

THE BUGEYE BURBLE

The Official Bulletin of the Sprite Club of SA



**MIDYEAR
EVENTS
UPDATE!**



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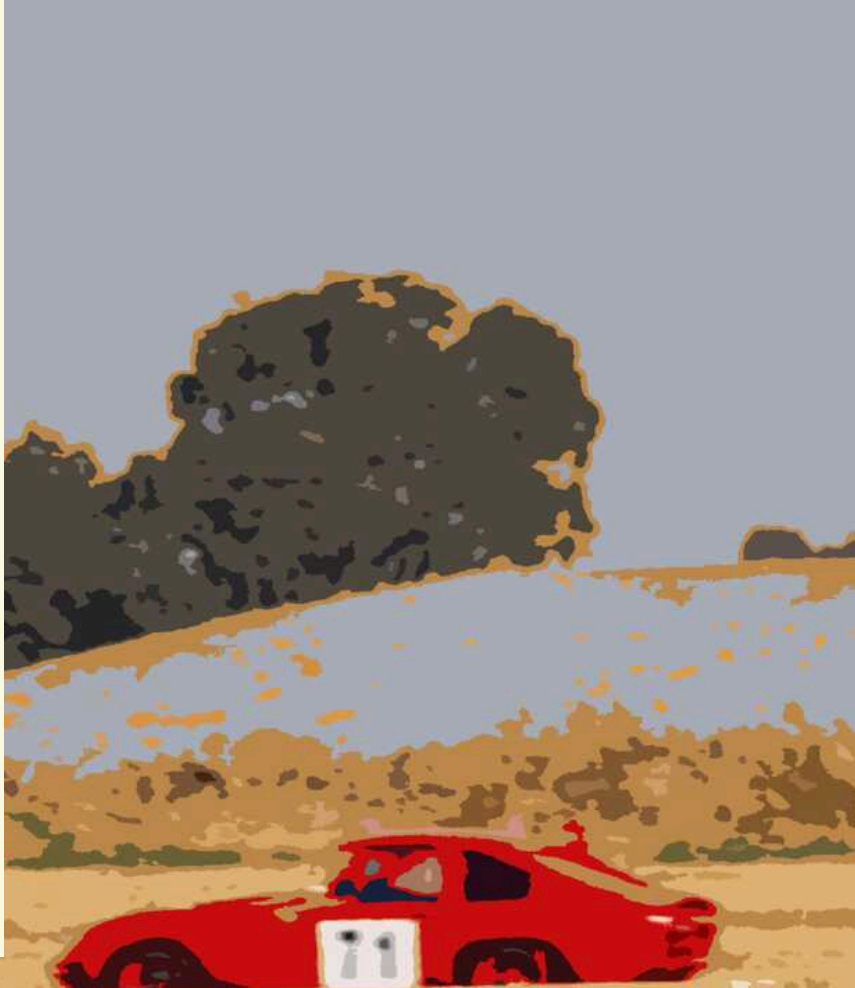


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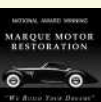
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SPRITE & MIDGET NATIONAL CHALLENGE '26

Murray Bridge
27 Apr - 1 May 2026



Proudly Supported By



SOLID GPS RAFFLE



**The Sprite Club of South
Australia is fundraising for
the 2026 Nationals!**

Win one of THREE SOLID GPS car trackers!

\$10 per ticket
Only 400 tickets!

Drawn Display Day on 2nd November 2025
(unless tickets are all sold prior!)



Cash or direct Debit
EFT to BSB 085-005
Acc No. 8050 38516

Email the club at:
2026NationalChallenge@Spriteclub.com.au

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2025 CALENDAR

AKA WHAT WE THINK MIGHT HAPPEN THIS YEAR!

February

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

March

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

April

7th - Club General Meeting @ Fullarton Centre
11th-13th - All Historic Mallala
16th - Midweek Mystery Run #1
27th - Ray Pank Winter Cup Rd 1
27th - Sprites & Clubbies at Gilberts Motor Museum
27th - Jaguar Drivers Club 'Just British Picnic'

May

3rd-4th - Peter Hall Memorial 6 hr
5th - Club General Meeting
at Classic Boutique
18th - Apogee Motorsport Day
18th - Challenge Trophy (Rd2)

June

1st - Ray Pank Winter Cup (Rd2)
2nd - Club General Meeting
11th - Midweek Run #2
22nd - MSCA SuperSprint (Rd2)
29th - Challenge Trophy (Rd3)

Clubbies

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

July

7th - Club General Meeting
20th - Ray Pank Winter Cup (Rd3)
27th - Midwinter Pub Run

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
the Rocker Cover Racing Challenge

September

1st - Club General Meeting
13th - 53rd Annual Dinner
18th - Midweek Run #3
21st - MSCA SuperSprint (Rd4)
28th - Challenge Trophy (Rd4)

October

5th - Picnic Run to the Barossa Vintage Collingrove
Hillclimb
13th - Club General Meeting
11-12th - Australian Hillclimbing Championships
15th - Mid Week Run #4
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 + Christmas BBQ

JULY GENERAL MEETING

7 Jul 25

Fullarton Centre Club Rooms
from 7:30pm onwards

Come along to the June General Meeting and hear about what is happening with the club this month.

Doors open from 7.30pm, meeting starts at 8pm sharp!
Tea and coffee and a natter before and after

Guests and new members always welcome.

MIDWINTER PUB RUN

27th July ****NEW DATE****

Delayed by not forgotten!
Its still winter, its still cold and
its pot luck if its raining or not!

Departing 11am from the carpark
just before the Toll Gate
OR meet you there for 12pm

This year we are going to journey down to 'The Winehouse' in Langhorne Creek. Meal cost is \$45 per head, including light nibbles and a selection from the menu.

Bookings are ESSENTIAL, RSVP no later than 16 July. A \$10 per head deposit is required so please contact me directly and I'll give you some payment details!

You can meet us there for 12 or, if its not raining, there will be a run leaving from the large carpark near the Sikh Society just before the Toll Gate at approximately 11am

Max number is 20 so get in early!

PEAS, PIES AND ROCKER COVER RACING!

30th August 25

Fullarton Centre Club Rooms
from 6.00 pm onwards

Our annual Pea and Pie night, this time with a festival of Rocker Cover Racing (a guide to Rocker Cover Racing has been reproduced later in this edition).

Rooms open from 6pm for food, BYO drinks, coffee, fellowship and ... Rocker Cover Racing!

Cover Charge of \$15 per head to cover the Peas and Pies
Tea and Coffee provided. BYO alcohol and a plate of savoury or sweet nibbles!

RSVPs are essential as we need to order the pies and make the pea soup! Most dietary requirements can be met if you let us know!

Feel free to bring along a guest and get building your Rocker Cover Racer!

ANNUAL DINNER

13th Sep 2025

From 6:30pm onwards
Venue to be announced!

The Club's night of nights is nearly on us again.

We are testing a new venue this Saturday night so hopefully we have a 'where' announcement soon.

The meal will once again be subsidized by the club. We are planning on a per person cost of \$60. Watch for more news soon!



Barossa Vintage

COLLINGROVE HILLCLIMB

TIMELESS *Appeal*

PRE WAR & PRE 1972 CARS & MOTORBIKES
HISTORIC CAR DISPLAY

5TH
OCTOBER
2025

SPORTINGCARCLUB.COM.AU

Rocker Cover Racing A Competitive Spin on Classic Engine Parts

Rocker cover racing has carved out a niche in automotive enthusiasm, blending ingenuity, creativity, and a touch of friendly competition. For those who appreciate both mechanical heritage and grassroots racing, this event offers a perfect outlet. While the concept might seem child like, rocker cover racing has gained momentum among classic car clubs, particularly those celebrating British motoring icons like our Sprites and Midgets.

What is it I hear you ask?

Rocker cover racing takes a traditional engine component—the rocker cover—and transforms it into a gravity-powered racer. The competition echoes soapbox derby principles but with a distinctly automotive twist. Racers must adhere to strict regulations to ensure fair play while allowing room for engineering brilliance and aesthetic flair.

A Cultural Phenomenon?

Rocker cover racing has gained popularity within classic car clubs, particularly at gatherings where owners can show off both their engineering prowess and their love for classic cars. Events often feature elaborately designed racers, with competitors incorporating paint schemes, decals, and even miniature drivers to personalize their machines. Overseas racing leagues have been established with the events becoming a feature event at the likes of Cars and Coffee, track events and even village fairs.

Beyond the technical aspects (see below) , the sport fosters camaraderie among participants. Whether tweaking wheel alignment for optimal speed or debating the merits of different lubrication techniques, racers share a mutual appreciation for mechanical craftsmanship.

Rocker cover racing is more than just a quirky competition—it's a celebration of engineering, classic motoring, and friendly rivalry. With simple yet effective rules ensuring a level playing field, creativity and technical skill become the defining factors in victory. Whether you're a seasoned automotive enthusiast or a newcomer looking for an engaging challenge, building and racing a rocker cover racer is a thrilling way to connect with motoring heritage while indulging in competitive fun.



Sprite Club of SA 2025 Rocker Cover Racing Championships 30 Aug 25

Rocker Cover Racing is a staple vent at any Sprite and Midget National Challenge. As the host club we need to be come prepared.

Fair to say the decks were stacked against us at the last Nationals. We know the Queenslanders will be coming to defend the 2023 title won by the late Neville Mansfield and his beautifully prepared 'Nifty Nev 007' racer.

To help get our club members minds around the herculean engineering effort that will be required to win a title that a South Australian last won over 10 years ago when Faye Brock's racer swept all before it, we will be holding a club Rocker Cover Racing event on the night of the 30th of August.

Held in conjunction with our annual **Pea and Pie Night**, the night will a great night for fun and frivolity!

This is a great chance to build and fine tune your Rocker Cover Racer ahead of the 2026 National Challenge!

Rocker Cover Racing What You Need To Know - aka, The Rules!

The Racing Format

Rocker cover races take place on a sloped track, approximately 4-6 meters in length, often constructed from smooth timber or aluminium for consistent rolling conditions. Each competitor places their racer at the top of the incline and, upon release, gravity determines the victor. The goal is to reach the finish line first!

Technical Specifications (updated!)

Yes, there are regulations! The rules for rocker cover racing are straightforward but require careful consideration when designing a racer.

- **The Rocker Cover:** The vehicle must be constructed using an A-Series rocker cover, ensuring authenticity and honouring the engine's legacy.
 - If you don't own a Sprite or Midget and can't source an A-Series Rocker Cover, we will accept a rocker cover (or similar component for you fancy overhead cam people) that links back to your car.
- **Dimensions:**
 - The rocker cover itself must not be modified. It may be mounted on a plinth or drilled to mount wheels.
 - Maximum allowable width - 210mm
 - Maximum allowable length - not more than 80mm longer than the rocker cover.
 - Wheels of not more than 150mm diameter
 - Weight of 3kg or less
- **Oil Caps:** Cars must have an oil cap fitted in its standard location but breather lines may be removed.
- **Aerodynamics:** You must **not** add aerodynamic aids or modify the original valve cover height.
- **Power:** Racers are powered by gravity alone. No motors, magnets, jet power etc!
- **Wheels:** all races must have at least three wheels in contact with the track at all times

The Racing

The race track will be inclined for the first 2-4m, with the remainder flat. It will have a divider down the centre to help cars stay in their own lanes but if a car 'jumps the barrier' into the neighbouring lane it will be disqualified.

Cars will compete against each other via a series of Round Robin heats.

Each round shall consist of a best of three, with the first two runs allowing the racers to run i each lane.

If a deciding run is needed the racers shall toss a coin, the winner getting his or her choice of starting lane.





SPORTING
CAR CLUB
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

presents

WOODSIDE F1

MOTORCARS ~ MOTORCYCLES

MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER
2025



Doug Whiteford outright winner F1 race - source NMM George Brooks collection'

**CELEBRATING THE FIRST FORMULA 1 & 2
EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA IN 1951
RUN ON THE WOODSIDE CIRCUIT**

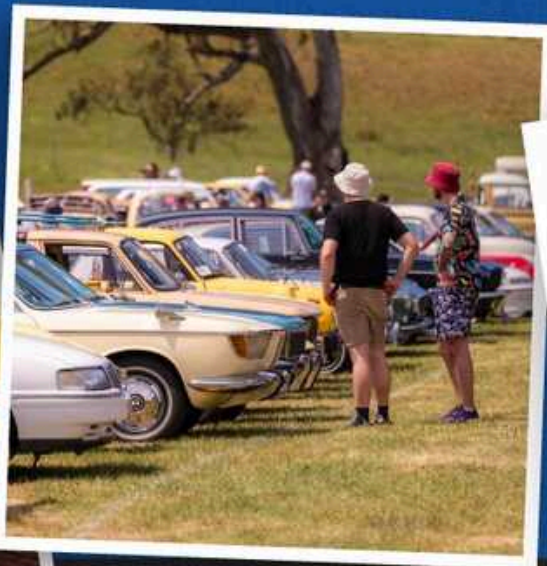
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BAY to BIRDWOOD

SUNDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2025

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS OPEN ON 7 JULY

NATIONAL MOTOR MUSEUM



Government
of South Australia

HISTORY
TRUST
OF SOUTH
AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL
MOTOR
MUSEUM

OPENING
SOON



2025



FRIDAY
7TH NOVEMBER



JOHN BLANDEN'S
CLIMB TO THE EAGLE

sportingcarclub.com.au

NATIONALS 2026 UPDATE - ACCOMMODATION

Its official. Its 12 months (nearly to the day) until the 2026 Sprite and Midget Nationals in Murray Bridge! With the MGCC (SA) officially announcing their plans for 2026 we can now let the proverbial cat out of the bag and reveal that the Sprite Club and the MGCC(SA) will be working together on some of the events, particularly the motor sport events which will see the clubs sharing the track and skid pan at The Bend for the Sprint and Motokhana events, with other collaborations being considered across the week-long event.

Accommodation. As many of you already know, the Sprite and Midget Nationals includes all accommodation, meaning you don't have to worry about planning it! This year we will be using the BridgPort Hotel, overlooking the Murray River, in Murray Bridge. Without a doubt it's one of the best regional hotels you will find anywhere and the Sprite Club has been able to negotiate a preferred rate for the week. Its a 100 room hotel and indications are that we will be taking around 50 of the rooms, so get your expression of interest in quickly before they are all gone!

We think the Bridgport Hotel is a perfect base for the Nationals! Boasting a fabulous restaurant and walking distance to other local eateries, as well as on a short stroll to the actual 'Murray Bridge' and the parks and gardens along the river (including the famous Bunyip!), we hope that everyone's needs will be met!

The Bend Motorsport Park is less than 30 minutes up the road and the National Motor Museum is about 45 minutes away in the Hills, and a range of local wineries in the Langhorne Creek area less than 30 minutes away, there is plenty of scope to entertain everyone! And don't forget, the sinuous driving roads that wend their way through the Adelaide Hills all make for what we hope will be an amazing week exploring the region, rekindling old friendships and perhaps making some new ones.

Not to forget what its all about; getting out and about in your Sprite or Midget, or indeed, any car, to enjoy the sights and scenery of the lower River Murray!



MG Nationals. In many ways it will be a festival of all things Abingdon (where our cars were originally made!) with the MG Nationals basing themselves in Hahndorf for the week. Following our Display Day the current planning is to drive up to Mount Barker, an easy 40 minute run up the freeway or a little more via the 'old road' through the hills, where the MGCC Display and Concours is being held and spend a couple of hours looking at the always fabulous array of MGs that the Nationals brings together.

From there we will be off for an Observation Run taking you to destinations unknown with challenging (but solvable!) cryptic questions and highly questionable route directions!

Stay tuned for more information as we work with the Nationals team at the MGCC to see if we can bring all of the Sprites and Midgets together at some point!

NATIONAL 26 CHALLENGE BULLETIN #1

2026 Sprite & Midget National Challenge

Murray Bridge, South Australia

April 27th – 1st May 2026



Bulletin 1 - February 2025

Welcome to Bulletin 1 for the 2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge!

As it has been 25 years since the last SA based National Challenge, there has been a lot of discussion and planning for this event by the Organising Committee, so we would like to keep you updated on the latest information.

As you can see by the title block the National Challenge will be held in Murray Bridge during Late April-Early May in 2026 and will provide the attendees the opportunity to enjoy the surrounds and attractions of this Riverland town.

While there are more details to follow here is an overview of the events planned for the Challenge:

- Display Day/Show n Shine
- Social Drives and Observation Run
- Motorkhana
- Super Sprints
- Welcome and Themed Dinners
- Final Dinner/Presentation Night

The Accommodation will be at the Bridgeport Motel in Murray Bridge, where there are a number of rooms for guests, plus secure underground parking for vehicles:

- Twin share - single travellers who wish to 'bunk in' with another traveller.
- Single - for those travellers who would like a room to themselves
- Couples - they get the full room for themselves.
- These options will be priced accordingly - more information to follow

For those with a "need for speed" the competition part of the event will be held at The Bend Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend, located approx. 30 minutes drive from Murray Bridge.

Here we will combine with another Car Club for two days of events:

- Motorkhana on the Skid Pan
- Super Sprints on the West Circuit

And not forgetting the Social side of the event with many local attractions to visit and view during the event. These include:

- Display Day on the banks of the River Murray
- Observation Run - approx. 100 - 120km
- Social drives to wineries, car museums, and other points of interest in the area
- Themed Dinners
- Presentation Dinner

With a number of expressions of interest registered so far the 2026 National Challenge is starting to gain momentum, so these bulletins will keep you updated with the latest developments.

Pricing for the accommodation, meals, social and competition events will be available soon.

Here are a few other points to note:

- Secure trailer parking will be available for those towing Sprites and Midgets or Race cars
- Themed merchandise will be available to commemorate the event

Here are some links that might help stir your interest in the event

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_Bridge,_South_Australia
- <https://bridgeporthotel.com.au/>
- <https://www.thebend.com.au/>
- <https://strathalbynmotormuseum.com.au/>
- <https://motor.history.sa.gov.au/>
- https://www.spriteclub.com.au/?page_id=12814

For more information contact with the organising committee at 2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au

NATIONAL 26 CHALLENGE BULLETIN #2

2026 Sprite & Midget National Challenge

Murray Bridge, South Australia

April 27th – 1st May 2026



Bulletin 2 - April 2025

Welcome to Bulletin 2 for the 2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge.

Planning continues to progress for the South Australian based 2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge. With the draft program coming together the National Challenge will follow the format listed below:

Monday 27 th April	Welcome Event & Registrations Dinner	Murray Bridge
Tuesday 28 th April	AM - Display Day PM - Social Drive to Mount Barker with a Scenic Observation Run to Murray Bridge Dinner	Murray Bridge Murray Bridge
Wednesday 29 th April	Motorkhana – Bitumen Social Drive - Murray Bridge and Surrounds Dinner	The Bend Motorsport Park Murray Bridge
Thursday 30 th April	Super Sprint Social Drive - Adelaide Hills and Motoring Museums Presentation Dinner	The Bend Motorsport Park Murray Bridge
Friday 1 st May	Farewell Event	Venue - TBA

With 65 Expressions of Interest registered so far, plus about 50% having paid a deposit, the 2026 National Challenge is starting to gain momentum, so these bulletins will keep you updated with the latest developments.

The Accommodation will be at the Bridgeport Motel in Murray Bridge, where there are several room options for guests, plus secure underground parking for vehicles:

- Twin share - single travellers who wish to 'bunk in' with another single traveller.
- Single – for those travellers who would like a room to themselves
- Couples - who get the full room for themselves.

Pricing for the Social and Competition Options, including Accommodation and Meals, etc will be available soon.

For those with a motorsport interest the Marque Sports Car Association SA will be conducting the Peter Hall Memorial 6-Hour Relay Sprint on Sunday 3rd May 2026 at the Mallala Motorsport Park for those wishing to stay on and either enter and compete in a Team or help and spectate at this annual event.
<http://www.msCasa.com/>

Or if you wish to stay and enjoy the Adelaide Hills and all it can offer here is a guide from the RAA that might give you some ideas of places to visit, taste and enjoy.
<https://raa.foleon.com/samove/autumn-2025/adelaide-hills>

Here are some other links that might help stir your interest in the event

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_Bridge,_South_Australia
- <https://bridgeporthotel.com.au/>
- <https://www.thebend.com.au/>
- <https://strathalbynmotormuseum.com.au/>
- <https://motor.history.sa.gov.au/>
- https://www.spriteclub.com.au/?page_id=12814

For more information please contact the organising committee: 2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au



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/outsized 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
Competition	Sprint	Motorkhana	Both
	<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.

Deposit (refundable): BSB: 085-005 Account: 805 038 516 (Sprite Club of SA Inc)

Please include 2026 Challenge EOI Deposit and then your name

Web page: www.spriteclub.com.au, then search for the National Challenge 2026 tab

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 Gordon Boyce (0417 897 905)