

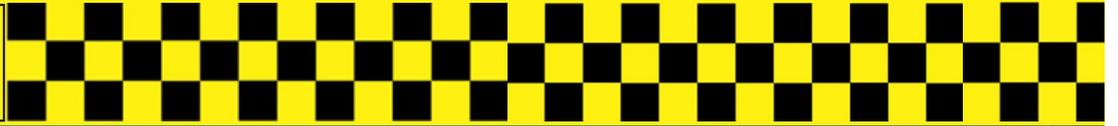


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SPRITE TORQUE

January 2023

THE SPRITE
CAR CLUB OF
AUSTRALIA





SPRITE CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC.

Club Patron: Graham Healey

ABN: 62879038-526

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Cover Photo

Photo of Brian Walton taken by Scott Gibbs at the AGM/Christmas Party

The Editor is always looking for articles of interest for the *Sprite Torque* magazine.

If you have an interesting story about your adventures and ownership of your pride and joy, a technical article, tips or would just like your car featured then please contact Elise Manewell. All articles welcome, whether it is about your Sprite, Midget, or even your BMW.

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Scott Gibbs
Rod Pringle

LIFE MEMBERS

1975: Bob Owers

2015: Brian Walton, Ian Gibbs, Wendy Gibbs, Graham Wells, Avis Fowler, Greg Holden, Alan Barlow, Dave Lawrence, Colin Dodds

2016: Barry Taylor (Dec), Ian Jenson, Barry Cockayne, Les Payne, Bill McLennan

2019: Eileen Barlow (Dec)

2020: Leah Holden, David Healy

CONTACT US

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to 2023

We finished the year with the AGM and we elected our new office bearers for 2023.

We welcome them all and hope that we bring some exciting things to the club. Sharon and Avis are working on a jam-packed calendar to get the maximum involvement of all club members. We will travel the four corners of the state to all in the club to participate. This will see Southerners, Northerners, the Westerners further than the great divide as well as the beaches.

I have spoken to almost 100 members in the last 6 weeks or so and most of whom I have not met yet. I hope to see more and more members enjoy the activities that our club puts on.

Leah and I had a great Christmas with the family and all of us were together for Christmas lunch. Our plan for a trip to Bright in Victoria was shelved as we had the opportunity to wire up the garden shed, dog run and chook house. The shed is all powered up which has allowed me to set it up much better than it was before.

Ray came visiting on the 28th and we spent a few days tinkering on many jobs. We freed the French stationary motor and had a little horizontal International running in a very short time. We also put some energy into the clutch system on the Yellow car and it should be up and running within the next few weeks.

We have done some more landscaping around the rock wall and also dropped three pallets of Matilda Buffalo up on the rocks. This should make the place look much fresher. We have also been working with our new neighbours to sort out the damage to fences that were torn apart by the recent floods. The effect on the gum trees with wet feet has seen a few die while some have come back.

Back to club issues, we have a strong calendar of both social and racing activities and we can drive our cars to any club event. The club has a strong group of members who are actively competing and to watch midgets go up against Porsches is something really nice to watch and be reminded that we have Sprites and Midgets compete on all the tracks around the East Coast, so if you are interested go along and have a look.

Finally, I sent a photo to our new Editor of our youngest granddaughter on a LeMans Sprite at Christmas.

I hope you all enjoy the year and we look forward to catching up this year.



HSRCA 2023 CALENDAR

NEW YEAR HISTORICS

SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK, 3 - 5 FEBRUARY

SYDNEY CLASSIC

SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK, 9 - 11 JUNE

SUMMER FESTIVAL

SYDNEY MOTORSPORT PARK, 24 - 26 NOVEMBER

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historic sports and racing car association nsw

CHRISTMAS PARTY/AGM/60TH BIRTHDAY

“The Slashie”

On the 11th of December 58 club members made their way to the Lakeside Restaurant at the Sydney International Regatta Centre in Penrith.

For those interested, a social drive was organised for members to take the scenic route there in convoy. I opted for a sleep in instead and went direct to the venue but from all reports, the run was a success.

When I did arrive at the venue I was pleasantly surprised with the quantity and quality of classic cars in attendance. Some I recognised immediately some I'd never seen before and that seemed to set the pace for the day as once I entered the venue, I noticed an eclectic mix of both new and, shall I say, more experienced members abuzz with excitement. For some it was the first club social event since the pandemic and you could feel it in the air, there was relief as we move further towards normal.

We all enjoyed the buffet lunch provided and the glorious warm sunny day made the perfect conditions for a cheeky beer from the bar. While we ate, there was a dragon boat event on the water outside which made for an interesting action-packed backdrop.

With everyone well fed, watered and re-acquainted there was a quick speech from our president, Greg Holden, and a financial report from Les Payne and it was into the Committee Nominations. There were two notable changes with Graham Wells announcing this will be his 20th and final year in the Secretary role with the hope to work with his replacement over this year to help with handover. Also, Les Payne stepped down from the Treasurer role after a lengthy stint with aspirations to hit the road and do some travelling.

Its these massive selfless contributions that inspired me to step up and take a seat on the committee as a general committee member. Given how much the club has done for me over the years I am really excited to get stuck into giving back.

All up it was a fantastic day, with plenty of smiles and sunshine!

Spritely,
Scotty Gibbs

Photos taken by Scott Gibbs and
Steve Rivett



MEET THE EDITOR

I hope that everyone has had a relaxing Christmas and New Years.

As we tick over into 2023, we welcome some new committee members, including myself as the editor of Sprite Torque. I'd like to thank Elly Baigent for her commitment to Sprite Torque for the last three years, your hard work has not gone unnoticed. During her time as editor, Elly has also juggled university, work placements and relocating interstate. All of this has landed Elly a full-time position in the Victorian theatre/arts community, leaving behind big shoes for myself to fill as the editor.

This year I hope to have a magazine full of articles; some member profiles so we can get to know some new/old faces, reports of the many eventful social and competition events this year, and tales of adventures tinkering with some of the beautiful cars in our club.

So, who am I?

My name is Elise Manewell, I am 17 and have just completed Year 12. This year I am starting a double degree in Commerce and Marketing & Media at Macquarie University. In the future I would love to work either in the aviation industry, or even better in the corporate side of motorsport.

That little girl you might have seen running around at Supersprints, club events and bbqs since 2005 was probably me. My mum, Avis, is a life member of club and my father has been a past president of the club. I am also a third generation Mini Club member, also spending time in the Thornleigh and Mx5 Car Clubs. Since I was 12 I have been competing in motorkhanas, either in my Mazda 121 (the ex Scott Gibbs Bubble) or my Dad's Mx5.

I also love watching racing, often going out to Eastern Creek to watch our Sprite Club members. One day I would love to have a go myself, however so far the closest I have come is the Night Drive for L-platers. I would highly recommend this for anyone who has their L-plates as it is a great way to get to know the track and feel the need for speed.

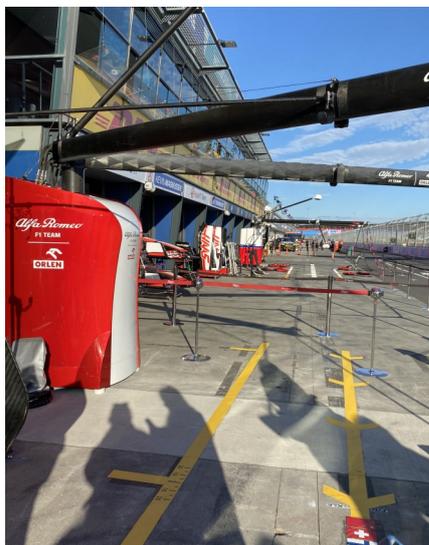
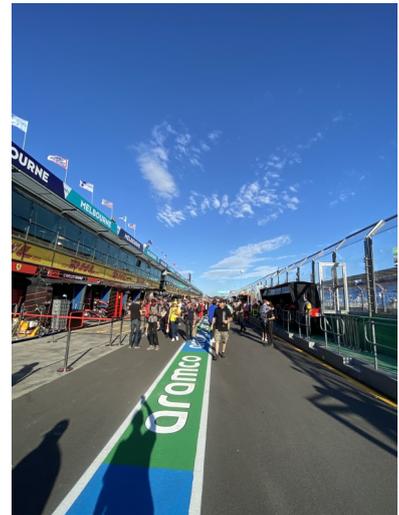
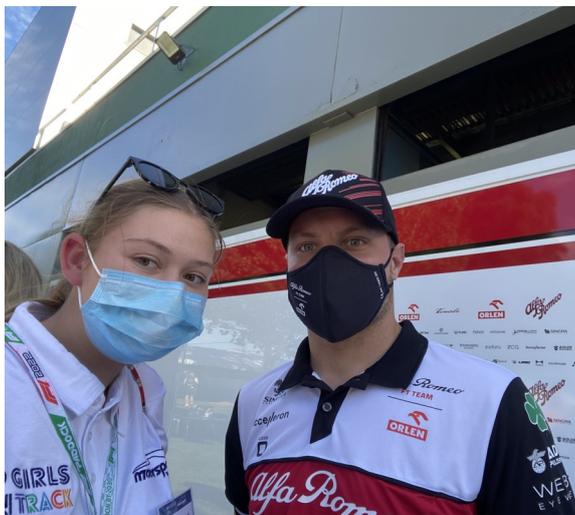
My love for motorsport includes Formula One, making sure I watch every practice session, qualifying and race. Last year I found late night races a great way to keep myself awake working on assessments for school. Over the past year I have also attended the Aus GP, including the Girls on Track Career Development and Mentoring event. I am hoping to write an article about this in an upcoming edition. I have also started volunteering at some events, including the Bathurst International that was held in November 2022.

I would love for as many of you to send articles through if possible throughout the year, especially if you don't want me rambling about uni life.

Articles welcome at editor@spriteclub.com.

Hoping this year sees many of our newer members at some of our club events, we would love to see all of you and your cars.

Elise



MEET: PAUL LISTER

How I came to own a 1965 Sprite Mk3

My interest in cars came later in life, as a child I was interested in trains which morphed into planes when I began flying lessons in my late teenage years. I would have to wait until just before my 40 th birthday for my interest in cars to take off.

I attended a corporate drive day at Sydney Motorsport Park where I got behind the wheel of a V8, my brother, a long time motorcycle and car enthusiast, was also there. By the end of the day, I was buzzing with excitement after topping out at 200km/h and feeling the forces of driving fast and braking hard. The following month my brother and I booked in for a Formula Ford drive experience with the open wheelers offering an even better experience being close to the ground, visibility of your front wheels and apexes and the unbeatable experience of an open cockpit... it was like flying a fighter jet but on the ground.

My interest in cars had been ignited and I started to look for a track car, my brother and I came across the hugely affordable Formula Vee class and before we knew it, we were the owners of a race ready formula vee for less than \$10k. I have been heavily involved with Formula Vee for the past three years having raced competitively in the NSW Championship however as the demand of race weekends, time away from family and a son that was now 10 years old and wanting to get more involved increased, I decided to sell the Vee last year.



Enter Austin Healy...

With money in my pocket and a 10 year old son that was wanting to enjoy driving and motorsport with me, I started looking at options. One of my close friends in the Formula Vee world, John Harriott, has owned and raced Austin Healy Sprites for years and he told me that I wouldn't find a car that is more fun to drive both on the road and on the track as a Sprite - and better still because they have two seats so my son could join me!

So the hunt began for a suitable Healy and it wasn't long before John was inspecting a car for me in his home town, Canberra. As with most cars of this vintage it was known that some work would be needed. I ended up negotiating to buy the 1965 Mk3 Sprite and John helped pick the car up and store it for a week before I could drive from the NSW Central Coast to pick up my new toy on a trailer. I have to say the body, paint work and interior was in excellent but it was also probably the ugliest sprite on the market. It had a double hoop roll bar that necessitated a restyled canvas roof making it look like a box, the chrome work was in good condition but aged the car beyond its 57 years and it was sporting the traditional steel rims with dog dish hubs... I knew I could turn this ugly duckling into something sportier.

After picking the car up from Canberra I delivered it direct to Colin Dodds, everyone knows Colin and I was told he was the best in the business, so who better to look over the car to make sure it was safe. The daily reports from Colin identified a long list of problems underneath the car from snapped wheel studs to missing bolts in the steering assembly, dodgy brakes and master cylinders to needing a new windscreen... 6 weeks after dropping the car off to Colin and many more bills than what I told my wife, the Mk3 was ready to pick up!

My wife drove me to Dural and I set off on my first drive on the Old Pacific Highway to Gosford. The car ran well and I had a blast driving at the 60km/h speed limit but feeling like I was going much quicker with driving characteristics more akin to a go-kart than a road car. That afternoon I was on school pick up duty and I have to say I have never seen a smile like that one I saw on my son's face that day, I didn't tell him that I had bought the car and his excitement was on full display.

Needless to say, school drop off and pick up's are fun again and I enjoy driving the Sprite regularly with my best buddy occupying the seat next to me on most adventures, we've already done 1,000km's in less than four months on full NSW registration.

My plans for the future include rebuilding a 1275cc motor that I recently purchased to replace the 1098cc currently in the car, installing a smaller Motorsport Australia compliant roll bar and to drive the car both on the road and on the track at GEAR events or hill climbs. Rest assured I can see many years of fun motoring ahead as my car approaches its 60 th birthday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY 15TH JANUARY 2023

New Year Meet and Greet

Lunch at Glenorie RSL

3 Post Office Rd, Glenorie

Meet at McDonalds McGraths Hill 10:30am for 11:00am departure for those who want to have a drive, or meet us there at 12:00pm for 12:30pm.

Lunch is order your own at the counter. Plenty of safe off-road parking.

RSVP: Tuesday 10th January

Sharon 0407941640

Avis 0412051594

Email: social@spriteclub.com

FEBRUARY 2023

FRIDAY 3RD—SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

HSRCA New Year Historics

Check out some fabulous historic motorcars as they compete at Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Ck. Take the opportunity to see some great racing and get close to the cars and action.

Better still, support our club members as they compete in their cars. Meet and be thrilled at the skill these drivers have. Watch the David and Goliath battle between Sprites and Porsches. Check out the muscle cars in Group N. Or listen to the sound of the seriously quick open-wheelers.

Racing starts at 9am.

Tickets are available at the gate or online.

TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SATURDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2023

Annual Fish and Chip Run with the Mini Car Club

Run will start at McDonalds McGraths Hill, 2pm for 2:30pm departure.

Cnr Groves Ave and Windsor Rd, McGraths Hill.

There will be a meet up point at the Old Berowra Toll Gates approx. 3pm.

Then head via Old Pacific H'way to Woy Woy Fish Co-op. Arrive approx. 4:30-5pm.

RSVP (incl. preferred start location) before Fri 10th Feb. Avis 0412051594

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 2023

Breakfast Run to Gledswood Hills Country Club

Meet: Eastern Creek Quarter Shopping Centre (Cnr Great Western H'Way and Rooty Hill Rd)

Time: 8:00am for 8:30am departure

Breakfast starts at 10am for those who wish to meet us there.

FRIDAY 9TH-SUNDAY 12TH MARCH 2023

Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH 2023

HARS Tour with the Mini Car Club

Visit to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society at Albion Park.

The HARS Aviation Museum is unlike many other you may visit. Admission includes a guided tour through the premises, which owing to the hangars being "working" hangars, requires an escort. The advantage of this approach is that you will have the opportunity to go behind the barriers and you will be able to experience the aircraft and other displays in a way that is not possible elsewhere.

The tour takes 90 mins and the museum fee is Adult \$25, Concession \$20. Entry will include a guided tour through all displays and hangars, with limited access to the Boeing 747-438.

On arrival we will enjoy a morning tea in Café Connie at \$7.50 per person and then commence a tour of the facilities and aircraft with an opportunity to park our cars under the wings of the 747. Lunch will be provided at Café Connie at \$13.50 per person.

Travel to Albion Park Airport on Sunday morning, meeting at McDonalds Heathcote (cnr Heathcote Rd and Princes H'Way) at 8:30am for 9:00am departure.

RSVP before Sunday 12th March

Avis 0412051594

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 2023

Sprite (SCCA) Supersprint

Sydney Motorsport Park South Circuit (Day event)

TUESDAY 11TH APRIL 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SATURDAY 22ND APRIL 2023

Blue Mountains Run to Bilpin

Meet: McDonalds Peachtree (Cnr Castlereagh Rd and Peachtree Rd)

Time: 12:30pm for 1:00pm departure

Afternoon Tea at Bilpin

SATURDAY 22ND-SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2023

All Historic Mallala

MAY 2023

TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2023

NATIONAL MOTORING HERITAGE DAY

Meet: McDonalds Thornleigh

Time: 7:30am for 8:00am departure

Breakfast on the Nothern Beaches (Dee Why)

We will be heading via Mona Vale Rd, McCarrs Creek Rd onto Dee Why. Parking meter costs apply.

FRIDAY 25TH-SUNDAY 28TH MAY 2023

Historic Winton

JUNE 2023

THURSDAY 9TH—SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2023

HSRCA Sydney Classic Historic Race Meeting

Watch some fabulous cars up close and personal as they compete at Sydney Motorsport Park. Walk around the pits, talk to the drivers, enjoy the atmosphere of classic car racing.

Watch Team Meyer or Team Hotz or Team Sebesfi. See David Baigent, Brian Weston and Greg Prunster take on the might of the Porsches, MGs, Shelby and Alfas. Or see how consistent Tamie Hotz or John Croft can be in their cars.

TUESDAY 13TH JUNE 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023

MGCC Newcastle (MGNEW) Supersprint

Pheasant Wood, Marulan

JULY 2023

TUESDAY 11TH JULY 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

TBC—Christmas in July

AUGUST 2023

TUESDAY 8TH AUGUST 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST 2023

Lotus (CLA) Supersprint

Sydney Motorsport Park Gardner GP Circuit

SUNDAY 20TH AUGUST 2023

Shannons Classic Display Day at Sydney Motorsport Park

SEPTEMBER 2023

TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

MGCC SYD (MGCC) Supersprint

Pheasant Wood, Marulan

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2023

Bathurst 1000 Day

Way back when, the club used to have a social day watching the big race at someone's home. Guess what? We are bringing back the Bathurst. Watch as a group on the big screen. Enjoy fellow enthusiast's company, cheer and commiserate your favourite teams as they take on the Mountain this year.

Location is Glenorie, time to be confirmed as details of the race become available. Bring a chair, bring a plate, bring your passion for Bathurst.

TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2023

Jaguar (JDCA) Supersprint

Sydney Motorsport Park North (Druitt) Circuit

NOVEMBER 2023

TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

DECEMBER 2023

TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2023

Committee/Club Meeting

Attendance at any of the club events listed in the calendar is not required to be entered into your HVS/CVS logbook.



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REGALIA



Navy Polo Shirt \$30

Available (1x S, 1x M, 1xL, 2x XL)

Also available in white



Umbrella \$30

Limited supply



Cap \$20

Limited supply



60th Keyrings \$5



Rugby Jumper \$45

Available (2x M)

Prices apply to current stock.

Grille Badges will be available soon and will be advertised once in stock. If you would like to pre-order a grille badge then please contact Avis at regalia@spriteclub.com

Photos on back cover taken by Scott Gibbs.

Top: Simon Meyer at SMP
Bottom: AGM/Christmas Party/60th

