

Clubtorque



The official publication of
MG Car Club Newcastle Inc



Fran Hodgson's Birthday Cake
during The Club Run to Paterson
on Tuesday 14th April.

MGs & Motorsport
MAY 2026

Bernie Roberts

5 Port Stephens Street Raymond Terrace NSW 2324
T 4987 4248 F 4987 6745 E bernie44@abtrol.com.au



Eric Turner

432 Pacific Highway, Belmont NSW 2280
T 4947 0507 E carlinebelmont@bigpond.com



Clubtorque

Official Publication of
MG CAR CLUB NEWCASTLE INC

ABN 96 210 450 708

NSW Inc Assn Reg'd No Y0354245

Founded 1955 - MGs and MOTORSPORT

Club Address:

PO Box 632, HAMILTON
NSW 2303

Website Address:

www.mgcarclub.com.au

Monthly Gathering:

2nd Friday of the Month,
7.30pm at the **Club Rooms**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MGNewcastle>

Club Rooms:

Northcott Park, Cobby Street,
Shortland

Membership Enquiries:

John Garroway

0436 022 393

membership@mgcarclub.com.au

Ringwood Park

Motorsports Complex:

53 Italia Road Balickera,
14Kms North of the
Heatherbrae Roundabout

Other Enquiries

Contact the Secretary

(H) 0249 662 195

(M) 0481 334 504

jennifer.fernance@yahoo.com.au

United Kingdom



www.motorsport.org.au



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THE BOARD

PRESIDENT Bryn Baverstock (H) 02 4965 7137 (M) 0404 031 137 bhbav@optusnet.com.au	EVENT CO-ORDINATOR/ WEBSITE MANAGER Michael Snow 0432 772 044 michaeljsnow4@gmail.com	MAGAZINE EDITOR Libby Fernance 0434 791 965 libby.fernance@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT Rose Collins 0413 222 828 rosecogger@hotmail.com	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY John Garroway 0436 022 393 membership@mgsclub.com.au	SOCIAL SECRETARY Louise Clayton-Jones (H) 02 4943 6239 kennethmcleod1@bigpond.com
SECRETARY Jennifer Fernance (H) 0249 662 195 (M) 0481 334 504 jennifer.fernance@yahoo.com.au	REGISTER CAPTAIN Fran Hodgson (M) 0414 449 252 dfhodgson@bigponnd.com	PUBLICITY Rick Vincent 0418 494 663 rickrevhead3@gmail.com
TREASURER Dave Atkins (H) 02 4956 6200 (M) 0415 963 515 datkins49@optusnet.com.au	REGISTER SECRETARY/ HISTORIC REGO SCHEME Allan Evans (H) 02 4957 2871 (M) 0412 170 871 aevans1@bigpond.net.au	SPEED EVENT CO-ORDINATOR John Collins 0412 260 343 johnfcollins343@gmail.com
RALLY CO-ORDINATOR Kevin Akers (M) 0417 405 590 kevinakers@bigpond.com	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE Paul Bower (M) 0407 247 895 pbandjoy@bigpond.com	AUTOTEST CO-ORDINATOR Kenneth Atkins 0407 377 710 kenkustom1980@gmail.com
CLUB CAPTAIN Chris Fernance 0437 662 195 c_fernance@bigpond.com	LAND PANEL Brian Sutton brianrsutton82@gmail.com	DIRECTOR ASSISTING No 1 Lewis Penfold 0434 389 469 ldpenfold@gmail.com
MOTORSPORT AUST DELEGATE Chris Fernance 0437 662 195 c_fernance@bigpond.com	YOUNG DRIVER DEVELOPMENT Cody Mckay 0422 034 400 cody@codymckaymotorsports.com	CSCA DELEGATE Brett Gilles 0410 511 630 brettgil@inet.net.au
NATMEET CO-ORDINATOR Fran Hodgson (M) 0414 449 252 dfhodgson@bigpond.com	Tri-challenge Contacts Matt Halpin TSCC 0411 707 075 Chris Seam KSCC (02) 6562 7536 Peter Robinson MGCCN (02) 4933 8167	WESTLAKES AUTOMOBILE CLUB Kristen Hadley (Secretary) 0423 170 259 secretary@wac.org.au

NO PHONE CALLS AFTER 9.00 PM

COMING EVENTS — MAY

Fri 1	MG SA	MG Nationals Breakfast M	8:00am	Adelaide Hills Convention Centre
Sat 2	KSCC	State Hillclimb Rnd 4 Mt. Cooperabung Pract	9:00am	Kempsey
Sun 3	KSCC	State Hillclimb Rnd 4 Mt. Cooperabung	9:00am	Kempsey
Sun 3	MX5 NSW	CSCA Championship Rnd 3	9:00am	SMSP South
Sun 3	HDCC	State Motorkhana Rnd3	9:00am	Nirimba
Mon 4	MGCCN	Mag Assy	2:00pm	Lesley Walkers House
Wed 6	MGCCN	Motorsport Panel Meeting M	7:30pm	Cobby St Shortland
Thurs 7	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Fri 8	MGCCN	Club Night M	7:30pm	Cobby St Shortland
Sat 9	MGCCN	M YDDC-2	9:00am	Ringwood Park
Sun 10		<i>Mothers Day</i>		
Thurs 14	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 16	MGCCN	Club Register Run to Terrigal M	R8 9am	Cobby St Shortland
Sat 16	TSCC	Tri-Challenge Rnd2 Practice	9:00am	Oakburn Park
Sun 17	TSCC	Tri-Challenge Rnd 2	TRI2 9:00am	Oakburn Park
Sun 17		Tilligerry Motorama	8:00am	Tanilba Bay
Sun 17	SSCC	State s'sprint Rnd 4	9:00am	SMSP Druitt
Tues 19	MGCCN	Board Meeting M	7:30pm	Cobby St Shortland
Thurs 21	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 23	WAC	Rallysprint	10:00am	Awaba
Sun 24	RCC	State Motorkhana Tar Rnd4	9:00am	Nirimba
Thurs 28	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Sun 31	MGCCN	Hillclimb A5 M TS3 CC11 R9	9:00am	Ringwood Park
Sun 31	WAC	Khanacross	10:00am	Awaba

Legend

M - Club Member
R - Register pointscore

CC - Club Championship
KC - Khanacross
MK - Motorkhana

TA - Touring Assembly
TC - Tri-Challenge
TS - Tar Speed Series

Please contact the respective Panel Chairman or Michael Snow to confirm that an event is still being conducted. Also check the website as late cancellations do happen.

COMING EVENTS — JUNE

Mon 1	MGCCN	Mag Assy	2:00pm	Lesley Walkers House
Thurs 4	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 6	GSCC	State Hillclimb Rnd 5 Mountainview Practice	9:00am	Grafton
Sat 6	AHRG	Des West Memorial Tour Tar Only CC12 TR2	9:00am	TBA
Sun 7	GSCC	State Hillclimb Rnd 5 Mountainview	9:00am	Grafton
Mon 8	<i>King's Birthday Holiday</i>			
Thurs 11	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Fri 12	MGCCN	Club Night M	7:30pm	Cobby St Shortland
Sat 13	Hunter Small Ford Club	Private Hire Hillclimb	9:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 13	WAC	Khanacross	2:00pm	Awaba
Sun 14	MGCCN	Khanacross Dirt/Tar M AT4 CC13 R10	10:00am	Ringwood Park
Sun 14	TCC	State Motorkhana Rnd5	9:00am	Nirimba
Tues 16	MGCCN	Board Meeting M	7:30pm	Cobby St Shortland
Thurs 18	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 20	Port Stephens Council	Learner Experiential Workshop	9:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 20	MGCCN	Club Run TBA M ** New Date **		Cobby St Shortland
Sun 21	HDCC	State Khanacross Rnd3	9:00am	Hampton
Sun 21	MGHR	Euro Motorfest	8:30am	Foreshore Park Newcastle East
Thurs 25	MGCCN	Dads Army	8:00am	Ringwood Park
Sat 27	MGCCN	Step Up Trackside M	10:00am	Cobby St Shortland
Sat 27	MGCCN	Natter Night M ** New Date **	5:30pm	Cobby St Shortland
Sun 28	MGCCN	Hillclimb A4 M TS4 CC14 R11	9:00am	Ringwood Park
Mon 29	MGCCN	Mag Assy	2:00pm	Lesley Walkers House

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

G'day all,

I am at the MG National Meeting in Hahndorf South Australia when writing this, so not much time to do a column but so far the club is doing well with 1, 2 and 3rd in the rocker cover racing and 1st in class for John Collins in the concours.

All arrived safely except Dale Powell whose tow car had gear box problems and he had to return home great shame to miss out.

By the time the magazine comes out it will all be over so the results etc. will be in the next one.

We are going to put the Dads Army monthly report in the magazine so you can keep up with what's happening at Ringwood and see what a fantastic job they do to keep the place, your place in such good shape.

The need for officials has now reached crisis point in the club and we have to seriously think about what can be done. Over the next month or so there will be a a lot of effort in trying to attract members and even friends to become officials for without some new blood events will suffer!

Trust me at the last board meeting it was obvious that there is not enough officials to do the job and it was the same old same old people trying to keep events going.

So think seriously about putting your hand up. You won't be disappointed!

Cheers

Bryn

Jackpot Draw Rules

1. Come to the Club Night!!!
2. Purchase some Raffle tickets...
3. The winning Raffle tickets are drawn and prizes are picked.
4. The first prize winner then nominates a number base on how many balls remaining in the bucket.
5. If the nominated number is drawn the winner collects.

Three Prizes to be won with a total value \$60.00. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

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IF THE JACKPOT IS NOT WON, IT WILL INCREASE TO \$400 NEXT MONTH.

The Jackpot is guaranteed to go off before or on the
19th Draw of \$1000.00

When the jackpot is won, the Jackpot starts again at \$100

SOCIAL SECRETARY

Twenty-three members attended the April club night where Dawn and Neville Lambert traced their family's life through the "adventures" of Dawn's first car, a 1974 mini. Dawn was an early participant in motor sports, to the point of entering events with their baby seat still in the back of the mini! Neville showed a strong grasp of the technical points of motor racing. We hope to see more of the Lamberts at future club gatherings.

Racing car enthusiasts will be interested in our speaker for May, Michael Poole. Michael's topic *Marcos Matters*, all about that British racing car and its history. Jim Pope's motoring quiz is the feature for June. I have been canvassing Rick Vincent's idea of having a club night session with the focus on Hillclimb techniques for various corners etc. I'm a bit slippery on the details myself, but the idea has been well received in some quarters. I am yet to bend my mind to attracting younger drivers. If you have any ideas on how to do that, please contact me.

The Mountain View room at Club Macquarie has been booked for *presentation night on Friday 27th November 2026*. Please note that this date is earlier than usual. I have discussed with a couple of people how we could run the night to maximize attendance for trophy winners without them having the expense of a sit-down dinner. The November date might be more appealing because December can be full of Christmas obligations for some families.

I have to thank quite a few people for their assistance recently. Firstly, to Rose who took on the March club night at short notice. Secondly to Fran Hodgson, Martin Reeves and John Collins for organizing the drinks at Sunday's Hillclimb and finally to Gillian Humphries and Judy Christopherson for their help in the canteen. Judy made mini muffins as a trial and they sold well.

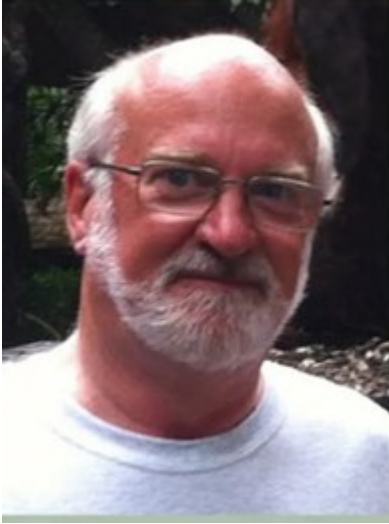
Hope to see you soon.
Meantime...

GUEST SPEAKERS WANTED

If you know of someone who could do a presentation, 25-30 minutes, please let us know, it can be on any subject such as local history, car restoration, health issues etc, please get back to me so I can follow up.



RIP PETER MCLEAN



Peter McLean will be remembered as a friend and greatly valued contributor to MG Car Club Newcastle by members, particularly in relation to motorsport activities conducted at our Ringwood Motorsport complex. Peter was a key member of the Ringwood event organisation and maintenance team. He kept a low profile working at most events, hidden away in the timing hut, helping operate the timing and results system. In between events, Peter came along to the Thursday (Dads Army) maintenance day providing technical support, in conjunction with Michael Snow, to keep the timing system operational while undertaking system enhancements as necessary.

Peter was a man of many talents, a naval architect by profession. He pursued interests in boats, motor cars and building & flying model aircraft. Alan, a long-term school friend of Peter, advised us that one of Pete's early cars was a very ordinary MG TF1500. Alan recounts how he was nervous riding in the car as it was missing some floorboards, and he worried that an errant rock or stick might come up through the floor aperture and cause him a mischief. The car regularly broke down and no doubt aided Peter in developing his maintenance skills. Another classic car that Peter owned was a Ford Anglia 105E that he highly modified with flared arches, Dunlop racing rubber and a highly tuned motor.

Peter used the car daily, despite the high state of tune making it impractical for normal road use, not sure he ever raced it. Peter became involved in building race cars. He designed the chassis for the Standfast Formula Vee made by his friend, John's company, Penhurst Motors. Pete also, apparently worked with Jack Bradham building racing cars, not that he thought to mention it!

Peter's professional career took him on a number of overseas adventures. He was involved with the Gretel II Australian team that competed in the 1970 America's Cup campaign. Gretel II was the last of the wooden constructed 12 metre yachts to compete in the race series. Gretel II put up a great challenge to the incumbent American yacht, "Intrepid", being pipped at the post in the final race to be awarded the Lipton Runner Up Trophy. Peter also worked in Guyana, South America designing a boat for The United Nations Organisation.

In recent years Peter was excited to return to motor sport following the

purchase of Doug Rae's Bronze MGF, competing with it in Khanacross events at Ringwood. He also purchased a 1962 Nota Sportsman, open clubman style car, that he recently entered in a Hillclimb event at Ringwood.

Peter became suddenly ill and died, in hospital, over the Easter weekend; it was a big shock to all who knew him. Peter will be remembered as a gentleman, a very unassuming and intelligent person who would engage in interesting chats about his life experiences. We are grateful for his friendship and his contribution to the car club. He will be sadly missed.



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SPEED EVENT CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

On Sunday 19th April the Hillclimb at Ringwood Motor Sport Park had 46 entries who completed their runs. There was a large variety of cars, and the weather was perfect with quite a few spectators. Of course, the children who attended had a great time on the newly installed children's playground.

Senior experienced level Officials to run events is getting to be a serious problem in the immediate future. This event plus the One Raceway supersprint both had this problem. Profitably running these sorts of events is helping to maintain the facilities that the club owns, namely Ringwood Motor Sport Complex and our Club Rooms at Birmingham Gardens. Both competitors and general club members will have to decide whether they want these facilities to remain.

Shoot Out for the smallest time difference between 2nd and 3rd run, prize money, was won by Rick Yates in his Mini was a difference of 0.05 of sec then there was a tie for second place between Ryan Bates and Dylan Gerrish there was a difference of 0.06 of a sec.

Fastest time of the day was Ryan Bates in his Subaru WRX with 68.53.

New Record: Classic Car pre 1986 Over 2 ltr - 79.06 987 Baden Jones (MGCCN) Triumph TR6 2.5 ltr.

Coming Events:

- Motorsport Panel Meeting Cobby Street Birmingham Gardens on 6th May 2026.
- Tamworth Sporting Car Club Tri-Challenge Round 2 on Sunday 16th May 2026
- MGCCN Hillclimb A5 M Ringwood Park on 31st May 2026

John Collins

DAD'S ARMY

Dad's army is inviting new members to join the Thursday working group in maintenance of equipment and improvements to the Ringwood Hill Climb complex. The club has two tractors, four ride on mowers a tip truck and three Ford Fiesta cars, this equipment is used for track maintenance and improvements, and any new member will be trained to use this equipment.

Over the last couple of years, the volunteers have built a new catch fence, installed a disabled toilet including plumbing, drainage and power, replaced the roof on the toilet block and well as installing concreted track edging. Presently we are installing stormwater drainage systems, and a proposed installation of a solar and batter system is being investigated to be able to run events without having to use diesel generated power.

The group does not have a timetable, with a relaxed atmosphere. We stop for morning tea and lunch where we solve a lot of the world's problems. It is also a type Men's Shed for the group and gives you a chance to get exercise while creating a positive outcome for the club.

The gates are open from 8 am on Thursday's and you are welcome to come at any time, just bring your lunch, we provide morning tea and drinks.

PRIVATE PRACTICE & TESTING AT RINGWOOD

Available most Thursdays, check in advance to ensure track works are not planned by the Land Panel on that day. Other days can be arranged, provided a suitably qualified "Supervisor" is available.

CAMS have now implemented the MIDCAR protocols under which we must operate to be covered by their insurance policy.

Contacts :-

David Atkins	0415 963 515
Kevin Akers	0417 405 590
Michael Snow	0432 772 044

REGISTER SECRETARY

We have had 3 new historic vehicles added to our register since the publication of the April magazine.

1954 MG TF
1966 BMW K11 Motorcycle
1969 MGB Roadster

There were 28 historic registrations processed in March 2026 and a further 11 up to 21/04/2026.

There are approximately 277 vehicles listed currently on our Historic Register.

The All-British Car Display, organised by the Jaguar Owners Club, was held at Newcastle Foreshore Park on Saturday 18th April. Conditions were perfect and many local car enthusiasts, including at least 10 MGCCN members drove their vehicles in to the park to join in the display and check out the many other interesting vehicles. There was something there to satisfy the interests of any car enthusiasts from rare vintage vehicles through to modern exotic super cars. I am always on the look out for something different, that I have not seen before, or very rarely come across, and I was not disappointed.

I have never previously seen or heard of a Tornado Talisman. It is a 1960 era English low volume production/kit car. Typical construction, separate steel chassis, with fibreglass body, featuring Cosworth tuned Ford Cortina engine with close ration gearbox. Triumph Herald front suspension and independent rear with Limited Slip Differential. Two running out of four in Australia.



Two rarely seen but beautifully presented sports cars.



Triumph GT6



Jenson Healy

From vintage to modern super car.



Austin Van



Aston Martin

From never restored to fully restored.



Humber Super Snipe



1950 Triumph Thunderbird

The Humber was previously owned by former MGCCN member Tony Crossey. Bought new by his father and is now in the possession of Tony's son Kevin.

Allan Evans – Register Secretary

CSCA SUPERSPRINT SERIES – ROUND 2

This was the second year the club hosted a round at this track. Last year we used the clockwise Wakefield Circuit and this year the anticlockwise Shelley Circuit.

Like last year it was a perfect Autumn Day – sunny and around 22C.

We use the Motorsport Australia Event Entry System, which showed 95 entries all up but with 9 withdrawn before the refund cut-off on Sunday 22 March, so we ended up with 86 paid entries with a break-even at 82 entries - a good outcome.

With another 6 cancellations after refund cut-off, we ended up with 80 runners on the day, as follows:

38 MX5 Club; 16 MGCCN; 9 TSOA; 7 CLA; 4 JDCA; 2 MGCC; 1 SCCA;
3 Others

Congratulations to:

Benjamin Jackson who achieved outright first place and 1st in class S1 in his Radical SR3

Ron Hammond 1st in class S2 in his Debron RH23

Bruce Condron 1st in class CD1 in his MGB

Richard Playford 1st in class AB2 in his Toyota Celica

Greg Redmond 1st in class M3 in his Nissan 370Z

Michael Baxter 2nd in class R3 in his evergreen VL Commodore RB25

David Pride 3rd in class R3 in his BMW 335i

Bill Pearson 1st in class R6 in his RX7

Scott Brydie 2nd in class R6 in his RX7 sports sedan

Well done the MGCCN team!

John Collins was Clerk of Course, Craig Penman Chief Steward, Paul Bower Chief Scrutineer and Marion Baxter Chief Grid Marshall, all ably assisted by other club volunteers.... a great team!

The day started right on time at 0900 and concluded around 1615.

There were a couple of incidents that took up about 40 mins of time but with our policy of no lunch break we were able to run our usual 6 x 8-10 min sessions with the last two amalgamating groups.

HOSTED BY MGCCN AT ONE RACEWAY – 29 MARCH 2026

Like last year we had good feedback from a lot of the entrants and have made a name for ourselves as running a very good event at this new track. It is an expensive exercise for the club but it is a great track with excellent facilities and very good management so with the right pricing and a good reputation we have managed to come out on top each year.

The club made a surplus of around \$1900, which was a good outcome considering the fuel problems at the time and distance involved, especially for our members, in getting to and from this venue.

Brett Gilles Event Secretary



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**This will be part of the NSW State
Hillclimb Championship run by MGCCN
on 9th August 2026 at Ringwood.**

**We are looking for non-perishable items
for raffle prizes.**

Contact Jennean Bates on mob 0429 817 393

REGISTER CAPTAIN REPORT

April roundup: It was a busy time in April, Easter, School Holidays, a Club Run, a Natter Night and a drive to Hahndorf SA for the MG National Meeting, all within a couple of weeks. Details of the National Meeting will be in the next magazine as was after the deadline for inclusion. I'm sure our enthusiastic team of 14 will be successful and return with many interesting stories.

Tuesday 14th, we headed to Paterson via Fern Bay, Raymond Terrace and Seaham. It also happened to be my birthday so I couldn't think of a nicer way to celebrate than with a drive in the MG and lovely food and cake with friends. It was the last drive for me in my beautiful red MGZR as it has gone to a new home. Ray & Verne Sheather have promised to look after it and take it on many Club Runs. This leaves the Hodgsons with only 3 cars (All MGs, a red HS; grey ZR and Blue RV8) for the 1st time in 35 years.

Next was the Natter Night held at our place in Eleebana. With such a reduced collection I wondered if it would still be interesting to those who attended. Darren's Whiskey making endeavours garnered much interest and the garage inspection also included Motorbike, TF 160 engine and a half cut MGF VVC engine.

Some of the women were more interested in a tour of Fran's sewing room where she makes costumes for Newcastle Theatre Co in her spare time.

From the 23rd and 24th those heading to Hahndorf set off on our overland journey, hoping we would find sufficient petrol along the way. So, no roads less travelled this time.

May Fun: We have made a change to the date of the Club Run to give us a bit more time to return from SA and to move away from the Mother's Day weekend.

On Saturday 16th we will head to Terrigal for lunch at the Terrigal Pavillion by the water (2 Scenic Hwy Terrigal). There is a great boardwalk around the headland that we can explore afterwards or take a hike up to the Skillion where there is now a step-based walking track. But first we will stop at the Gosford Chocolate Factory in West Gosford (6 Jusfrute Dr, West Gosford) where we can check out the showroom and their abundance of sweet treats. To accommodate this, we will need to meet an hour earlier than usual – **9:00am** at the Clubrooms. Please let me know if you wish to meet us along the way or at the Chocolate Factory (we aim to arrive there around 10:15am).

Looking ahead to June: A

change of date for June as well. We have moved the planned midweek run to **Saturday 20th June** with an Afternoon tea run to the home of Ray & Verne Sheather at Seaham. We will leave the Clubrooms at **1:00pm** to arrive by 2:00pm. Please bring a plate to share. I have heard that Ray is a dab hand at Capuchino and other coffees.

The June Natter Night will be at the Clubrooms on Saturday 27th – a “Winter Warmers” Dinner. Meet from 5:30pm and bring something warm and hearty to share. Please remember there is only 1 oven so not everything can be heated up at the same time.

Christmas in July: This is the last call for Christmas in July weekend to Denman. Darren and I are travelling to Canada and Alaska from 19th May and will be back on 1st July, so we need to confirm numbers with the motel before we leave. I still have a couple of rooms.

To jog your memories: 25th / 26th July, making our way to Denman on Saturday with stop at the Vintage Shed, lunch in various outlets available in Denman, afternoon wine tasting at Two Rivers Winery and dinner at the Denman Hotel which is next door to the Grapevine Motel (which is at the end of the main street). Rooms are modern and on a single level and reportedly very comfortable.

Cost of accommodation: \$180 for 2 people or \$160 for a single occupancy (meals and other activities will be at your own expense).

Don't forget we are looking for members to host a Natter Night social gathering at their home for months of August, September, October. Let me know if you are willing and we will schedule you in.

Hope to see you at a Club event soon... **Fran & Darren Hodgson**



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members.

James Annan	Associate Member
Jack Blanch	Junior Member
Max Buchan	Junior Member
Mitchell Cadell	Junior Family Member
Ross Cadell	Associate Family Member
Riley Chiarelli-Dial	Associate Member
Colin Escott	Full Member
James Hoskisson	Associate Member
Nathan Knight	Associate Member
Nicholas Mason	Associate Member
Robert Mirabito	Full Member
Dustin Mrcela	Associate Member
Anthony Collins	Associate Member

We look forward to having you join us at future events, be it a Club Night, Social Outing or a Competition Event.

John Garroway
Membership Secretary

MGCCN would like to THANK *Lake Mac Printing* for the hard work they do to print our Magazine promptly and efficiently.

FOR SALE

MG TC New Weather and Interior Replacement Kits in Black.

I have the following brand new parts that I purchased in 2023 from Brown & Gammons an MG Specialist in the UK. They were bought initially to replace the existing weather equipment and trim in my 1948 MG TC but due to unforeseen circumstances I am selling my TC so these new replacement parts are not required. I would prefer to sell all the 5 items together but will consider individual sales and I'm looking for a reasonable offer in Australian dollars.

1. Black Mohair Hood with one rear window – hood plus trim, piping and fittings and needs to be fitted to your existing hood frame.
2. Black Mohair Full Tonneau – This is the full tonneau with a centre zip and side zips by wheel arches.
3. Black Mohair Half Tonneau – This is the tonneau that covers behind the two seats.
4. Black Mohair Side Screen Covers – These covers need to be fitted to your existing side screen frames and windows.
5. Black Vinyl Interior Trim Kit – This includes the inside door panels, the door side of the leg tunnels, green sound proofing, wheel arches, piping for door panels and around dashboard, doors and behind seats as well as sheet for side screen cover back panel behind seats.

They are sitting in the original boxes in my garage which is a total waste.

The total cost of all the items above delivered to Australia was just over \$4,600. I would accept \$1,500 for them all. They would need to be picked up either in Sydney or the Central Coast.

Graham Salter
Northbridge
0400 324 006

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