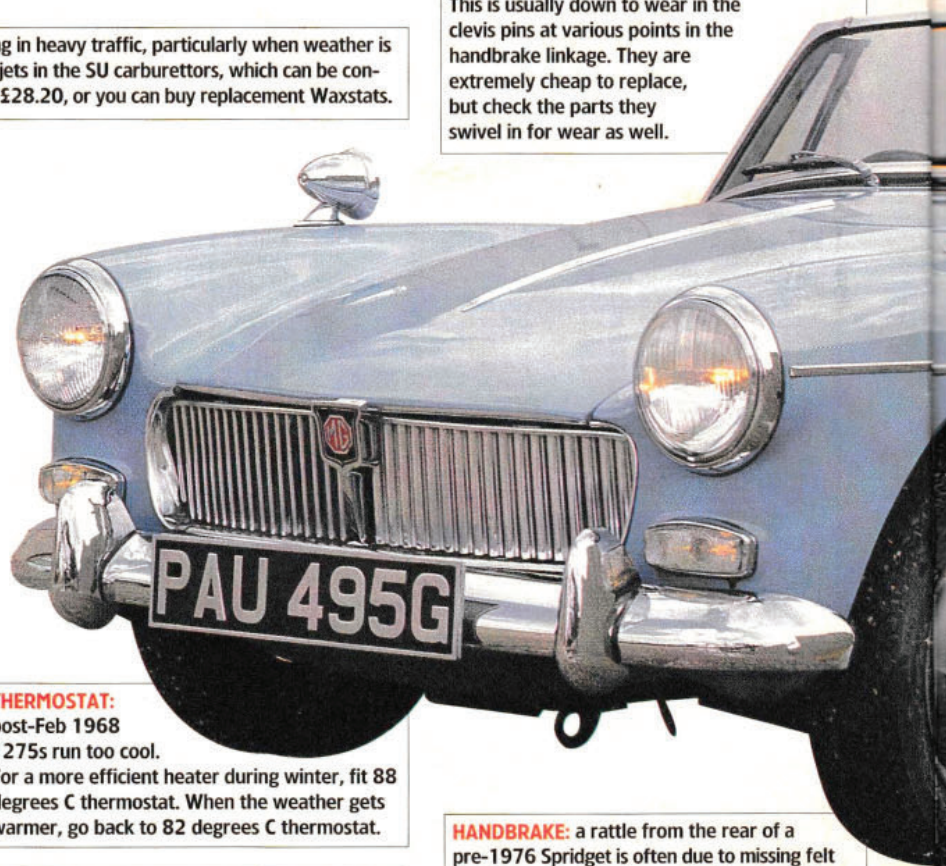
**WHEEL BEARINGS:** front wheel bearings are a bit weak. A sure sign of impending failure is a humming noise from the front. Jack up the car and spin each wheel — the dodgy bearing will feel rough and may have play in it. Replace it.

#### THERMOSTAT:

post-Feb 1968  
1275s run too cool.

For a more efficient heater during winter, fit 88 degrees C thermostat. When the weather gets warmer, go back to 82 degrees C thermostat.

**GEAR SELECTION:** if your A-series engined Spridget is difficult to get into gear, check clevis pins on the clutch slave cylinder and clutch pedal for wear. Check pivot holes for ovality.



**HANDBRAKE:** a rattle from the rear of a pre-1976 Spridget is often due to missing felt washers on handbrake mechanism clevis pins. These are on the rods that run from the centre of the axle to the rear brake hubs. There should be at least two felt washers per joint.



## RUST BUSTER

- Of all the Spridget's rust-prone areas, the front mounting point of the rear leaf springs is the most easily overlooked, and one of the most difficult to repair. Check from under the wheelarch, and inside the car by lifting the floor covering behind rear seats. Keep mount clean and sprayed with rust-proofing wax.
- In rainy weather, consider removing the footwell carpets (if fitted) and making do with rubber mats. There's just no way you will stop a Spridget from leaking some water in heavy rain, and carpets will soak it up and cause rust in the floors.
- However, some water leaks are curable — check the gaskets around the wiper motor wheelboxes, and those that seal the wiper jets to the body — both are a common cause of water in the footwell. If all else fails, remove kickboards in footwells — inner wing may have rusted, allowing water in.
- Front inner wings have a triangulated, double-skinned section that is open to the elements, allowing water and road dirt into the structure. Clear this out regularly.
- Hose out all the common mud traps — inside the front wings around the headlights and indicator/sidelight units, behind the rear wheels, and around the inside of the rear wheelarches.
- Regularly inject rust-proofing wax into the sills and box sections, and also spray the door hinge panels (with the door open) and insides of the wings. Wire-brush these areas first.
- Open boot (except on Frogeye) and spray rust-proofing wax into gap between inner wheelarches and the outer wings, making sure the wax reaches right to the front of the arches. On Frogeye, do this from the boot opening behind the seats.

**WIRE WHEELS:** a sharp knocking noise when accelerating or braking hard on a wire-wheeled car indicates that a wheel spinner is loose, or the wheel-to-hub splines are in need of greasing. Check splines for wear and sharp edges.

**MASTER CYLINDER:** combined brake and clutch master cylinder used on early disc brake models is difficult to find new, but original cylinder can be resleeved by engineering company if faulty.

**HORN:** if horn goes off by itself, particularly when going round a corner, steering rack thrust washers may be worn. Replace or rebuild rack.

**OIL PRESSURE:** pre-Aug 1977 models have an oil pressure gauge — so use it! A-Series engines should give 60psi or more at 3000rpm when engine is hot. 1500s should be 50-55psi at 3000rpm.

**REAR AXLE:** if the car seems to squirm about at the rear when you decelerate and accelerate on a straight road, check the tightness of the U-bolts that attach the axle to the rear springs. Make sure the rubber insulating pads under the axle are in good condition.

**BRAKE ADJUSTERS:** don't try to free off seized drum brake adjusters with spanners, molegrips, etc. Strip the brakes down, remove the brake backplates and place the adjusters in a vice. A bit of penetrating oil and the application of heat will free them off — you'll ruin them any other way, and end up having to buy new adjusters.

## CLUBS

- Austin Healey Club, SAE to Colleen Holmes, Dept PC, 4 Saxby Street, Leicester LE2 0ND.
- MG Car Club, SAE to Kimber House, PO Box 251, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1FF (01235 555552, fax 533755).
- MG Owners Club, SAE to Freepost, Swavesey, Cambs CB4 1BR (01954 231125).
- Midget and Sprite Club, SAE to Nigel Williams, 7 Kings Avenue, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 3JN.

## SPECIALISTS

LISTING every MG specialist in the UK would leave no room for any other information. Instead, we advise you contact the MG Owners Club (01954 231125) for its excellent list of recommended suppliers and dealers, and British Motor Heritage (01865 383510) for details of all Heritage approved companies.

## BOOKS

THERE'S no shortage of Spridget books on the market, which any MG specialist will be able to supply. The books you must have are:

- Official MG workshop manual reprint
- Haynes workshop manual (instead of above)
- Heritage parts catalogue (from any Heritage supplier — see specialists panel)

Also useful are:

- Sprite and Midget 1961-on road test reprints, Brooklands Books
- Austin Healey Sprite 1958-1971 road test reprints, Brooklands Books
- *Practical Classics* on Midget and Sprite Restoration (from 01733 324324)
- Original Sprite and Midget, by Terry Horler
- Sprites & Midgets by Eric Dymock
- Spridgets, by Chris Harvey
- Midget Reborn, by Peter Berkin
- MG Midget & Austin Healey Sprite Restoration, Preparation, Maintenance, by Jim Tyler
- Guide to Purchase & DIY Restoration, MG Midget & Austin Healey Sprite, by Lindsay Porter
- MG Midget & Austin Healey Sprite Service Guide, by Lindsay Porter and Peter Wallage.



## SPECIALIST TOOLS

COIL spring compressors, bearing puller, kingpin reamer (or buy exchange stub axles).

## UNAVAILABLE PARTS

EVEN new bodysells are available: all except the Frogeye come from Heritage specialists, Frogeye from Wheeler & Davis (01455 220689). There are a few minor parts that you can't buy new but there are plenty of secondhand spares about.

However, Graham Paddy from specialists Moss Europe (0181 948 6666) says the parts that are causing them the most difficulty at the moment are the combined master cylinders for early disc brake models and rear brake backplates. Mechanical tachometer drive on early cars is also a problem.



## 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

**Monthly coffee catch is back at Ormeau on the LAST SUNDAY of the month.** Plenty of carparking and a great coffee kiosk right there in the carpark in the middle of it all. The cafe has gone through a complete renovation with plenty of seating and shaded areas.

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