



Bev Robinson and her MGB. "I want my ashes in the glove box when I die."

Photo: RICHARD GOSLING

Classic sports car spins surprise tale

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WHEN Bev Robinson bought a run-down MGB for just \$6000 in Brisbane back in 1989 she didn't think the popular British sports car would even make it back to the Gold Coast.

"All I could smell on the way home was petrol fumes," the Currumbin resident said.

"When I arrived I opened the boot to find it full of fuel. I am so pleased I didn't blow up."

Soon after getting the car home Mrs Robinson set about restoring it, learning a few tricks from a local mechanic.

"I do like to get my hands dirty so it was arranged that I would come in one full day per week, or

more if possible, to start dismantling this sad little car," she said.

It was during the dismantling of the MGB that Mrs Robinson noticed the windscreen wiper motor was stamped with the year 1962, prompting her to research the car's history.

"Mr Brian Darke from Maintaining the Breed at Mudgeeraba alerted us to the fact that the first car off the production line was stamped No.501 and Chassis No.1737," she said.

To her shock Mrs Robinson found these numbers matched those on her car, making it the first MGB produced in Australia.

Despite her excitement Mrs Robinson said she wished she had known earlier.

"The original colour was

Nurburg White with red upholstery. I had it painted British racing green with a tan interior," she said.

"I would dearly love to restore it the way it should be because of the history."

After five years of restoration the car is now worth far more than what she paid for it but Mrs Robinson said she would never sell it.

"It's only worth what someone will pay and I don't want to sell it because I want my ashes in the glove box when I die," she joked.

Mrs Robinson will join more than 60 MGB enthusiasts on Sunday as they display their cars and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of the MGB.

The display will be at Southport Broadwater Parklands from 10am.