

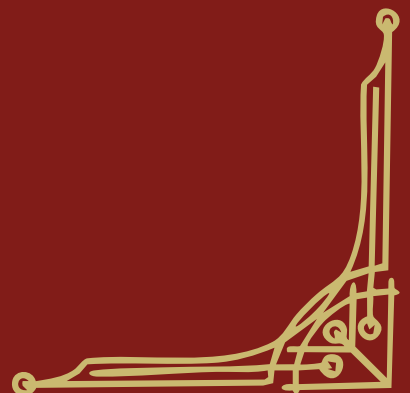
HILLCLIMBS • MOTORKHANAS • KHANACROSS • SUPERSPRINT • CIRCUIT RACING • YOUNG DRIVER TRAINING • KING EDWARD PARK HILL CLIMB • NATIONAL MEETINGS • CLUB MEETINGS • SOCIAL EVENTS • COBBY STREET CLUBROOMS • NELSONS PLAINS • RINGWOOD MOTOR SPORT PARK

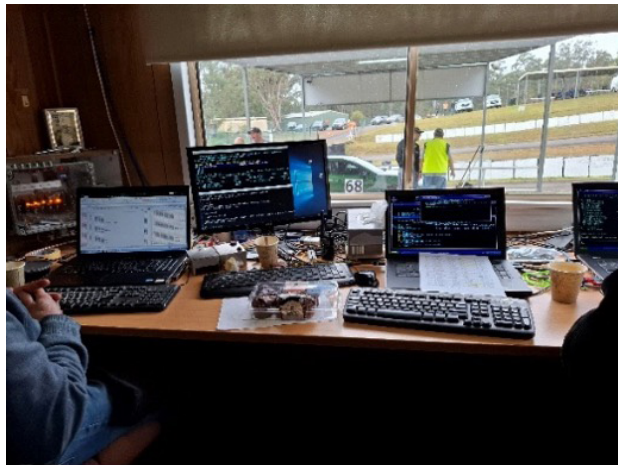
# 70<sup>TH</sup>



# Anniversary

1955 to 2025







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*Bryn Baverstock – President 2025*

## *G'day All*

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The following booklet is a brief picture into the club's activities over the last twenty years following on from the history that was written in the 50th anniversary booklet.

Unfortunately, it does not portray accurately the countless hours of the dedicated members who put in the time and effort to run the club or the wonderful friendships that are fostered out of belonging to this club.

Obviously Ringwood is now the cornerstone of the club's activities and it would be remiss of me not to mention the loyal band of workers affectionately known as "Dads Army" who keep Ringwood looking as good as it does; it's our very own men's shed!

So to the future; the club has a strong membership, is financially secure and with many events happening each year it looks to a bright future.

As always it relies on you, the member, to participate be it as competitor, on the board, club nights or to just enjoy the camaraderie that the club offers.

My thanks to the band of people in particular Rose Collins, Louise Clayton-Jones and Joy Bower who have worked so hard to organise the celebrations for our 70th birthday.

On behalf of the board of the club I wish you all the very best for the future.

Onward and upward as they say to the next twenty years!

*Bryn Baverstock*





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*Cody McKay – Young Driver  
Development Course Coordinator*

# *Driving into the future:*

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## THE MG CAR CLUB'S LEGACY IN THE HUNTER

Motoring and motorsport have long played a vital role in Newcastle and the surrounding Hunter region, with a legacy built on passion, community, and a love for the drive. From grassroots gatherings to major motor racing events, one constant has remained—the enduring support and presence of the MG Car Club.

For decades, the Club has been the beating heart behind local motoring, championing events of all sizes and bringing people together through a shared enthusiasm for all things automotive. As the region looks ahead to a future that may include exciting new motorsport facilities, the MG Car Club stands ready to help shape that future—keeping the sport fun, safe, and most importantly, accessible.

With a strong focus on affordability and grassroots development, the Club continues to nurture the next generation of drivers—perhaps even a future Supercars champion or Formula One star. Whether it's through hillclimbs and motorkhana events, scenic club runs and rallies, or the vibrant social calendar that keeps the community connected, the MG Car Club ensures the spirit of motoring remains alive and well in the Hunter

We all have to start somewhere—and thanks to the MG Car Club, that start comes with open arms and a warm welcome.

I may not be here to witness the next 70 years, but I'll be proud to call myself a member for as long as I can.

*Cody McKay*



# *In the Beginning*

In the year of **1954** the idea of a car club was born, probably by car salesman John Larkin who canvassed his MG clients with the idea of forming a club. By **1955** he had organised with MGCC New South Wales for Newcastle to become a sub centre of the MG car club in Sydney.

# *A Club was Born*

Fast forward to **2005** and the club's 50th anniversary where we produced a special version of the club magazine, *CLUBTORQUE*. This covered the 50 years to 2005 and was produced mainly by club stalwarts Brian Lear, Judith Rae and Jeff Newey. Rounded off by a piece from Dennis Tobin on the King Edward Park hillclimb, this was a wonderful summary of our club's history. The 2005 issue of *CLUBTORQUE* is available on our website under magazines (right at the bottom) and is packed with interesting information and significant photographs.

*And so to the next*

**20 YEARS**





## 2006 TO 2008

... were a quiet few years. There was disappointment that the time and money spent hoping to get the circuit and drag strip of Peter Lee's development application was in vain. The application was not passed by council.

The National meeting was in Tasmania this year but helped by the ferry leaving from Sydney.

## 2010

This was a very busy year for the club with the MG National Meeting held in Adelaide over Easter. We had offered to run the National meeting in Newcastle for 2011 and planning got underway.

# 2006

## 2009

The club began negotiating the sale of a parcel of land to Italia Road Holdings for them to develop a circuit. After an episode in court, an agreement was finally reached. Their circuit is under construction and our club hopes to see events on the track soon.

The National Meeting was the turn of Geelong, Victoria.

## 2011

Saw the planning and running of the MG National meeting in Newcastle at Easter. This was a great event with bouquets for everyone involved. This year we again won the Nuffield Oceania trophy.

The year also saw the beginning of a huge undertaking. A group got together to look at how the hill climb might be improved. Despite some opposition, gradually the advantages were accepted. This was to become a huge undertaking for the club and the finished work has become the hill climb we have today.





## 2012

The hill climb extension really got underway with council approvals granted. A new shed was purchased to house the club's growing accumulation of machinery, tools and equipment. Hobart was the venue for a small team to compete in the MG National Meeting.



## 2014

A big year saw the planning and running of two major events, King Edward Park and the Australian Hillclimb Titles. The Australian titles turned out to be one of the best events the club has organised. The weather was perfect with great racing and Ringwood looking its best. We received an award from CAMS for the best event in 2014! A brochure was produced showing off the virtues of Ringwood and its hiring capabilities.

The MG National Meeting was a more a social gathering at Ballina that was not well attended by our members.

# 2015

## 2013



A replacement timing system was developed in late 2013 to replace the existing system in conjunction with the additional track layouts being constructed. One of the main differences was to install the cabling in the ground rather than having to run it out on the morning of the event. A rewrite of the software

application was made to record additional split times and new track configurations. It included TV displays to show competitors and spectators, the outright placings and individual competitor's split times.

CAMS presented the club with a 50-year award and granted us the responsibility to run the Australian Hillclimb Titles at the new Ringwood track. This was a very special event and an acknowledgement of our club's burgeoning status.

The MG National Meeting and it was off to Toowoomba for this year's event.

## 2015

The National Meeting team travelled to the Yarra Valley Victoria and we won the Nuffield Oceania Trophy.

The club celebrated its 60th anniversary with a dinner at the Sulphide Workers Club another wonderful achievement. Sadly, 2015 was the final King Edward Park hillclimb, a decision taken out of our hands by Newcastle City Council. On a brighter note, Alan Bates, John Collins and Greg Hunter were made life members.





## 2016

The MG National Meeting was held in Perth, West Australia, which meant a mammoth trek for our members!

This year saw the introduction of plastic club membership cards, featuring a photo of a different club car each year.

## 2018

... had the V8 supercars come to town and MGCCN was there! We were the support cars transporting the drivers around the circuit while they sat on the rear of the cars.

It was another big trip for the MG National Meeting people who were off to Tasmania this year.



## 2020

Unfortunately, the National MG Meeting to be held at Albury-Wodonga was cancelled due to the Covid outbreak. CAMS had a name change in 2020 to become known as Motorsport Australia.

# 2016



## 2017

A team from our club went off to the MG National Meeting in Adelaide. Impressively, that year CAMS initiated an award in honour of Judith Rae. Called the “Judith Rae Award” it was an acknowledgement of Judith’s tireless work for both our club and CAMS. We named the club library the Judith Rae Library and renamed our Ladies Trophy as the Judith Rae Memorial Trophy following her sad passing on 21st December 2016. There was big excitement at Ringwood as a red new tractor was purchased to replace “the old Chamberlain tractor”. The Thursday Dads Army deserve huge thanks for their ongoing hard work. Mike Snow was made a life member.

## 2019

The National Meeting for MG was held in Queensland.

That year a tarred access road was made into Ringwood allowing much better and cleaner access into the hillclimb area for both competitors and spectators. Two new names were added to our life member’s board - Lyall Clarke and Darrell Gregory.





## 2021

... was another year of Covid with many events cancelled or on hold until the end of the year when things were starting to open up. Roll on 2022.

## 2023

Once again we were given the honour of running the Australian Hillclimb Championship which was held in October. Although at this year's supercar V8 event we didn't get to run around the track, we put on a very good car display for the club.

The National Meeting this year was held at Glenelg, SA

## 2025

A new membership renewal system was put in place. The MG National Meeting was in Albury –Wodonga where we won the Nuffield Oceania trophy again.

# 2025

## 2022

The MG National Meeting was awarded to MGCC Newcastle, Lake Macquarie to be exact! It was named "MGs by the Lake" and was a great event and a credit to all involved with most of the top trophies going our way. Fran Hodgson was presented with life membership at the dinner dance.

## 2024

A new website replacing an older version was introduced in to modernise this way of keeping the members informed. Alongside the website the club also started an email service to members called "Mailchimp". We can now email members with news and reminders of all upcoming events. November saw the inauguration of a very successful event of over a hundred cars at Ringwood aimed at involving members with cars on historic plates. With the assistance of a government grant, a disabled toilet was installed at Ringwood, a facility both keeping us up to date and improving amenities for the public who visit Ringwood. The clubroom facilities were enhanced with a new large TV.

A large team travelled to Tamworth for the National Meeting celebrating 100 years of MGs and managed to bring back the Nuffield Oceania Trophy again.





# The Club's Future

The club's future is bright and with Ringwood as our main asset we can build on this to give our members the things they enjoy.

Club nights have always been a staple part of club life and these continue in our very own clubrooms, admittedly with fewer numbers but the quality is just the same with usually a speaker, a great supper plus the chance to chat with other club members. Club runs are another feature that always has and still will be a part of the club scene. Club register runs also began early on as a way of enjoying both cars and company.

MG National Meetings are a major part of the year for MG owning club members. They comprise a full weekend of MG motoring, competition and socialising for clubs across Australia annually, at or around Easter, since 1970. Clubs from across

Australia nominate to host the event and take 2 – 3 years in planning. Club members have travelled all over Australia with highlights being Perth WA, Toowoomba and Gold Coast in Qld, Launceston & Hobart in Tasmania as well as regular outings to Victoria, SA and rural areas of NSW. Our Club has hosted 4 very successful National Meetings (1985, 2000, 2011, and 2022) and won the coveted Nuffield Oceania Trophy (donated by MGCC UK) on 5 occasions. A great achievement by a comparatively small club of very competitive MG drivers. Next year we will be heading back to SA to

the Handorf region and then onto Tasmania in 2027.

The motorkhana and khanacross events are gaining in popularity and with (hopefully) some government grants we may in the future be able to tar some of our land at Ringwood and be able to run traditional tar motorkhanas.

“The club's future is bright and with Ringwood as our main asset we can build on this to give our members the things they enjoy.”



Ringwood itself continues to host a lot of our events, hillclimbs, motorkhanas, khanacross and display events. The hire side of Ringwood is expanding all the time and will improve as a low cost alternative for clubs and others.

We have all the facilities to be able to accommodate almost any event including a well run and successful canteen staffed by our volunteer club members.

Known as Dads Army, the the hard-working volunteer force that maintains Ringwood is a wonderful crew which just grew out of the beginnings of the revamped Ringwood. They move mountains, dig holes and have a camaraderie that can't be bought. They will be an asset going forward and anyone wanting some companionship and the need to feel useful please join them.

It has been an interesting few years for women competing in motorsport at various events including, MG National Meetings, Khanacross, Motorkhanas, Rally Runs, and Speed Events to name a few. For many years, women club members have been competing in events and their names are

all listed on the boards on the wall of the club rooms at Cobby Street, Shortland.

Ringwood hillclimbs, and for that matter all hillclimbs, will mainly be the same as they have been since a vehicle had 4 wheels; it's the nursery of motor sport competition. We have started "Come Try Events" combined with a Club event to attract increased participation. In the future, "Come and Try" days together with "Tune & Sort" with your race engineer participating without the pressure of competition could be considered. In the past, "Feminine Come and Try" events had proven popular, also without pressure of competition. Another development may be another "Inter Club Tri Challenge" with clubs to the south of us. Like our present "Tri Challenge", it compacts the competition into a smaller area of the State making it a one-day event.

Remember, early in his career Jack Brabham ran in the King Edward Park Hillclimb in the 1950s when our club was first formed!



*From humble beginnings (left) – to the Ringwood we have today (above).*

