

RECORD MG ATTENDANCE

National Meeting 1996 Shepparton, Victoria

In Brief

A record 760 MG enthusiasts attended the annual MG Car Club National Meeting at Shepparton in Victoria.

Over the Easter long weekend, this huge event had everything from speed events to a photographic competition and attracted visitors from every state, some of them bringing their precious cars on trailers but most tackling long drives in vehicles that could be described as less than comfortable by modern standards, but as every MG owner will tell you, they are lots of fun to drive.

The Driver Education Centre of Australia (DECA) with its superb facilities was the centre of competition, hosting the sprints and motorkhana as well as being the starting and finishing point for the Octagon Rally, ran on Sunday.

The MG Car Club of Victoria did a marvellous job of organising not only competitions for four hundred cars but also providing a long list of social gatherings including the Presentation Dinner, for which the Civic Centre was transformed with hundreds of red balloons



MG enthusiasts party at the Presentation Dinner, Civic Centre decorating the tables.

Willie Williams, a regular visitor from Hawaii, was thrilled to collect a trophy after borrowing a car from a local member.

With so many entrants there were lots of trophies and definitely no losers with everyone saying what a wonderful time they had, and most keen to make Shepparton the venue for the next Victorian National Meeting.

After seeing an MG on every street for a while, the streets must have looked a little dull when the cars rolled out of the town after a farewell breakfast at Victoria Lake Parklands, where the fun had started with the Shannons sponsored concours.

Next year's meeting is already being planned by the Gold Coast MG Car Club who have dubbed it the Nat-Meet in Paradise.



John Pitt tells drivers exactly where to go



David Pearson - this shield protects his 1949 Y Type!

GIN GIN BRITS IN WA

By 1991 attendance had grown to 200+ British cars and the Jaguar Car Club of WA had taken on the organisation; the event now sees over 500 British cars of all marques attending, with Hotham Valley carrying up to 1000 people on its tour from 3000-4000 visitors.

The local community groups run all manner of food, drink and craft stalls and a wide variety of entertainment is put on to satisfy all tastes. To avoid traffic chaos, Jaguar Club members wearing Union Jack top hats marshal cars to their respective display areas.

Once the cars are in place, out come

the picnics. There has been an unofficial rivalry for the most spectacular picnic between Rolls-Royce and Jaguar Club members - this year Jaguar people brought out a candelabra.

The largest single marque group was Jaguar with over 100 cars, but even cars not currently covered by marque specific clubs attended. There are even areas laid out for non-British interlopers.

Next year's British Car Day will be held on Sunday 18th May, 1997 and promises to be yet another great success.

John Smith

● More drivers of older vehicles want to compete off the race track, so CAMS is developing regulations for events falling into the gap between rallies and touring assemblies. These events can now include motorkhanas, lap dashes, closed road sections, etc - and timed bitumen navigation trials.

The working group's submissions should appear in the NCRs next year.

● The Marque Sports Car Assoc (MSCA) holds the annual Bob Gardiner round of the Vic State Race Series on 6-7 July at Calder. The nine classes include Marque Sports and Club cars, Sedans, Group N, Historic and others. The event is dedicated to Bob Gardiner, who lost his life in 1983 racing an Alfa at Sandown and who was active within the MSCA, which comprises the Alfa Romeo, Austin-Healey, Bolwell, Lotus, Triumph, Nissan Datsun, Fiat and Sportscar Owners clubs. Interested?

Contact Andrew Wright, Sporting Sec, GPO Box 5036Y, Melbourne 3001, tel 0418 551192.

● The Morris Minor Touring Club is again planning its Biennial Tour, 'Rock, Springs & the Tree '96' - a trek into the outback - in late September.

Geoff Parsons 03 9317 9845.

● Nominations for the 5th Early Falcon Nationals in Beaudesert on 14-16th September will close on 15th July.

Brett Piraner 07 3398 3103.

● The Committee for the National Veteran & Vintage Rally, to be held on 6-11th April 1997, will send informative newsletters to entrants bi-monthly.

Tel Kevin Fagan 08 248 1992.

● Daimler & Lanchester Owners Clubs in various states celebrate Daimler's Centenary this year. In NSW it will be in August, in Vic not till November, but in WA it's on 27-28th July in Perth. Saturday, cars will parade into the city for a static display in Forrest Park. Sunday morning an easy, enjoyable run is planned to end at a picnic spot.

Contact Steve Seddon 09 457 1820 by 30th June.



The Hotham Valley Tourist Railway ran a train excursion

In 1989 members of the Rolls-Royce Owners Club of WA ran our first British Car Day. The event driving 80km from Perth to a village called Gin Gin.

The Gin Gin community put on a country fair and Hotham Valley Tourist Railway ran a steam train excursion.