

THE BUGEYE BURBLE

The Official Bulletin of the Sprite Club of SA



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CONTACT US

Website
www.spriteclub.com.au
Email
editor@spriteclub.com.au
Phone
0431 247 746
Mail Address
PO Box 21,
Fullarton SA 5063

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Words from the top!

The mercury is closing in on 38 degrees C, the AC has been on since 10am, the Midget is hiding from the heat and I'm battling a head cold... It must be summer in Australia!

I hope everyone has had a nice break over summer. Its sobering to think we are already into February. Where does time go? As you will see from this edition of the Burble, the calendar starts to fill up from here with a good mix of club, inter-club and motorsport events. Be sure to keep a watchful eye on the website and Facebook as more events pop up.

The year has already gotten off to a great start with our annual New Years Day run attracting some 15 Sprites and Midgets and a great day out at the Thong Throwing competition which I sadly couldn't made.

For those who would normally have headed down to the McLaren Vale Vintage and Classic, that event has had to be cancelled this year. This is unfortunate but hopefully the organisers and the Council can come to an arrangement for 2026 and the event can return bigger and better. The Jaguar Drivers Club has created a replacement event for British built cars so keep an eye out for that one!

Keep cool and don't forget to put on some sunscreen as the hot weather shows no signs of letting up!

That's enough from me. Its sunny outside so I might see you out on the road!

Robin D



2025 COMMITTEE

CLUB PRESIDENT Robin Dunk
president@spriteclub.com.au

SECRETARY Peter Stanley
secretary@spriteclub.com.au

TREASURER Kerry Fisher
treasurer@spriteclub.com.au

CLUB REGISTRARS

Gordon Boyce and Don Cardone

FEDERATION REP Don Cardone

MOTORSPORT SECRETARY Pat Miller

Social Secretaries

Grant Stephenson and Angela Wicks

Regalia Gary Dodd

CLubbiesSA Rep Sean Power

Librarian Miles Jackson

Magazine Editor Robin Dunk

Web Person Vacant

2026 Nationals Contact Sue Stephenson
2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au

General Enquiries

admin@spriteclub.com.au

spriteclubsa@gmail.com



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SOLID GPS TRACKERS

Keen readers may remember a member talking about GPS trackers and the peace of mind a new Australian product gave him. You may also recall a short article in last years Sprouting Forth about Solid GPS.

Since then a few of us have followed suit and purchased a Solid GPS unit to help protect our prides and joy. In return, Solid GPS have come on board to help the Sprite Club of SA deliver the 2026 Nationals and have kindly donated three GPS units that the club will be raffling off across 2025 to raise funds for the Challenge - stay tuned for details early in the new year as to how you can get involved and maybe win one of the units.

How Solid GPS Works



1. Charge It.

Once you receive your tracker, charge it overnight and turn it on.

Then, download the Solid GPS app on the App Store or Google Play Store, or log in to our website.



2. Hide It.

After charging and turning your tracker on, hide it nearly anywhere inside your vehicle.




- Such as:
- Caravans: inside a cupboard or drawer
 - Cars: Inside the boot, glovebox, dashboard, etc.
 - Motorcycles: Anywhere inside your bike
 - Trailers: Securely hidden underneath
 - Boats: Inside or near the dashboard



3. Track It.

When your vehicle moves, your tracker will detect that movement and update your vehicle's location at its quickest, every 2 minutes (or up to every 10 minutes).

Then, track your vehicle 24/7 through your phone or computer.

3 Month Battery	6 Month Battery	12 Month Battery
Standard Tracker  \$157^{AUD} Average 3-Month Battery Life	Large Tracker  \$197^{AUD} Most Popular Average 6-Month Battery Life	MEGA Tracker  \$247^{AUD} Best Value Average 12-Month Battery Life
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As Seen On



ESCAPE THE *Ordinary*

AND HEAD TO THE
SPRITE & MIDGET
NATIONAL
CHALLENGE!

Murray Bridge,
South Australia
27 Apr - 1 May 2026

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CLUB NOTICES

Sprite Club Banking Details

For those of us who enjoy the convenience of electronic transfer for payment of fees etc, the bank account details are about to be changed.

Not exactly helpful but it can't be helped as our bank is closing down traditional chequing accounts. Stay tuned for the new details as soon as Kerry is able to get a new account opened, which isn't as easy as it might seem!

Runs and Events

The Committee had its first meeting for 2025 on the 2nd of Feb with the main topic of discussion being the club calendar. There will be more runs and events popping up over the year but we think this is a pretty good start. Events in black type are our own runs and those in blue are runs or events with other clubs (such as the Marques Sports Car Club and the Sporting Car Club) that our members can join in with.

We are constantly on the look out for new and interesting events so if you have an idea or a route you'd love to drive, let us know so we can build yet another great year of events.

And if you are a member of another club and think it would be great to combine for a run, please speak up!!!

Club Web Master

We need someone to keep a watch on the web and tend to the admin that pops up from time to time and watch the email spam folder. The webmaster doesn't have to create content, just keep the site alive. I just don't have time to do it!

2026 Nationals Update

The Nationals Committee has had its first meeting for 2025 and an update bulletin will be written and released in the near future. Just waiting to lock down a couple of things so we can announce some things of interest.

We've had strong interest from interstate and we are hoping that locals will want to be part of the week's program of activities. It's going to be a great few days and we really need the support from the club to deliver the event.

We can't do this without you! Please get behind this and make it memorable for everyone!

FOR SALE

1960 Austin Healey Sprite MK1

Previously set up for sprints/hillclimb, however has recently converted back to the road, including full tear down, new floors and nut and bolt rebuild.

Includes:

- 1360cc engine, Graham Russell 266 cam and pistons, rebuilt and balanced by Lonsdale Engine Worx
- Straight cut rib case gear box,
- 45 Weber DCOE with Graham Russell inlet manifold and MED sub stack
- Hans Pedersen extractors, Exhaust Technologies exhaust and silencer for race, new road exhaust on car
- Scorch ignition system
- High torque starter
- ACS clutch with roller release bearing
- Fully balanced drive shaft
- Speedwell engineering triple master cylinder pedal box, KAD 4 pot front callipers and discs
- Speedwell aluminium radiator with electric fan
- Anti sway bar
- PME panhard rod
- PME radius arms
- Gaz rear shock assy
- Frontline 3.9 and 5.3 LSDs and fine spline halfshafts
- Fibreglass bonnet and cockpit cover by Marque Restorations
- Tonneau covers, race and daily driver
- Velo race seat and harness
- Moto Lita leather steering wheel
- Also included original 948 engine (newly rebuilt 0.120 by Lonsdale Engine Worx) with ceramic coated manifold headers, clutch and flywheel to suit rib case gearbox

\$43500.00

Contact Chris. chris.brine@gmail.com
or 0419 802 163

2025 CALENDAR

AKA WHAT WE THINK MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT YEAR!

February

3rd - Club General Meeting
 16th - Clubbies Kick Off
 22nd - Annual Ice Cream Run
 23rd - MSCA Presentation Day

March

2nd - All British Day
 3rd - Club General Meeting
 16th - MSCA Super Sprint (Rd1)
 19th - Midweek Run
 29th - Come and Try Hillclimbing
 30th - Challenge Trophy Rd 1

April

7th - Club General Meeting
Stars and their Cars @ Sporting Car Club
 11th-13th - All Historic Mallala
 15th - Midweek run to the
 All Historic Collingrove Hillclimb
 27th - Ray Pank Winter Cup Rd 1
 27th - Jaguar Drivers Club 'Just British Picnic'

May

3rd-4th - Peter Hall Memorial 6 hr
 5th - Club General Meeting
at Classic Boutique
 18th - Gordon's Mystery Run
 18th - Challenge Trophy (Rd2)

June

1st - Ray Pank Winter Cup (Rd2)
 2nd - Club General Meeting
 15th - Winter Warmers Pub Run
 22nd - MSCA SuperSprint (Rd2)
 29th - Challenge Trophy (Rd3)

Clubbies

1st Sunday of ever month - Coffeed
 3rd Sunday of every month - The Rezz
 All members welcome and encouraged to join in!

July

7th - Club General Meeting
 16th - Midweek Run
 20th - Ray Pank Winter Cup (Rd3)

August

3rd - MSCA SuperSprint (Rd3)
 4th - Club General Meeting
 16th - Come and Try Hillclimbing (2)
 17th - Ray Pank Winter Cup (Rd 4)
 30th - Pea and Pie Night plus
 Interclub Rocker Cover Racing Challenge

September

1st - Club General Meeting
 13th - 53rd Annual Dinner
 21st - MSCA SuperSprint (Rd4)
 28th - Challenge Trophy (Rd4)

October

5th - Picnic Run to the Barossa Vintage Collingrove
 Hillclimb
 6th - Club General Meeting
 11-12th - Australian Hillclimbing Championships
 15th - Mid Week Run
 18th - Australian SuperSprint Championships
 31st - SA Hill Climb Championships

November

2nd - Annual Display Day (with the Austin Healey
 Owners Club of SA)
 3rd - Annual General Meeting
 7th - Climb to the Eagle 40th Anniversary
 15th - AROCA Advanced Driver Training
 16th - Collingrove Finale
 16th - MSCA SuperSprint (Rd5)
 22nd - Sports Car Cruise

December

1st - Club General Meeting + Chrstimas BBQ

To Be Planned:

An Overnight Adventure - Proposed Sep or Oct

CLUBBIES KICK OFF

16 February 25

Details below!

Please RSVP Glen if you can attend.

From 1200 (I'm guessing!)

Clubbies SA New Year Kickoff.
Sunday 16th February
Following breakfast at the Rezz join us for a BBQ.
Please bring a salad or sweets to share.
BYO Wine & Beer.
Coffee & Tea on tap

2353 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Mount Torrens
just a short Spirited Spritely drive from the Rezz.

RSVP: **9-Feb-2025**
RSVP: glen.donhardt@outlook.com
Jodie.0417.471.123 or Glen 0458 240 411



ICE CREAM CRUISE

22 February 24

Join us for one of the club favourite runs, the annual Ice Cream Run.

The route is a mystery but the destination will be a purveyor of fine ice creams!

Clubrooms

1900 for a 1915 departure

Meet at the Club rooms at 1900 (7pm!) for a 1915 departure for a leisurely run to points unknown, arriving for ice creams a little after 2000 (8pm).

MSCA PRESENTATION DAY

23 February 24

Presentation of the 2024 MSCA SuperSprint awards will be at Vigrara Winery, 143 Heaslip Road, Angle Vale

Assemble cars from 1100 onwards with display judging at 1300.

Presentation of trophies will at 1400 in the afternoon.

Virgara Winery

From 1100 onwards



Jaguar Drivers Club of SA

Combined Registers Event!

In lieu of the cancelled McLaren Vale Vintage Classic,
and Victor Harbor British Classic Tour

The Birdwood Motor Museum, Sunday 27th April, 2025
10.00am—3.00pm. BYO picnic event.

BOOK THE DATE

All SA
British Car Clubs
INVITED

REGISTRATION for this event will be required

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Contact: Steve Weeks Mob: 0414 952 416

RUN THROUGH THE NIGHT TO THE 2026 SPRITE & MIDGET NATIONAL CHALLENGE!



MURRAY BRIDGE
27 APR - 1 MAY 2026

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NEW YEARS DAY BRUNCH RUN

A perfect way to start the new year!

What's now become an annual tradition, the Sprite Club gathered for a new year's morning run and breakfast.

This year Gary planned the route; starting in Glenelg we wound through the beach side suburbs, skirted around North Adelaide before ending up in Norwood for coffee and food at Cafe Bravo.

A fabulous collection of Sprites, Midgets, a Mini, MX5, MGB and a few others! Just a great way to start the year off. Thanks to everyone who came along!




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SPRITE REGALIA SALE

- 50th ANNIVERSARY GRILL BADGE \$10
- 50th ANNIVERSARY LAPEL PINS \$5
- CLUB T-SHIRTS with LOGO \$30
- CLUB HOODIE \$55
- CLUB POLO with LOGO \$40
- NEW SPRITE GRILL BADGE \$35
- LIMITED Ed '1974' GRILL BADGE \$25
- SPRITE CAR STICKER \$3
- BASEBALL CAPS \$25
- BUCKET HAT \$25
- CLUB GOLF UMBRELLA \$35

FOR ORDERS PLEASE CONTACT
Gary Dodd on 0411282045 or
regalia@spriteclub.com.au



The BUGEYE Barn

FOR ALL SPRITES AND MIDGETS

Rod Wells

m: 0487 821 362

Narre Warren South, VIC 3805

E: thebugeyebarn@bigpond.com

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Finish is a reflection of effort.

That is our philosophy. Whether repairing accident damage, restoring vintage vehicles from any condition to concours-winning standard, or designing and building entire custom car bodies from scratch, we put in whatever efforts required to achieve the desired results. We work on all cars from all over the world.

We appreciate vehicles of all sizes, makes and models. We work on Australian, European, American and Japanese vehicles. For any enquiries, please give us a call or pop in and see us in person.

Marque Restoration has had the privilege of restoring many shining examples of motoring history. Many Concours de Elegance and Concours de Originals winners have passed through our skilled hands. Our aim is to exceed our customers' expectations of quality workmanship and attention to detail while delivering a fair price.

[READ MORE](#)



Coachwork

Marque Restorations are one-off Coachwork specialists. We can take your vision, whether inspired by the past or a totally unique concept, from driving board to driving car. Using the best of both traditional and modern techniques, our master craftsmen can bring your idea to life.



Mechanical Repairs

Mechanical repairs and part fabrication to classic cars, pre-70's vehicles a speciality. We can rebuild or repair to "as new", engines, gearboxes, differentials, suspension and exhausts etc. We also offer general servicing, maintenance and tuning services to keep your prized machine in tip-top shape.



Resprays

First impressions count, if your paint finish isn't up to scratch, it won't matter how good the bodywork is. Getting the paint right is as equally important as the body repair process itself. We take pride in our craft, and using only premium quality products, with end results worthy of a concours winner.



Panel Repair

Marque Restoration also provides general panel repair services, from fixing minor dents and scratches to custom fabrication to replace damaged bodywork, whether collision damage or corrosion. It doesn't matter if your vehicle is steel, aluminium, composite or a combination thereof, we can repair it.

SPRITE & MIDGET NATIONAL CHALLENGE '26

Murray Bridge
27 Apr - 1 May 2026



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EOI 2026 National Challenge

2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge - Expression of Interest

Note – this is an EOI to help us with event planning. You can change your mind!

Name (s)			
Name (s)			
Home Club			
Address			
Phone		Mobile	
Email	<i>Note – your email address will be the primary point of contact for the event</i>		
Vehicle	Sprite	Midget	Other
Accommodation	Couple	Twin Share	Single
	<i>Note – event costing is based on a twin share basis. Members travelling along and wanting a room on their own will be liable for full room costs</i>		
Parking/Garaging	Car only	+ standard car trailer	+ large/outsize car trailer
	<i>Please indicate your likely parking/garaging request</i>		
Events	I/we are interested in participating in the following events (circle/tick):		
Social	Display/Concours	Observation Run	Regional Touring
	Sprint	Motorkhana	Both
Competition	<i>Likely Competition Vehicle</i>	Sprite/Midget	Other/Associate
Post Tour Event Interest?	Post-Tour Tour	Yes / No / Maybe	
	Peter Mall 6Hr @ Mallala	Yes / No / Maybe	
General Comments?			

If you could please complete and email Sue Stephenson *at the email address below* at your earliest convenience it will help greatly as we look to reserve accommodation.

This is not a commitment – an official registration form will be forwarded separately!

Email Address 2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au

Post Sprite Club of SA, PO Box 21 Fullarton, South Australia, 5063

'Challenge 26' Contacts Sue Stephenson (0408 858 046) and Robin Dunk (0431 247 746)

An event webpage at www.spriteclub.com.au will soon become active for all your Challenge updates!



A MIDGET IS NOT AN MX5

Seems obvious, but so many people fold the roof away as if it is one! This is how it should be done!

Repeated from the 2024 Sprouting Forth by request!

Removing the roof on an early Sprite or Midget is easy. You undo the clips on the header rail (or just undo the studs on an early Bugeye roof), remove the roof and hood bow and neatly pack it away into the boot of the car. Simple.

To be honest, the roof on a later Mk3 Midget (including the black bumpered '1500' variant) and Mk4 Sprite are equally as simple (if not simpler) but all too often owners fold their roof down as if its an MX5 or other modern convertible and just get it wrong (see the image found on social media at the top of this article as I didn't want to embarrass any of our members!!).

Its not!

Not only does it not fold down neatly and create an unsightly mess, but in the longer term it damages the roof material and ends up costing you a replacement!

Instead of trying to describe it, I'll try and explain it in pictures!

A GUIDE TO FOLDING THE ROOF

A few easy steps to go from here



...to here



Undo everything inside!

Release the clamps on the head rail and all of the internal straps and studs securing the roof material to the frames!



Fold the roof back

Fold the roof back, pulling the roof material away from the hood bows.



Lay the roof out across the boot, making sure the header bar is stowed, then bring the roof forwards and across the seats as shown.

And stow it away!

Fold the sides inwards. The age and cut of your roof will largely determine whether you fold the sides under or over (as shown).



Tuck the roof under. If you've done it right it will be nicely nestle up against the boot.

I find it easiest to lay the cover out across the front seats and attach the straps before securing down.





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JOIN US AT THE 2026 SPRITE & MIDGET NATIONAL CHALLENGE!



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27 APR - 1 MAY 2026

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