

MG Monthly Motoring News

April 2019



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MG Car Club of Tasmania – MG Monthly Motoring News, April 2019



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Cover Photo: Bruce Keogh and Frank Brooks. MGFs

Inside Front Cover Photos: From Phil Rollins. Selection of cars on the St Patrick's Day Run in the Southern Sub Centre. (Names of owners not supplied)

The views expressed by the correspondents and advertisers do not necessarily represent the views of the Club. Technical tips and the methods suggested are the views of the person submitting them and the Club can accept no responsibility whatsoever for the accuracy of these

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MG CAR CLUB STATE COMMITTEE		
Position	Member (Partner)	Contact Details
President	Mark Dilger (Angela)	(h) 6327 1028 (m) 0408 271 029 president@mgtas.org.au
Immediate Past President	Phillip Tilley (Sophie)	(m) 0418 523 898 past-president@mgtas.org.au
Vice President	Bronwyn Zuber	(h) 6273 6797 (w)6278 5415 (m) 0419 569 156 vice-president@mgtas.org.au
Secretary	Greg Bannon (Margaret)	(m) 0419 389 105 secretary@mgtas.org.au
Treasurer	Robin Wilmot	(m) 0400 193 579 treasurer@mgtas.org.au
Club Captain	Craig Large (Kelli)	club-captain@mgtas.org.au (m) 0408 559 252
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General Member	Don Fraser (Susan)	(h) 6428 3791 (m) 0418 316 451 general-south@mgtas.org.au
General Member	Tony Gurnhill (Cheryl)	(m) 0439 143 990 general-north@mgtas.org.au

NORTHERN SUB CENTRE		
Position	Member (Partner)	Contact Details
Chairman	Phil Paine (Di)	(m) 0419 261 483 northern-chairman@mgtas.org.au
Secretary	Wes Saunders (Jenny)	(m) 0407 511 819 jenny.saunders6@bigpond.com
Treasurer	Mike Paine (Sue)	(m) 0407 271 926 sm_paine@bigpond.net.au
Committee	Andrew Merry (Sue)	(m) 0408 331 612 andrewsuemerry@gmail.com
	Frank Brooks (Margaret)	(m) 0418 134 262 silverglade@bigpond.com
	Col Cleaver (Cathie)	(m) 0419 772 554 cleaver@bigpond.net.au
	John Biggelaar (Geraldine)	(m) 0408 125 199 <u>biggelaar@gmail.com</u>
North West Coordinator	Terry Jeffrey (Colleen)	(m)0417 344 369 <u>northwest-coord@mgtas.org.au</u>
Northern Sub Centre Meeting	Committee meeting and social night: last Wednesday night of the month at 7.30pm VCCA Rooms 67 Lawrence Vale Rd, Launceston	
Postal Address North	PO Box 682, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250	
North West	Meets Second Thursday night of the month: 6.00pm for meal and social evening. Bass & Flinders Motel, Ulverstone	

SOUTHERN SUB CENTRE		
Position	Person (Partner)	Contact Details
Chairman	Chris Wagstaff (Vicki)	(h) 6239 1341 (m) 0438 055 199 southern-chairman@mgtas.org.au
Secretary	Bob Leeson (Dianne)	(h) 6229 6006 (m) 0457 354 645 rle@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Robin Wilmot	(w) 0400 193 579 mgbgt68@hnozemail.com.au
Committee	Richard Holtsbaum (Janice)	(h) 6244 5741 (m) 0418 541 230 rollsss11@gmail.com
	Lynn Cengia	(h) 6244 4787 (m) 0409 044 787 fitzlyn@bigpond.com
	Ches Bogus (Dianne)	(h) 6243 9463 (m) 0438 439 463 cbogus@netspace.net.au
	Brian Sharman	(h) 6229 9036 (m) 0438 376 188 brian.k.sharman@gmail.com
	Steve Huntley (Jenny)	(h) 6229 9036 (m) 0428 127 932 jennyandsteve71@gmail.com
Southern Sub Centre Meeting	Meet every Tuesday night at 8pm Civic Club, 134 Davey Street, Hobart	
Postal Address	GPO Box 5, Hobart, Tas, 7001	

LIFE MEMBERS			
Joe Paul (dec)	1969	Robin Wilmot	1998
Bob Moore (dec)	1974	Bill Griffiths	2007
Arthur Twining (dec)	1976	Tony Gurnhill	2009
Ian Wade	1984	Cheryl Gurnhill	2013
Terry Atkinson	1984	Greg Bannon	2013
Dennis Burgess	1984	Bronwyn Zuber	2013
Chris Ellis	1985	Craig Twining	2014
John Sluce (dec)	1994	Phillip Tilley	2017

MGCCT Facebook Page

The MG Car Club of Tasmania Inc

For those members who are Facebook users, we have an MG Car Club Tasmania Facebook page. Feel free to add events, photos, and videos, but remember that anything offensive or not relevant to the Club may be removed at the discretion of the administrator.

MGCCT Website

www.mgtas.org.au

Copies of this magazine can be downloaded from the MGCCT website. Membership forms and change of address forms are also available for download. Links to other car clubs are also available.

Webmaster: Craig Large

(m) 0408 559 252

webmaster@mgtas.org.au

VC Registrations, Inspections and Renewals

Geoff Dodge, 57 Evisons Road, Sassafra

(h) 6426 7338

(m) 0428 509 627

Motor Sports Chaplain

Should you require the services of the Tasmanian Motor Sports Chaplain, his contact details are:

Adrian Cooper

(m) 0408 395 917

adrian.j.cooper@education.tas.gov.au

EDITOR'S NOTES

This month's notes come to you from very warm Eyre Peninsula in South Australia

April and Nat Meet Time

Good luck to all who are going to the Nat Meet. To my knowledge it is a very small contingent from Tasmania but I know you will do us proud!

I have a request for colour photos from 40, 50, 60 years ago for the July magazine. If you do not have digital ones, or the ability to scan them, perhaps you could post them to me (31 Formby St, Sheffield, 7306) or pass them on to a committee person. Thank you.

And could those sending photos please supply names of members and car owners..

Following a comment in one of the sub centre reports, a reminder that it is convoy etiquette to ascertain that the person following you has indicated that he/she knows you are turning before you actually make the turn. This will not guarantee no lost souls, but hopefully it will help.

Some may have already heard of a new (Buckby) MG Dealership opening in Launceston in approx 2 weeks. Rumoured showroom in York St (new MG cars already here) & full Service & Parts Depot in Galvin St South Launceston.

Service Manager Mark Reid.

Now, a correction on information in previous Editor's Notes. For VC registration:

For use outside of a club event a logbook is to be carried at all times and the particulars of each daily journey undertaken recorded in the logbook. Not necessary for club events.(Thank you Phil Rollins for clearing this up)

It is great to see another Junior member joining the Club.
Welcome Kate.

Cheryl
MGCCT Editor



Closing date for next magazine is Friday 3rd May

Sherwood Auctions

Sherwoods are conducting an auction, over two days, for Jack Frost's estate
Viewing 2pm to 4pm Friday 26

Viewing Sat and Sunday from 8.30am to 10.00am then auctions will start.

There are guaranteed to be items of interest to MGCC members.

sherwoodauctions.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As you all no doubt find as the year goes on we seem to have less free time and looking at my diary it's not going to get any better in the near future.

I have a great deal of my time allocated to MG or Motor Sport in general with the big ticket items being the V8s and Targa, which by the time you read this will have either just happened or be quickly approaching.

The club social calendar is just as busy and Friday 29th March finished the NSC activities for March with the end of Month Coffee Run with 29 members participating.

The club scene is still busy with the many matters needing to be attended to, to keep a club of our size running efficiently.

Club Sec Greg Bannon will report on the important items later in this magazine so have a read and see what your State Committee has been up to.

The 60th Anniversary function organising is well underway with the venue having been finalised and the catering close to being finalised.

All we now want is good weather and lots of members and ex members to come along and share their memories.

If you have some early photos that you can share it would be great help to our editor Cheryl Gurnhill in preparing a 60th Anniversary Magazine.

Greg Bannon, Peter Scott and Don Fraser have been busy documenting the history for the early years and you will be able to read the result of their efforts in the next three monthly magazines, well worth taking the time to have a read.

We are now getting into the colder weather and the season of Car Shows is just about completed. We have had the Deloraine Motor Show, Devonport Motor Show and the Launceston Motor Show. I think by far the biggest was the Devonport Motor Show where the club had a quality display. The shows are a great opportunities for the various marques to combine to help the organisers achieve their fund raising goals for the various charities they support.

The club competition event next on the calendar is the Tasmanian Hill Climb Cup at Baskerville on 28th April

Then we have the Motorkhana on 19th May at Bothwell and what a fantastic opportunity for the North and South to meet at the venue in the centre of Bothwell.

There is more than enough room to have a picnic lunch, BBQ or head to the Bothwell Pub for the Sunday Roast.

We are now into April and the first quarter of this year has passed much to my amazement and the turnover of months increases as we get older, that's you of course not me!

I hope you enjoy your club activities for the coming month.

Mark Dilger
President



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This month we welcome seven new members,

Glen Walker,

Glen owns a MGB Mk11 and is interested in social outings,

Carlo Busato,

Carlo owns a Tartan Red TD and is interested in car restorations, cycling, gardening, along with social outings,

Ron Bugg and Carol Barber, own a MX5 and are interested in social outings, sailing, boat building, along with woodwork,

Kate Figgel, Kate is a junior and grand daughter of well known members Tony and Janet Sutcliffe, she intends to start Motorkhanas,

Arthur and Marian Masters, The Masters own a Mercedes SLK200 and are interested in social outings.

We hope these members enjoy many club arranged activities,

Wayne Jessup

Membership Officer, MG Car Club of Tasmania



We are planning a gathering to celebrate our birthday on Sunday 14th July 2019 and it would be great to see you there.

If you would like to get together over a finger food luncheon with present and past members then let us know so we can have numbers for catering.

There will be a cost to cover food and we will have a dash plaque to commemorate the event but you will need to pre order and pay at the time of ordering. We are waiting on a cost of the plaques which will depend to a large extent on numbers ordered.

So if you are thinking of coming we would like to hear from you by either emailing

president@mgtas.org.au

or TEXT: 0408 271 029

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Membership Contact Directory and Members Handbook

Andrew Midgley now has the new edition of the Contact Directory at the printers and with the Members Handbook now completed this also can now be printed. 350 copies of each are to be printed.

General Property Insurance

With the recent purchase of the timing system and with other club property the decision to insure was passed at Monday nights meeting. Specified in the policy is the timing equipment (\$5000) and other items up to \$2500.

Excess for claims will be \$250 with an annual premium of \$649.00.

Baskerville Hillclimb Sunday 28th April

The Clubs new timing equipment has been set up, tested and found to be perfect for the upcoming Hillclimb.

Club Trophies

With discussion on insurance for the club’s property Don Fraser raised the issue of trophies and the names of their recipients, should there be a data base for this information. This item has been carried over until next month’s meeting.



Greg Bannon

Secretary

MG Car Club of Tasmania

Things to think about:

- If poison is past its expiry date, is it more poisonous, or no longer poisonous?
- Which letter is silent in the word “scent”. The S or the C?
- Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?
- Why is the letter w, in English, called double u? Shouldn’t it be called double v?
- Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
- The word “swims” upside down is still “swims”.
- 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
- If you rip a hole in a net, you actually have fewer holes in it than there were.

SOUTHERN NOTES



MGFs belonging to John McCabe and Richard Holtsbaum 2 photos and write up: Phil Rollins

Southern Mid Week Run Wed 6th March

Today after meeting at C3 Café in South Hobart a tortuous route was chosen through the back streets of

South Hobart and ultimately into the Water Works Reserve. After negotiating what we had used previously as an MG hill climb course and then the shortcut triangle at Ridgeway it was onto the old Huon Road finally meeting the highway at Vince’s Saddle. In recognition of the tough times experienced by businesses when during the recent Riveaux Road fires the road south was closed on and off at Huonville Bridge for several weeks. The chosen venue for lunch was just north of Geeveston one of the hardest hit towns during the fires. The Kermandie Hotel at Port Huon with ample parking and views over the water was a perfect venue



Red B is Ewan Cameron Other unknown to me-Ed

PAST EVENTS

17th March – My Slice of Pie, Mountain River. “Breakfast with a Difference

St Patricks Day the Southerners met up for the annual breakfast visit to Mountain River and “My Slice of Pie”. Set in the midst of apple and cherry orchards and serving local produce as usual the range of food offered was comprehensive. 33 of us arrived in the sunshine after a drive via Margate and Sandfly and had to wait patiently for the final 2 who after missing a turn off were heading into the mountains towards the West Coast. Finally all together and seated Chris gave us all a little lecture on the importance on a run of keeping the car behind you in sight. After breakfast, which

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included the traditional Champagne and Guinness, it was back to town and a day in front of the Tele watching the AGP.

Thanks to Phil Rollins for the above report and attached photos taken from the facebook entry.

The contingent was well represented with 13 MGs out of a total of 20 cars. It was a beautiful sunny day and a very relaxed atmosphere under the gaze of the Sleeping Beauty. It was initially feared that our errant adventurers Tony Farrell and Frank Manley may have opted for a short cut over the Sleeping Beauty to Collins Cap, but they finally arrived to a raucous applause by those already seated. I am still trying to identify the culprit who let Tony out of his sight so that he or she can be duly fined for the offence!

It should be noted that Christine and Rod opened their restaurant especially for us as they do not normally open on Sundays. We were spoiled for choice with 11 dishes lovingly prepared by Christine and her staff, including freshly squeezed apple juice, compotes of apple and rhubarb with cream all from the farm. For the main course there was lambs fry, bacon, eggs, sausages, baked beans, quiche, sausage rolls, muffins and of course toast and jam and tea and coffee. There was plenty of food with something to satisfy all tastes.

We will be back next year!

COMING EVENTS:

1st May – Wayne Goninon’s mid-week run:

This year these runs will be conducted on the first Wednesday of the month. They all commence at the Rivulet Café, 64 Anglesea St, South Hobart where we partake of a coffee before heading off to our destination around 11.30am. The remaining schedule for 2019 is: 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, and 4th December.

For further information please contact Wayne Goninon: 0408 388 881

5th May – Classics on the beach. An informal gathering of collectable cars at Long Beach Sandy Bay *on the first Sunday of each month* from around 09.00am to noon. All are welcome to attend.

For further information please contact Bob Leeson: 0362 296006

14th April – Orford BBQ. David Scott has kindly offered his premises for a run up the East Coast. We will be departing the Civic Club at 10.00am MG time. Meat, salads and dessert for the barbeque will be supplied by the Southern Sub-Centre. Bring your own drinks. Please RSVP to Ches Bogus by Friday 5th April for catering advising if you any dietary requirements.

For further information please contact Ches Bogus: 0362 439 463

26th May – Brookfield. We are conducting a run to Brookfield Shed Margate. Many will remember that this site was devastated in last year’s floods, but is now back up

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and running so this run will support their recovery. We will be departing the Civic Club at 10.00am MG Time. We are combining this run with a poker run
For further information please contact Lyn Cengia: 0409 044 787 or Chris Wagstaff: 0438 055 199

23rd June – Geeveston to *'the bears went over the mountain'*. There is an optional sticky beak at the Tahune Air Walk area following the fires. Departing the Civic Club at 10.00 am MG time.

For further information please contact Richard Holtsbaum: 0418 541 230.

Coming Events with further details to follow:

August - Breakfast Mountain Run to Longley International Hotel.

Action: Bob Leeson

Mid - Sep – *"The Wall in the Wildernes"* Derwent Bridge. Daily cars welcome.

Action: Chris Wagstaff.

MGCCT 60th Anniversary 14th July 2019 at "The Grange", Campbell Town

Refer to information elsewhere in the magazine. A committee has been formed to coordinate the event. Kevin Mc Guire is the Southern Sub-Centre contact for this important event.

Bob Leeson

Car Enthusiasts Group Runs

Remaining drives for 2019 (always the first Wednesday of the month) are,

May – Wednesday 1st

June – Wednesday 5th

July – Wednesday 3rd

August – Wednesday 7th

September – Wednesday 4th

October – Wednesday 2nd

November – Wednesday 6th

December – Wednesday 4th

Cheers for now,

Wayne (white MGA)

Phone: 0408 388 881

Email: wayne.goninon@utas.edu.au



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NORTHERN NOTES

Wednesday 13th March 2019 – Dinner Run to Titanium Bistro

Another great rollup of 29 MGCC Tas - NSC Members registered for the March Dinner Run comprising 19 doing the Run, 6 electing to go straight to the restaurant and 4 having to cancel at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances.

We met at 6pm, as usual at the National Motor Museum on a beautiful mild Autumn evening and set out on a route through northern suburban Launceston enjoying some great Tamar River views before joining the East Tamar Hwy doing a loop up to Dilston and back diving the full length of John Lees Drive, in order to make it back to

Lonnie in the scheduled 40 minutes.

A 37k brisk run but maintaining the speed limit at all times, ‘of course’.

The hardy souls in their MG’s and the other sporting machinery, for the most part, had tops down.

On arrival back at the Titanium we all found parking fairly easily in Brisbane St and joined the others.

A t’riffic night had by all.

Ann Vaughan, Judy Moles, Colleen Moles and Di Paine



Photos : Phil Paine

Sunday 25th March Picnic Run to Bridport

Sunday 17th March saw Northern members gather at the auto museum to drive to Bridport for a casual picnic lunch on the foreshore. The route took us through the picturesque roads through Turners Marsh, where we were joined by a new member Steve Corbett and his old English sheep dog Winston. Through Karoola to Lilydale for a coffee and cake at the Bean Barrow. From Lilydale to Scottsdale, and on to Bridport. The sky was threatening rain which would not have made for a great picnic, fortunately for all it cleared and the sun appeared and a great time had by all. *From front is*



Steve Corbett and Winston, Mick Ryan , Annie Saunders, Ian Saunders, Judy and Wayne Moles. Story Ian Saunders. Photo from Frances Geeves

Coming Events

Wednesday 10th April. Mid Week Dinner. Meet Motor Museum at 6.00

RSVP Mike Paine 0407 271 926 by April 7th

Wednesday 24th April, Committee Meeting VCCT Clubrooms Lawrence Vale Road Launceston. All Members welcome

Friday 26th April, Coffee Run Meet Motor Museum at 9.30

RSVP Phil Paine by April 23rd

Wednesday 8th May Mid week Run & Dinner to Newstead Hotel Meet at Motor Museum at 6.30. RSVP by 6th May to Phil Paine 0419 261483

Sunday 19th May Lunch Run over the top to Bothwell and view the motorkhana. Meet at Motor Museum at 10.00. RSVP by 17th May to Frank Brooks. 0418 134 262

Friday 31st May Coffee Run. Meet at Motor Museum at 9.30 RSVP by 29th to Mark Dilger 0408 271 029

W.M. GRIFFITHS *Barrister*

For some time I have been dealing with the bureaucrats on behalf of two car clubs, one of the which is the MG Car Club, in relation to VC and SI registration. Since the announcements made by Mr Hidding at Deloraine in February last year I have had discussions with a number of public servants.

I have highlighted the difficulties which arise from the numerous and sometimes contradictory “rules” in respect of concessional registration. I have suggested the need to correct various errors in them and to better prepare them for the likely increase in enquiries expected to follow the belated increase in the usefulness of the available concessions.

I get several enquiries a week from members in relation to difficulties which they have encountered in working their way through what some have described as a bureaucratic muddle.

Some have used more descriptive words.

Despite numerous discussions with the Bureaucracy in Hobart since the middle of last year little if anything has been done to remove anomalies or to clarify the benefits and obligations, let alone to improve the required procedures.

Would you please assist?

If you have one or more vehicles registered as SI or VC, OR are likely to do so in the next twelve months, please send me a text message – 0438 132 970 – giving me your name, the type or types and number of cars and whether SI or VC registration.

It would help me to know exactly how many SI and VC registered cars we have in the club.

In addition, please tell me of any difficulties that you have had in relation to concessional registration. Please let me have **that** information by sending it to my email address griffithsbill@gmail.com

Thanks for your help. **BILL**

“Mabel” continued from February MG Monthly Motoring News

While the announcement of the new British Leyland was being made in January of 1968, the MG Competitions Department was busy preparing Mabel to take part in the Serbring twelve hour race. Since the MG had been unveiled in the preceding October, Mabel could now be fitted with the racing six cylinder engine which she was originally designed to run. Unlike the slightly portly street version, Mabel’s race engine mated to a light weight alloy head to a slightly over bored iron block yielding a 2986cc displacement. With triple weber side drafts and a free flow exhaust manifold the unit put out 200bhp at 6000rpm.

With her new power plant and the lessons learned during the Targa Florio, ten months prior, Mabel ran a strong and relatively trouble free race in the hands of Paddy Hopkirk and Andrew Hedges, finishing an impressive tenth overall in the prototype class and first in prototypes between two and three litres (though technically only a handful of cars comprised this class). With the team buoyant over their results, they began to prepare for the MGC GTS’s ultimate test.

The team elected not to enter a GTS in that year’s Targa Florio so that they could concentrate their efforts on constructing a second car for a full defence of MG’s 1967 victory in the gruelling, 84 hour long Marathon de la Route at the Nurbringring.

In 1964 the Spa-Sofia-Liege rally had essentially been banned from running on public roads, so the event’s organisers moved it to the Nurbringring and transformed it into a nonstop, 84 hour race that included a byzantine array of special rules that dictated penalties for everything from spending too much time in the pits (anything over one minute incurred a penalty) to completing a lap too slowly (minimum average speed of 45mph per lap). Not only was the new Marathon de la Route perhaps the ultimate test of a race car, but also a supreme test of the drivers’ and crews’ endurance and resourcefulness.

For the 1968 running, Abingdon entered Mabel for the driving team of Julien Vernaeve, Andrew Hedges and Tony Fall. For the driving team of Roger Enever, Alec Poole and Clive Baker, the Competitions Department built up a second MGC GTS, registered as “RMO 699F”. While RMO shared all the same specifications as Mabel, it varied in one key respect-RMO was entered for the Marathon with a new version of the six cylinder engine, designed by the Engine Branch in Coventry that featured an alloy block as well as head. With significant weight removed from the front of the car, it was hoped that this new development would further transform the handling, and thus the prospects, of the GTS. As in previous years, the MG team’s primary competition was a host of factory entered Porsche 911s, while new wild cards included factory entries from Lancia (Fulvia1.3HF) and even Mazda (Cosmo Sports110S).

When the green flag dropped on Wednesday, August 20th, the two MGCs tore off around the combined north and south sections of the Ring (a 28.291km lap!) in hot pursuit of two of the factory 911s. By that afternoon, Mabel had moved up to 2nd behind the leading 911, while RMO ran in 4th place. While Mabel continued to bring the fight to the Porsche team throughout the night and into the next day, RMO suffered a blown head gasket after 24 hours and was forced to retire. Sadly this would prove the only chance the all-alloy engine would get to prove its worth in the MGC.

By Friday morning, Mabel was running strong in 3rd place, closing in on the leading pair of factory 911s, when the brakes began to fail. Mabel was brought into the pits only for the crew to discover that the front pads had not only worn down to the backing plates, but also fused themselves to the callipers! While driver Tony Fall climbed aboard, mechanics

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frantically began setting to work to replace the now useless callipers and disks, knowing that each passing minute constituted penalty laps on the track. However, even more alarming was the knowledge that the team could now be disqualified for spending more than the maximum allotted time in any one pit stop. So, with the disqualification deadline close at hand, Fall was sent back out for a 28kn lap of the Nurburgring with absolutely *no brakes*. Keep in mind, Fall had not only to drive the lap without brakes, but he had to average better than 45mph or that would disqualify him as well!

After 18 excruciating minutes of waiting, Fall came back down the pit lane when both he and the team came to the simultaneous realisation that he had no way of stopping the car in the pit box. Wheel chocks were thrown out and even Competitions Manager Peter Browning threw himself in front of the car, but Fall overshot their pit and was only able to come to a stop when he forced the gearbox into reverse. However, Fall was now past the MG pit and there was yet another rule that stated if you backed up on the course or in the pits the car would be-you know where this going!-disqualified. In a cruel twist of irony, Fall was thus sent back out for another brakeless lap of the Green Hell. Fall went on to complete his second brakeless lap two minutes faster than his first, after which he quipped, "...glad no one got in the way while I was doing 125mph down the back straight."

After completing a successful pit stop to bleed the system fully, Fall and Mabel returned to the fray with a sizeable 25-lap penalty. While this may sound like an insurmountable setback, it in fact only allowed one of the Lancias, a Mazda Cosmo, and a 911 through. So, by the end of the 84 hour ordeal Mabel ended up finishing a very respectable 6th overall, but a prime opportunity was lost for the team to prove to the world-and to the British Leyland management-the MGC GTS had true potential.

A few months later Sir Donald Stokes decided to close the BMC Competitions Department, after forty seven years of competition. It was decided that Mabel and RMO would be shipped to the USA where US MG importer Hambro entered them for the twelve Hours of Serbring after which they would be sold off. Mabel didn't do very well in the race, but RMO finished 15th overall and 6th in class.

After the cancellation of the MGC programme and the closing of the Works Competitions Department, all of the MGC GTS race cars and unbuilt body shells were sold off. In the case of the four bare body shells these were sold to BMC racer, tuner and garage owner John Chatham, in Bristol. Chatham built up one GTS that he raced in the 1970 Targa Florio, another highly modified car that he campaigned in the British Mod Sport Series, as well as two road cars, one of which was built for British Leyland's motor sport press officer, Alan Zafer.

Mabel and RMO were duly sold. RMO disappeared for many years and Mabel changed hands several times, being campaigned for many years in European historic races. In 2005 Mabel was sold to current owner Harry Camisasca in California and between 2007 and 2011 he and his son restored Mabel to the same specs as in the 1968 Marathon de la Route. Since then Mabel has received many awards, including a first in the race car category at the 2011 Dana Point Concours d'Elegance.

Reference: *Condensed, with permission, from an article written by Casey Annis for "Vintage Road & Racecar" magazine March 2013 <https://vintageracecar.com/>*

NORTH WESTERN NOTES

Past Events

March Dinner Meeting - Bass and Flinders Motel, Ulverstone – Thursday 14th March was well attended with 21 members enjoying each other's company.

March Observation Run – Sunday 17th March

We were blessed with sunny skies and temperature in the mid 20s for our Observation Run which ended at Middlesex Plains. A total of 15 members participated which included a few easy observations to find along the by roads stopping at Tasmazia for a coffee break. After a picnic/bbq lunch at Middlesex Homestead MG members displayed their skills - throwing gumboots, horse-shoes, rolling pins and finally the very special skill of cherry pip spitting!! Apart from a mishap where a road sign number got transposed (resulting in a couple of MGs ending up on wrong roads) an enjoyable day was had by all and ending at a reasonable time allowing racing enthusiasts home in time to watch the final of the Grand Prix.

March Rotary Devonport Car Show - Sunday 24th March. It's anticipated several members with their MGs attended this event along the Devonport foreshore.

Coming Events

April Dinner Meeting – Bass and Flinders Motel, Ulverstone – Thursday 11th April from 6 pm.

Sunday April 28th MG run to Mt Gnomon Farm Restaurant, 886 Iron Cliff Rd., Penguin.

For members who have not visited this restaurant, Mt Gnomon Farm Restaurant is a rustic licensed farm restaurant offering their own ethically raised meats in particular pork and vegetable produce. We can choose a light lunch from a la carte menu. The farm and restaurant is owned by Guy Robertson who will give us a tour of the farm and surrounds after our meal.

Providing we have reasonable numbers wishing to attend we will leave Bunnings car park at 10.30 am for a leisurely drive along the coast to Penguin. Half-hour stopover in Penguin to browse the few speciality shops and/or coffee toilet stop. We are scheduled to arrive at the restaurant approx. 12 noon. Please indicate to me (Terry) asap if you wish to partake in this run with lunch.

May Dinner Meeting – Bass and Flinders Motel, Ulverstone –
Thursday 10th May from 6 pm.

**Friday 31st May – Devonport Choral Society Production – Down
Town, the Musical –**

Those members interested in attending this production please indicate to me prior to or at the April meeting to enable tickets to be booked. Monies will also be required at this time. (\$35 each if we get group of 10 or more.)

Suggest if you are interested in dining prior to the show we meet at the Central Hotel, Corner Stewart St and Formby Rd. Show starts 8pm at the Entertainment Centre.

Downtown – the Mod Musical is a bright vinyl time capsule that tracks five groovy girls as they come of age in the 60s. A musical journey, straight from Top of the Pops. Downtown is packed fill of songs, dance, nostalgia and fun. Features the biggest hits from the divas of the decade – stars like Petula Clark, Dusty Springfield and Lulu – With hits such as “To Sir with Love”, “Downtown”, “You don’t have to say you Love Me”, Son of a Preacher Man”, and Goldfingers”

TC TJ’s Humour **for Month of April**

A couple who owned a naughty cat were going out for a rare night on the town. They put the cat out then put on their best clothes and called the taxi.

The taxi arrived, but as the couple were walking out the front door the cat shot between their legs, back into the house and up the stairs. Knowing that the cat would wreck the whole house while they were gone the husband ran upstairs to chase the cat out again while the wife waited in the taxi.

As she didn’t want the cab driver to know that the house would be left unoccupied the women explain to him. “My husband had to go back upstairs to say goodbye to my mother”.

A few minutes later the husband reappeared and climbed into the taxi.

“Sorry I took so long” he said. “Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out!”

Cheers,

TC Terry (Jeffrey) Mob: 0417 344 369

Email:

colleenjeffrey3@bigpond.com



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Tasmanian Hillclimb Cup - Round 2

28th April 2019

Baskerville Raceway

All Clubs Welcome

- Scrutineering begins at 9.00am
- Drivers briefing at 9.45am
- Level 2S CAMS licence, available on the day.
- Entry fee \$110 or \$150 for family, \$30 per extra family member.

Please ensure your car is “track worthy”, with fire extinguisher, steel valve caps, extra bonnet tie-down, wrist to ankle clothing, plastic covering headlight etc.

For more information contact;

**Robin 0400 193 579
treasurer@mgtas.org.au**

MG Car Club of Tasmania 1959 – 2019

At the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the MGCCT Geoff Dodge was invited to speak on the early years of the MGCCT, following on from this I asked if I could have a copy of the speech. If Geoff did have it in writing I never received a copy but what I did receive was much more than I expected. Many months later Heather handed me an exercise book filled with information on the club and those early days. Now, armed with Heather's information and with the Club about to Celebrate its 60th Year I made an approach to club members and asked for their assistance in detailing some of the history of our club. I knew Peter Scott had a healthy collection of Club information and like many has an interest in the Club's history, like Heather, Peter has given a lot of time to this first instalment. Wayne Jessup and Donald Fraser have also given their time to help collate this history and I thank them for their input. What follows is "as it was printed" in the magazines of the day, especially those early years.

Regards

Greg Bannon

MGCC Tas History Notes –

1959 – 1964 .

The first glimpse of the **potential** for an **MG Car Club of Tasmania** came on the 7th **July 1959** at a meeting in the Card Room of the RACT Hobart, present **Norm Baker, Des McCarthy, Brian Roberts** and (un-named) **others** to discuss the possibility of forming a club to **foster** the interests of **MG car owners** in Tasmania. And so the Club was born. ('others' referred in later Newsletters were **Jim Barrett, Peter Ellis, John Reid** and one more totalling seven)

The "First Newsletter" published 14th August 1959 told of the **first Club event, a Treasure Hunt and BBQ**, starting at Salamanca Place 7.00pm. And the next "Newsletter" gave early warning of the '**Picnic Trial**' Saturday 3rd October 1959 taking competitors on a Northerly route ultimately to meet enthusiasts in **Launceston**.

Then on the 15th September 1959 the **first official Club publication** under the title "**MG Car Club of Tasmania – Newsletter**" was published with subsequent issues on a monthly basis.

MGCCT admitted to **Associate Membership of CAMS 28/8/59** (observer only, no voting rights)

Beginning of officially recognised competition – Picnic Trial next, hill climb (Dromedary), gymkhana planned.

Treasure Hunt won by **Joe Paul**, second place **Ivan Clark**, third shared by **John Everett** and **Des McCarthy**.

The first AGM held at the RACT Tuesday 3rd November 1959. Sixteen members present, committee elected:

President **D McCarthy**; Treasurer **J Everett**; Club Captain **N Baker**; Social Secretary **W Saward**; Secretary **J Paul**; General members **J Barrett, C Cook**.

Club Champion 1959 Joe Paul with 34 points from the six qualifying events, equal 2nd **Peter Ellis & Jim Barrett**.

Des McCarthy has resigned from positions of President and Editor and will remain a member.

Northern Member **Charlie Button** won outright the 1959 Examiner Trial in his MGA.

Club **postal address**: C/- RACT Building, 172 Macquarie Street Hobart

1960

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500 Car Club Standing ¼ open to MGCC, lower section of Grass Tree Hill Road.

Cabaret Evening and Membership Drive – points awarded for introducing members.

Hill Climb Dromedary Road, 6th February followed by BBQ and ‘refreshments’ at Carl Menzie’s, past the Salmon Ponds at Plenty.

New Members January – Kevin Moore TF, Kev Thompson TF.

Greg (Curley) Ellis is celebrating his 21st birthday.

The committee has now appointed **Cliff Cook** as President and co-opted **Brian Roberts** to take over Cliff’s previous position of assistant to the secretary.

New Members February – Ray Fox TD and seven social members

Annual Subscription £2/2/-, nomination fee £1/-/-.

The **opening of Symmons Plains** set for Saturday 12th March 1960.

Club timing gear has been constructed by John Everett and Joe Paul including provision of timing components and two telephones.

Committee Members 1960: President **CK Cook**; Club Captain **NJ Baker**; Secretary **JM Paul**; Treasurer **DB Roberts**; Social Secretary **W Saward**; Properties Officer **JG Barrett**; Assistant Properties Officer **J Everett**

New Members March – V Brumley MGA Coupe; Bob Purdon, Mike Williams, Carl Menzie TFs; D Fullarton TC.

Social evening and prize giving, May 25th, RACT club rooms.

New Members April – C Chen, P Freeman TCs; R Twining Ford 10 Special (The Goat); D White Singer; A McLennan TD; J Wigston VW. Social: P Browning, M McKay.

12 Hour Trial 4th June – call for entrants and volunteers for control officers and stewards.

HSCC Club Day all invited Baskerville Sunday 29th May – hill climb, standing ¼, grass hill climb.

New Members May – IF Dobson TF, Allan Fenner TF, WP Flaws MG Y, John Ratten MGA Coupe.

On May 14th seven staunch members turned up for our Treasure Hunt and BBQ; Greg Ellis, Peter Ellis, Carl Menzie, Allan Fenner, Bill Flaws, Garthn Wigston, John Everett finished in that order.

General Meeting Tuesday 12th July 1960. Club Captain Norm Baker is drawing up a new formula for competition within the Club based on applying Appendix ‘J’ to Appendix ‘C’ of the NCRs.

The **Club Constitution** will also be reviewed.

New Members July – Michael Viney TF; Kevin Jacobson TF; Geoffrey Crookall Ford Special; Geoffrey Dodge Holden Ute; Social - John Dobie.

Sportsman’s Gymkhana at Elwick – members who took part had a good day at the expense of the turf on the Show Ground giving the crowd quite a pleasing display.it even got a gentle pat on the back in the local press. There should be more of these?

Closed **Hill Climb** Saturday August 13th – 500 Car Club has been invited. Run on 18ft wide bitumen on the South Arm Road about ½ mile past the Cremorne turn off. It consists of a hill of fairly even gradient in the form of an uneven, elongated ‘S’ of 800 yards in length. It will be a fast 3rd gear ‘drag’ ending in a 150 yard straight.

The Club is continuing the **search** for suitable premises for **our own Club Rooms**.

Night Trial - most of the competitors taking the **correct route** became bogged at Richmond one missed the first three controls and ended at the **fourth by accident**. Two others on incorrect route at Richmond missed the bog, one continued on to become lost at Grass Tree Hill whilst looking for Coronation Park, the other knew the park and was away to stay in the trial to Margate where organisers call it off as competitors were **scattered** all over the Southern part of the island. All voted it good fun!

MG Car Club of Tasmania – MG Monthly Motoring News, April 2019

At the General Meeting of June, a **new Club Formula** was agreed with minor alterations. the Club Championship was also discussed and agreed next year to have a separate non-competition championship to be known as **Clubman of The Year** for the person giving greatest support in any other way to the Club.

New Members August – Derek Holden TF; Roger Genge TF; R Baldwin TF 1500. **Membership** now stands at **65**, 39 Full Members, 13 Associate and 13 Social Members.

Travelling allowance. In future all members travelling more than 150 miles round trip to compete will be **paid 10/-** (10 shillings) as a contribution towards their travelling expenses.

MG Khana Saturday September 24th 1960 – an event invented to fit the name. Different gymkhana tests undertaken at separate locations where competitors start at intervals to complete a test and progress on to successive locations and tests. Competitors will be kept going all day.

New Members – Ray Short TF, R Bailey TD, Noel Hatton MG SA 1937, Darrel Semple MGA, Rex Cusick Chev.

Parts Books – for MG TA, TB and TF now available for perusal. The Club intends to compile a technical reference library for the benefit of members.

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Club to be held Monday 14th November 1960, 8.00pm RACT Reading Room.

Notice of Motion: That the Club receive from it's members debentures of £5/-/- and multiples thereof for the purpose of purchasing timing gear.

Meeting at Launceston Friday 14th October 1960. A special public meeting of the Club will be held at the Public Library for the purpose of forming a Northern Branch of the Club and to elect a 'caretaker' Sub-Committee.

New Members September – Associate T Hill Swallow Doretti; Social R Quinn

New Club Rooms have been secured, invitations to the opening will be sent out.

Launceston Meeting was very well attended, 'caretaker' sub-committee was elected as follows: Chairman **John Bailey** (TD), Secretary **Chas Button** (MGA), Treasurer **Kev Thompson** (TF), Properties Officer **Peter Freeman** (TC), General Member **Tim Ratten** (MGA Coupe).

Request from the committee for members to donate items to help **furnish** the new **Club Rooms**.

New Members December – Michael Savage TF; John Contencin Buchanan MG; Anthony Murray TD; Graham Neil Sprite; Peter Ryan Triumph; John Kingston Triumph; Don Rust Peugeot; David Newitt Minor 1000; Dave Powell Cooper JAP; Ray Long.

Trevallyn Hill Climb the first competitive event the Club has held in the North with a strong field of twenty one competitors in five classes. Class 'A' for fastest machinery was a close tussle between Gino La Rovere TR3, Geoff Dodge TR3 and Tony Lockett Porsche till Wayne Tyson shattered the field on his last run in the TC.

New Members – John Trowbridge JAT Special; Lindsay Burn TF; Ian Place TC; Tim Willis VW; Gino La Rovere TR3; Peter Ryan Triumph; Graham McGuinness A40 Somerset; John Rundle.

1961

Ford 10 'Goat' for sale, sports racing car complete with spare gearbox and spare full race cam. 12:1 head, engine fully balanced going well, new tonneau, must sell. Ref Peter Champion ph 23 331.

New Members February – Brian Bowe S/C TC; Peter Douglas; Edward Davis Austin Healey; Roger Tyson; Roger Lockett Porsche; Max Boulter Buchanan and seven social members.

The **Club postal address** is now GPO Box 5A Hobart.

Club Rooms open each Wednesday and Friday evening from 7.30pm (rear of Chen's Gift Shop)

The form of **Ray Long** in his little **Elfin** lapping Baskerville in 1:18 proves brains can defeat brawn we will see more of these cars there are a number of successful Elfins on the Mainland.

MG Car Club of Tasmania – MG Monthly Motoring News, April 2019

Financial Statement March 1961.

Fixed Assets £55/-/-; Current Assets £149-7-0 (inc cash at bank £135/12/6); Liabilities £-/11/-.
Balance £203/16/-.

New Members – Michael Winch TC; Brian Hey MG; Jack Hobden TR3; Martin Yates Triumph.

Social Evening Wednesday 17th May RACT rooms, Inspector Reid of the Traffic Branch will give a talk entitled ‘Road Safety’ A splendid opportunity to become better acquainted (social, not business) hoped members will be neither shy, deferential nor belligerent?

General Meeting Wednesday 24th May RACT rooms to discuss the Constitution to make provisions for the formation of sub-centres and also remove or modify certain clauses presently hindering our activities.

Advance notice of the **Annual Dinner (the first)** ... Saturday November 24th after the Tasmanian Standing ¼ Mile Championship. In order to get firm early bookings ... concession of 5/- if booked before September 9th

New Members May – Thomas Hey TC; D Barnes vintage car; M Wilson Morris Minor; Michael Skeels Austin Lancer; Jim Richards rather quick A40; Brian Hill Holden; Social R Drew, J Saunders.

Coming Events

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th June **Alpine Rally – Open** – LCCT.

Sunday 18th June **Economy Run – Open** – MGCC

Saturday 24th June **Standing ¼** – Restricted – 500 Car Club

Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July **Presidents Trial** – Restricted – 500 Car Club

Saturday 15th July **Burnie Businessman’s Trial – Open** – NWCC

Timing Gear – Safety Fast article on a proprietary brand of gear operated by ‘electric eyes’ – special Club Committee meeting to discuss and decision made to purchase at the price of A£46 landed in Hobart.

Alterations to the Constitution recently agreed, main points: The **definition of Full Member** widened to include owners of any true road sports car; the **percentage of Associate Members** reduced from 50% to 33⅓%.

All members are entitled to receive a copy of **Tasmanian Motor News** free every month.

New Members June – Jock Walkem PB; Alan Buddle TF; Priscilla Hansch MGA (very fast); Robert Douglas TA.

Meeting at the Gloucester Hotel Launceston, 11th July 1961 decided to form the **Northern Sub-Centre**. The committee is Chairman **John Bailey**; Competition Secretary **Peter Douglas**; Secretary **Charlie Button**; Treasurer **Kev Thompson**; Club Committee Representative **Roger Lockett**.

Important change of **Club nights** Hobart, due to members preferring mid-week times it has been decided now to open Hobart Club Rooms Tuesday and Wednesday evenings instead of Wednesday and Friday.

Club Day **Symmons Plains** Sunday 10th - Timed Laps and Standing ¼ using the **new ‘electric eye’ timing gear**.

Baskerville working day, 16th and 17th September members are invited to attend **working parties**, in return concessions to are offered by HSCC to two event weekends.

Through the generosity of **Humphrey** (Brian Roberts), Mark Cook Cars have donated a handsome **trophy** for a specified **speed event** each year, this year to the **T Type MG class** (standard body, under 1300cc, unblown) at the 7th October Hill Climb.

Timing gear imported from England has performed reliably in it’s first event at Tunbridge 5th August and again at Symmons Plains 10th September Club Day on both laps and Standing ¼. MGCC now has best timing gear in the state.

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New Member October – Philip Calvert, Paul Andrews, Bernard Lewis, Michael Howe, Roger Green, Keith Atkins, Des Power, Ray Absolom, John Pooley, Eric Pettett, Michael Dobson, Mac Lette, Keith Roberts, Brian Higgins, Bryan Hill, Chris Tapping, Peter Bessant, Wish Wilson, Barry Faulkner, Albert Metzler.

Tasmanian Standing ¼ Mile Championship and Record Attempts, Richmond, Saturday November 11th.

First MGCC Tas Annual Dinner, Claremont Hotel 6.30 for 7.00pm, Saturday 11th November 1961.

Tasmanian Hill Climb Championship Trevallyn 22nd October 1961.

The **Brazil Restaurant Trophy** has been kindly donated by the proprietor of the Brazil for the Gymkhana 10th December in recognition of custom from Club members.

1962

Special Sports Car Race this year at Longford for Tasmanian owned and driven cars up to 2000cc. 1st Place £40, 2nd £30, 3rd £20, 4th £10.

New Members – Ian Butler MG Y; David Elmer Minor 1000; Ron Goodes Morris Major; Brian Weeding Hillman.

A perpetual **Courtesy Trophy** is being awarded for the first time to the sports car driver adjudged by the committee to have been the most courteous in general day to day driving. Kevin Jacobson the recipient.

New Members March – Harry Atherton Simca Special, Helen Button and Ian Scott.

MGCC Tasmania new **Competition Formula** shall apply to all closed speed events run by the Club. Two categories: Category 1 includes all cars conforming to Appendices C, J or K of the NCRs subdivided to four Classes A, B, C, D. Category 2 all other cars in two Classes A and B.

Northern Club Rooms to open 6th June above the new premises of Mitchell Motors, York Street Launceston and will open each Wednesday evening from 8.00pm.

New Members April – J Anderson TD; R Connor TR2; J Cornwell TF; T Campbell MGA.

Drag racing at **Quorn Hall** airstrip was introduced to members of this club on Sunday 20th May 1961.

Cryptic Trial organised for next month the basic plan is to give competitors a list of details they can't understand telling them to go to places they have never heard of

Class winners of the **Winter Economy Run** 24 June 1962: Class 'A' **A Daniels** Gordini 89.4 mpg; Class 'B' **L Chalu** Peugeot 403 73.9 mpg; Class 'C' **D Laing** Fiat 49.6 mpg; Class 'D' **J Shaw** Fairlane 26.3 mpg; Class 'E' **W Flaws** Sprite 73.2 mpg; Class 'F' **B Males** Austin Healey 35.3 mpg.

Closing down of **Hobart Club Rooms** beyond the Club's or Mrs Chen's control. Planned for a 'small' evening of celebration next Wednesday.

Annual meeting **Northern Sub-Centre** July 13th at Club Rooms. New committee elected Chairman **J Bailey**, Secretary **P Freeman**, Treasurer **R Goodes**, Committeeman **M Cameron**.

Northern Sub-Centre postal address Private Box PO 682 Launceston.

New Members June – Doug Holmes TF; Lane Dechaineaux TC; Ross Barry MGA; B Logan MGA.

N v S **Football Match** 26/8/62 regulations in this Newsletter to ensure we do not infringe the rules of this noble sport.

Annual Dinner 17 November 1962 Wrest Point Winter Garden, 4 course meal, excellent band, 30/- per head.

Happy to report we have obtained **new Club Rooms**, due to open in three weeks.

Radio Treasure Hunt is something different, organised between HSCC and Radio 7HT, instructions will be broadcast over the air as the event goes on. Prizes worth having, 1st 20 gallons BP super and 4 gallons motor oil.

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New Members July – Owen Mortimer TR3A; John Dobie Ford

Due to the resignation and relocation of President Norm Baker, a new committee has been established till the AGM in November. President **Joe Paul**; Club Captain **Arthur Twining**; Secretary **Ian Dobson**; Treasurer **Ivan Clark**; Editor **John Pooley**; Social Secretary **Mike Williams**; Public Relations **Brian Higgins**; Club Rooms Officer **Mike Savage**.

New Members August – L Hobden Renault; L Barlow, C Byrne.

Memory Lane Edition of Newsletter November 1962 selecting interesting items from Newsletters up to July 1962 and noting the early publications, the “**First Newsletter**” dated **14th August 1959** and the next such publication forewarning of the upcoming ‘**Picnic Trial**’. Then in September 1959 the first official Club publication under the title “**MG Car Club of Tasmania – Newsletter**” was published and issued each month.

1963

Committee elected for 1963: President **Cliff Cook**; Club Captain **Arthur Twining**; Secretary **Ian Dobson**; Treasurer **Ivan Clark**; Social Secretary **Joe Paul**; Properties Officer **Mike Williams**; Assistant Secretary **Mike Dobson**; Club Rooms Officer **Mike Savage**; Editor **John Pooley**.

Club Rooms Tuesday Nights **46 Bathurst Street** Hobart.

Northern Secretary **Peter Freeman**

Northern Club Rooms above Mitchell Motors Launceston.

Annual Membership fee £2/2/-, Joining Fee £1/-/-

Eleven **Club Members** will be racing at **Longford** this year: **Jim Barrett** Mini 850; **Brian Bowe** TC s/c; **Robert Curren** TR4; **Greg Ellis** MGA; **Peter Freeman** Datsun; **Brian Higgins** Holden; **Jack Hobden** Mini Cooper; **Gino La Rovere** MM; **Ray Long** Elfin; **Barry Males** Austin Healey; **Graeme Springer** MG Special.

New Members April – John Commane MGA; Cynthia Bidencope AH Sprite Mk II, John Sean, Julia Priestly

New Members May – Graeme Dazely TD; Ralph Terry Mk I Sprite; Richard Moore JWF Austin Healey, Richard Stephenson.

Exhaust Note June – Seen the Tasmanian **MG B** yet? What a beautiful sports car.

New Members July – Gabrielle Wren Porsche 90, Garry Marney MG Y, M Kelty.

Baskerville August 11th – HSCC have invited MGCC and Routes Group Car Club for the event, crash hat, fire extinguisher and currently financial is all that is required.

The progressive “we think of you” MG Car Club has obtained a **snooker table** for the **Club Rooms** in Bathurst St.

New Members August – Wayne Mahnken TR3; Barry Bushby Austin Healey.

Annual Dinner November 16th. Tickets (double) on sale to members from 1st September, additional friends from 1st November. **Numbers limited to 160** this year.

MG Car Club First **Annual Raffle** – at last we have to resort to running a raffle to keep the Club finances healthy! To be drawn at the Annual Dinner, 16th November.

AGM November 29th, Park Hotel 7.30pm followed by a **Christmas Party** with late licence and orchestra.....

Nominations for election of committee members close 27th of November.

Launceston Sub-Centre News. Treasure Hunt and BBQ Saturday November 23rd commencing 4.00pm sharp at John Bailey’s Service Station.

On the 12th and 13th October a “Gas Weekend” was had!!! On the Saturday a Gymkhana was held on the **airstrip at Symmons Plains**, members from Hobart and Launceston tearing up the turf had a good battle between early and late model MGs. In the evening the third **annual Sub-Centre elections** were held at the Monaco Hotel where the President addressed the club and a

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new committee was elected. Chairman **P Freeman**, Secretary **J Maudsley**, Treasurer **R Goodes**, Competition Secretary **M Cameron**, General Committeemen **G Springer**, **P Maudsley**, **R Terry**.

On the Sunday many members from both North and South attended the **Northern Tasmanian Hill Climb Championships** conducted by the Light Car Club of Tasmania at Hillwood. FTD went to MGCC member Jack Hobden in his immaculate 2.2 Cooper Climax.

New Members October – Trevor Dell AH 100/4; Mike Spotswood TR2; John Banks Spitfire; David Scott TC; Geoff Watchorn Sprite; John Cooper TR3A; Peter Cloak Sunbeam Alpine; Kerry Cox Auburn; Norm Knott Ford Special; Graeme Mitchell, Richard Riley

MG Monthly Motoring News Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1964

The first of the new format Club news initially published by Tasmanian Publication and Advertising House, 39 Jordan Hill Road, West Hobart.

Club officials noted at this stage of the year: Editor **Mike Dobson**; Social Secretary **Cynthia Bidence**.

The DB Roberts Perpetual Trophy is to be awarded for the best performing **Square Rigger** over the year.

North West Car Club invited MGCC North, had the shock of their lives when twenty five members travelled to their flying quarter event held on the Ridgley Straight.

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MG Memories that are Burned in my Brain

(Moira Wellman)

We come from a motorcycling background and still ride regularly. We thought that owning an MG would be just like side by side motorcycling....same number of wheels (4 in total), same fresh air, alternately freezing/frying as we (nearly) always have the top off, same sensory delights such as the smell of wet gum leaves and rotting road-kill....and so it came to pass that we purchased a sparkling white MGB.

We joined the MG Club partly to compete in motorkhanas but we soon felt that our lovely car was too posh to throw around, so were lucky enough to buy a more humble 'B' from Craig Bennett in Hobart. It spent some time being Wellmanised in Mike's workshop then we had a delightful time competing around the sadistically-placed witches hats in windblown paddocks all over the state. The incentive was purely enjoyment as the reward for rising at dawn 6 or 8 times a year to drive around muddy rocky paddocks in the middle of nowhere was just one trophy at the end of the year for the talented driver who won the series – no second or third or Ladies or Junior in those days for the dedicated few who drove their cars so skilfully and so often, but I'm sure all that has changed now, hasn't it? 25 years on and we have just attended the Kelso event where we were amazed to see Bothwell's family Sutcliffe still competing after all these years!

Soon after joining we were invited to a casserole night at Terry and Ann Sansom's lovely home. Not renowned for our cooking and wishing to pull our weight we volunteered Garlic Bread. Lots and lots of Garlic Bread. So much Garlic Bread that it filled the grill, was stacked around the oven casseroles and still there was enough left over to feed half the population of Devon Hills.

We had a wonderful evening with our new friends but noted that subsequent events were always accompanied by the question "what sort of casserole or sweet would you like to bring?" I expect the stale excess was used to landscape their garden.

We felt this encounter was the tentative foundation of a good friendship so quite a while later when Terry and Ann announced that they were deserting us all for a year to travel around Australia we were ready for them. Christmas in Winter presents were meant to be anonymous but that year Santa obtained inside knowledge of Ann's fear of venomous insects, unhygienic long-drop loo seats, aggressive snakes and other outback nasties. Santa's sack was full of civilised gifts of the scented or tool variety for everyone with one whopping exception. There was a large wrapped cross-shaped object protruding from The Sack. And it had Ann's name on it. Nailed to this piece of non-descript timber were traps for mosquitoes, flies, mice, rats, a chain to kill snakes, a metal bolt sticking out to brain hapless crocs – everything in fact except sharks; the centrepiece was a packet of paper toilet seat protectors. Touchingly this hideous cumbersome object found a place in the already packed-to-the-gunnels 4WD and was apparently the subject of many a campfire tale. Worse was to come. The MG crowd gathered for the grand farewell meal at Devonport's Elimatta Hotel where bets were taken on how long these two would last in the great Outback. Barry and Robyn

MG Car Club of Tasmania – MG Monthly Motoring News, April 2019

Lumley were appointed to oversee the fund. We ate, hugged, and said our farewells and the pair were presented with the Parting Gift of an enamel potty filled with chocolate polly-waffles set in wee-coloured green jelly. Anne's nursing career apparently hadn't prepared her for the hideousness of this truly ghastly gift, which now resides deep in the Mersey channel as testimony to their appreciation of good taste. Oh by the way, after enduring heat, flies and concrete-hard camp grounds that bent tent pegs double, they lasted the required year and collected their winnings, hopefully all in 5c pieces as true MG members love to have the last word!

Madness on the Mountain was our first foray to the South in the MGB. Accommodation, and the legendary MG breakfast at The Springs was duly booked. A heap of us rocked up to the delightful sight of snow on Mount Wellington. Topless-car mayhem ensued although nobody picked up the extra double club points on offer if driver and/or passenger went topless too. Nothing could stop us belting up that 1271metre monolith to play snowballs before descending to a mega-feast of 'Roadkill' and other culinary delights cooked by Herbie and Julia. Sadly now if the metrological gurus predict inclement weather within the forthcoming month the nanny-state notices go up and the gates are locked. For the MGs it wasn't broke, but 'they fixed it'.

Christmas in Winter – and this particular year the accommodation was at Gowrie Park. Several of us were daft enough to drive all the way there with the top down so we could show off the tinsel around the roll bar and the Santas on the seat-backs. On arrival we levered our rigid frozen carcasses out of the cars. To thaw out, our hosts at The Black Stump restaurant kindly greeted us with mulled wine liberally laced with the most seasonal of spices, cinnamon. We shared our cabin with Devonport members Peter and Evelyn Lumb (now in Queensland) as we thought our identical Bold As Brass - yellow to the less pedantic!- MGBs would look so cute nose to nose outside, which they did. Off with the Santa travelling hats, on with the ridiculous dress-up festive gear, and if my memory serves me correctly Cheryl was dressed as a plum pudding and Tony as a pink *FAIRY* – though to this day I can hear him shouting that he was **NOT** a bloody fairy, he was an angel off the top of the tree – such illusions of grandeur!!!...The meal was memorable, starting with leek soup enhanced with a dash of cinnamon. Following this was a lovely turkey roast accompanied by a variety of vegetables liberally swimming in gravy heavily laced with that strangely familiar spice, cinnamon. Therefore the novelty of Christmas Pudding and *cinnamon* custard was rather lost on us. I passed on the coffee sprinkled with the 'C' spice. More than a little inebriated we retired to our cabins and into the land of nod to dream sweet dreams of our forthcoming morning jaunt to snowy Cradle Mountain picnic ground. The Black Stump had packed us an enormous picnic of sandwiches and desserts. I think they must have had a change of shift as no-one had told them of the delightful repast consumed last night, hence the sandwiches and dear little individual sweets, biscuits, *everything* in fact contained copious quantities of cinnamon. My eyes and skin were orange-brown for a month.

Now the Piece de Resistance, the famous Arthur River Cruise which has surely gone down in club history as one of the most memorable social weekend ever.

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Luxurious Tall Timbers was duly booked by the Gurnhills who seemed to organise a lot of fun things even in those far-off days. Excitedly we set off for The Boat Trip and The BBQ down The Arthur River. All aboard and the atmosphere on the twinkling old moonlit wooden boat was jovial and more than a little romantic. Beers and wine were consumed until *everyone* was our friend. Eventually we arrived at the upstream jetty where all club members filed off to walk the lantern path to the BBQ bower. Not me. I went to the boat loo, closed the door and was privy (no pun intended) to overhearing the most extraordinary heated argument between the Captain and his Mate (in life as well as on board). It went something like this;

“You daft bloody tart, it’s your bloody job to collect the bloody cash *before* they get bloody well get off”

“Well they’ve got to re-board your stupid bloody boat to get back...”

“By then they’ve bloody well eaten all the bloody food and half of them will plead bloody poverty....” And so it went on.

I was still stuck in the loo and didn’t want to miss the aforementioned ‘bloody food’ so I bit the bullet, opened the door and with my head held high marched between the sparring duo. Turns out The BBQ was actually rather good.

Later we staggered through the charming dark forest back to the boat.

The return cruise then turned really interesting because the boat lights failed. Captain Angry luckily had a flickering hand-held Dolphin torch which he gamely shone along the right river bank as he hung out of the wheelhouse with one hand on the steering wheel. This large old wooden river boat faithfully followed the lit-up bank and took the only wrong turn possible on the whole river through a brain-smashing low willow thicket and grounded itself firmly on the mud up a dead end. Reverse engines. Nothing. Reeceeverrssee Enginnnees, rev rev rev.. Nothing. We were stuck. Someone blew the Mosquito Whistle and thousands of the blighters descended for the feast of a lifetime on fresh MG blood.

Then came the unbelievable command from Captain Angry:-

“All passengers run to starboard”. Of course people ran every which way depending on

- a) whether they were facing forward or back or
- b) their knowledge of boating terminology.

“Now to Port” This resulted in a few spilt drinks and hilarity when everyone crashed into each other, with the odd one or two actually running for the *bottle* of Port. But we soon got the gist of synchronised running...Starboard Port, Starboard, Port...you get the idea.

Ninety minutes we were stuck in that muddy insect-infested slot but the wobbling tactics worked and we finally reversed back to the main channel, thankful that we would be spending the night in our cosy upmarket beds instead of the cold unprotected deck of HMS Angryman.

(Footnote – This useful tactic was later employed when we grounded our narrow boat on the Thames in Abingdon UK but I’ll spare you the details as it is not MG related).

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DELIVERY AUSTRALIA WIDE

COMING COMPETITION EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
Sun 28 th April	Tas Hillclimb Cup	Baskerville
Note: this is the sole event for the Bob Moore Hillclimb Trophy for 2019		
Sun 19 th May	State Motorkhana Championship	Bothwell
Sat/Sun 1, 2 June	Circuit Racing	Symmons Plains
Sun 16 th June	Club Day MGCCT/MCCT	Baskerville
Sun 30 th June	Motorkhana	Latrobe
Sun July 28 th	Economy Run	Northern Midlands
Sun 11 th August	Motorkhana	Latrobe
Sun 8 th Sept	Test & Tune Day	Baskerville
Sat/Sun Oct 5/6	Circuit Racing	Symmons Plains
Sun Nov 3rd	Club Day MGCCT/MCCT	Baskerville

North West Car Club - Precision Exhaust Lake Barrington Hillclimb

It's on again - **Saturday, April 13!**

You can now enter this much sought after event via the CAMS online entry system.

The Supp Regs and Entry form are available on the NWCCTas website.

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Cloth Badges, Tasmanian Logo	\$9.00
Grill Badges	\$30.00
Red & Black/Cream & Green	
Lapel Pins	\$6.00
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Contact Andrew Midgley 0458 949 881

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

Events in italics do not attract Club Points

(More details can be found in the Sub Centre Notes)

Date	Event	Meet At....	Coordinator
Sun 14 th April	SSC Orford BBQ	Civic Club	Ches Bogus
Fri 26 th April	NSC Coffee Run	Motor Museum	Phil Paine
Sun 28 th April	NW Mt Gnomon Penguin	Bunnings Devonport	Terry Jeffrey
Wed 1 st May	<i>Wayne Goninon Run</i>	Rivulet Cafe	Wayne Goninon
Sun 5 th May	<i>Classics on the Beach</i>		Bob Leeson
Wed 8 th May	NSC Mid Week Run & Dinner	Motor Museum	Phil Paine
Sun 19 th May	NSC Run to Bothwell	Motor Museum	Frank Brooks
Sun 26 th May	SSC Brookfields	Civic Club	Lyn Cengia/Chris Wagstaff
Fri 31 st May	NSC Coffee Run	Motor Museum	Mark Dilger
Fri 31 st May	NW D'port Choral Society "Down Town, the Musical"	Central Hotel	Terry Jeffrey
Sun 23 rd June	SSC Geeveston:	Civic Club	Richard Holtsbaum
Aug	SSC Breakfast Run	Civic Club	Bob Leeson
	SSC Derwent Bridge	Civic Club	Richard Holtsbaum

PICNIC AT ROSS 2019

The Picnic at Ross has had a date change for 2019. It will now be held on Sunday 28th April in the main street (Church Street and surrounds) of Ross. We will aim to continue running the event on the last Sunday in April.

The event will be run by a group of Ross locals.

If the weather is kind to us, we plan to use the old school oval beside the Town Hall in Bridge Street as a parking area - on a "first in best dressed" basis. Parking is also available beside the famous Ross bridge. There will be a few locals to point cars in the right direction.

All of the local shops and cafes will be open for business, but attendees are also welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

SQUARE RIGGER NOTES

All Pre War, T and Y Type MG's.

The MG Car Club of Tasmania is celebrating 60 years since it's formation way back in July 1959. Photos from those early days below prior to the Club formation, TFs lined up ready at Baskerville belonging to Charlie Button and Ian Keddie, and the TF of Wayne Tyson goes back to 1957 on the Domain Hill Climb. These competitors, their various cars and many like them made a strong impact in Club and broader racing in those times.



Another photo from the 50s at Quorn Hall with the XK 140 DHC (probably Youl listed in a 1957 program), the A30, TF1500 and a couple of Anglias, the rear one looks like an early incarnation of 'The Goat' as later Christened having a strong presence in the Club. And an early 60s Standing ¼ on the Boyer Road. MGs of the day can be recognised, TC9262 (J Langdale), TC4372 (T Hey), TC4741 (D Scott) and TF4786 (W Styles). With thanks to those who have contributed these photos. From previous Notes, the Combined State Square Rigger extended run is planned to follow the Concours and AGM in the NW area from Sunday November 24th.

Square Rigger contacts:

Launceston
Hobart
NW

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Alan Briggs Ph 0475 089 560, alan.trish@optusnet.com.au
Peter Scott Ph 6426 7321, 0418 599 676, petermccott5@bigpond.com

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