

# THE GENERATOR

January 2021 – Volume 46 – Number 01



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**TO ALL OUR MORRIS MINOR MOB MEMBERS  
MAY THE YEAR 2021 BE PEACEFUL AND KIND  
TO YOU, YOUR FOLKS AND FELLOW MEMBERS**

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The MMCCV is a member of the AOMC. ARN. A0001386N ABN 47849670294

Send all correspondence to: PO Box 354, Balwyn Vic. 3103

Web Address: <http://www.morrisminorvic.org.au>

Email [secretary@morrisminorvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@morrisminorvic.org.au)

Club meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month

**NEXT MEETING EXPECTED TO BE HELD AT THE HORRIE WATSON PAVILION**

Deepdene Park, Whitehorse Road, Deepdene. 3103  
(Melways Map 46/A8) On the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 8:00 pm.

**If it is to be held on-line,**

**you will receive an eMail invitation containing a link to join the meeting.**

**Club Committee Members 2019/2020**

President	Braidy Davies	<a href="mailto:president@morrisminorvic.org.au">president@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Vice President	Stewart Carr	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@morrisminorvic.org.au">vicepresident@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Secretary	Ed James	<a href="mailto:secretary@morrisminorvic.org.au">secretary@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Treasurer	Katie Hamilton	<a href="mailto:treasurer@morrisminorvic.org.au">treasurer@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Club Captain	Michael Dobson	<a href="mailto:clubcaptain@morrisminorvic.org.au">clubcaptain@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Membership Officer	Jim Gourlay	<a href="mailto:membership@morrisminorvic.org.au">membership@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Editor	Rob Smith	<a href="mailto:editor@morrisminorvic.org.au">editor@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Regalia Sales	Alan Todd	<a href="mailto:regalia@morrisminorvic.org.au">regalia@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
Webmaster	John Druery	<a href="mailto:webmaster@morrisminorvic.org.au">webmaster@morrisminorvic.org.au</a>
CPS Registrar	Wayne Cunningham	<a href="mailto:waynelyn5@bigpond.com">waynelyn5@bigpond.com</a>
National Rally Delegates	Richard McKellar & Mark Parritt	

**General Support Volunteers**

Ann Druery	Marcus Ball	Percy Scicluna	Cheryl Scicluna	Henry Edwards
Sue Cheney	Bev O'Donnell	Trish Smith		

Thanks to everyone who helps with the various chores necessary for the successful running of the club.

**Members wishing to view THE GENERATOR on the Club Website, please use the following...**

**Web Address:** [www.morrisminorvic.org.au](http://www.morrisminorvic.org.au)

**Username:** mmccv

**Current Password:** VaLveGT948Cutter

**DISCLAIMER**

This publication contains general information which does not necessarily reflect the views of the Club, its Committee or Editor and should not be relied upon without specific advice from a qualified professional.

The Morris Minor Car Club of Victoria Inc. expressly disclaims liability for anything done or omitted to be done by any person as a consequence of the contents of this publication.

The Club and its Officers shall not be responsible for any transactions begun as a result of information published herein nor any misrepresentation made by an advertiser

Anyone wishing to reprint an article can do so provided the source is acknowledged.

## BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

BSB No : 633 000  
ACCOUNT No : 1469 35168  
ACCOUNT NAME : Morris Minor Car Club of Victoria Inc.

In the reference field, please quote your Membership Number and what the payment is for.

## **CLUB PERMIT SCHEME**

**Notice to all club permit holders. New applications and renewals are to be sent to  
Wayne Cunningham, 4 Cullinan Court, Ballarat North, Vic 3350.**

**Phone 0407 994 642 or email: [waynelyn5@bigpond.com](mailto:waynelyn5@bigpond.com)**

**PLEASE APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**

### **New Permits:**

You must be a paid-up club member for 6 months or more before you can apply for a new permit and you must include \$20 in cash or cheque, payable to the MMCCV.

When applying for a Permit for a...

**Morris Minor.** Please Send a Current RWC, with Proof of ownership, VicRoads Club Permit application, Vehicle eligibility and standard declaration for club permit vehicle.

**Non-Morris Minor.** The request must be accompanied by all of the above plus proof of current registration of a Morris Minor, held in the name of the applicant.

In addition to the above, 6 recent photos 1: Front, 2: Rear, 3: Driver's side, 4: Driving position (side-on with driver's door open), 5: Chassis number or ID plate, 6: Engine Bay.

**You must clearly sign and date the rear side of each of the 6 photos.**

### **Renewals:**

**Do not forget to sign your renewal application.**

**If not signed it will be returned to you and so waste valuable time and postage.**

Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope plus VicRoads Forms. No Photos needed.

**Remember it is your responsibility to renew on time. There will be no reminders**

### **Rules regarding club CPS responsibilities**

A vehicle is not eligible for a Club Permit if any of the following conditions exist...

- The member has ceased to be financial.
- The vehicle is being used for commercial gain.
- The vehicle is unroadworthy.
- The vehicle is sold with logbook and plates.
- The vehicle is sold to a friend so that a new logbook might be obtained.

There is a lot more to the Club Permit Scheme agreement.  
The rules can be found on the VicRoads Website.

# Minor Parts think Minor Magic

1000's  
of new &  
used parts  
in stock

**Minor Magic** was created  
out of a passion for all  
things Morris Minor.

We believe in offering quality parts at the best possible prices. I am a licenced mechanic, and only sell products that are suitable for your pride and joy. We have an excellent range of new and used parts for restorations. Overnight delivery – in most cases.



**MINOR MAGIC**

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**Darren Goff 02 4884 4123** [sales@minormagic.com.au](mailto:sales@minormagic.com.au)

**Order with our easy user-friendly website**  
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## RACV Emergency Roadside Assistance

# We're everywhere our members need us.



To find out more visit [racv.com.au](http://racv.com.au),  
an RACV shop or call 13 RACV.

Limitations and exclusions apply.

**RACV**













## MMCCV MARKETPLACE FOR ALL YOUR CLUB REGALIA

Want to buy some gear? Contact Alan Todd

Mobile 0400 273 328 or email

[regalia@morrisminorvic.org.au](mailto:regalia@morrisminorvic.org.au)



			
Long Line Jacket \$75	Reversible Vest \$45	Long Sleeve Rugby \$40	Short Sleeve Polo \$35
			
Club Badge Keyring \$5	Club Cloth Patch \$12	Club Mug \$10	Club Logo Cap \$15

Apparel available to order...

Chambray shirts (pale blue) with club logo. \$39.

Navy Scarf with logo. \$17.

Club lapel badge. \$10.

Various 2017 National Rally badges.

This forum is the common portal to link all the clubs together and where Morris Minor owners



from all over the country can swap information, search for parts, and make new friends.

<http://www.morrisdownunder.com/forum/index.php>

## **President's Report – January 2021**

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Hi All,

Just a catch-up for those not present at Sugarloaf on Sunday 13 Dec: the January meeting will be a Zoom meeting, with a planned real meeting in February. The main issue is that indoors meetings need to have 1.5m between people or to wear masks which I am not happy to police. I rang the council, and their guidelines are to follow Dan's rules which should be easier in Feb. Hopefully.

Other news, we have approved Neils' request to waive his missed permits and I will write the appropriate letter.

Also, the problem with the emailed distribution of The Generator to all has been corrected. It was an issue with the Database coding which John has fixed. January should have us all getting our copies whether we are hard copy or email members.

Sugarloaf was a lovely day, and I was thrilled to see 13 Morries there. (I thought there were 14 but apparently I was wrong)

I hope everyone had a Morry Christmas and thanks to all those concerned for all your work and support this year.

Braidy Davies,  
President Morris Minor Car Club of Victoria

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Please think of any additional runs you would like to do this year.  
Consider the following suggestion...

### **Impromptu Runs or Pop-up Runs on a Weekday**

The Committee would like to encourage members to welcome other members to join them on their private Morry runs during the week, or whenever, to increase social interaction of members in-between Club meetings and the monthly weekend runs. This has been difficult to arrange previously when relying on either the Generator or the monthly meeting to broadcast run arrangements but with almost everyone on the internet these days it should be possible to get this happening immediately following the simple procedure outlined below.

As soon as you have a run in mind, preferably at least with 48 hours notice, send an email to the Editor headed "Pop-up Run" giving details of date, time & place of meeting. (McDonalds are good mustering places for coffee and initial toilet visit) and details of intended destination and suggestions of BYO food or café etc. and your name and mobile phone number. The Editor will then immediately forward your e-mail to all Club members listed on the Club database. All you have to do then is turn up at the selected meeting point by the appointed time and a good time can be had by all. Feedback to the Club via any of the Committee members would be appreciated after such runs or at the next Club meeting. Please note that Pop-up runs are not intended to replace the monthly weekend run but be an additional Club activity.

### MMCCV Treasurer's Report December 2020

1/12/20 - 31/12/20			CM	YTD 2020-2021
<b><u>MMCCV Cheque A/C</u></b>				
Opening Balance	\$3,960.80	<b><u>Income</u></b>		
		Term Deposit Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Income/Deficit	\$42.25	Club Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Events	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing Balance	\$4,003.05	Membership Dues	\$37.00	\$1,974.00
		CPS / AOMC Book Sales	\$0.00	\$180.00
		Regalia Sales	\$30.00	\$30.00
<b><u>MMCCV Term Deposit A/C</u></b>		Badges	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Donation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Opening Balance	\$8,445.60	Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Rally Badges/Merch	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00	Bank Payment in Error	\$0.00	\$0.00
Closing Balance	\$8,445.60	Library	\$0.00	\$0.00
		<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	\$67.00	\$2,184.00
<b><u>MMCCV ACCOUNTS</u></b>		<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Cheque A/C	\$4,003.05	"Generator" costs	\$0.00	\$1,012.00
Term Deposit	\$8,445.60	Regalia	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Postage	\$0.00	\$33.00
<b><u>Total Balance</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,448.65</u></b>	Badges	\$24.75	\$129.25
		Suppers	\$0.00	\$0.00
		AOMC Handbooks	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Trophies	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Auditor Fee	\$0.00	\$170.00
		Stationary	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Refunds	\$0.00	\$125.00
<b><u>Unpresented Cheques</u></b>		BMC Experience subs	\$0.00	\$20.00
		CAV annual fee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nil		Rent	\$0.00	\$38.00
		AOMC	\$0.00	\$200.00
		Events	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	Computer software	\$0.00	\$449.94
		Bank reversal	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Web site hosting	\$0.00	\$184.67
		Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,253.54
		Presentations/Prizes	\$0.00	\$575.00
		PO Box Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00
		Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00
		<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	\$24.75	\$4,190.40
		<b><u>Net Income/Deficit</u></b>	\$42.25	<b><u>-\$2,006.40</u></b>

## **FORGET NEWTON AND GALILEO. HERE ARE THE REAL LAWS OF NATURE**

**Law of Mechanical Repair** - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to go to the toilet.

**Law of Gravity** - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

**Law of Probability** - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**Law of Random Numbers** - If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

**Supermarket Law** - As soon as you get in the smallest queue, the cashier will have to call for help.

**Variation Law** - If you change queue, or traffic lane, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you've changed too.

**Law of the Bath** - Once fully immersed in the water, the telephone rings.

**Law of Close Encounters** - The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

**Law of the Result** - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it does.

**Law of Biomechanics** - The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

**Law of the Theatre & Sports Arena** - At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle, always arrive last. They are the ones who will leave their seats several times to go for food, beer, or the toilet and who leave early before the end of the performance or the game is over. The folks in the aisle seats come early, never move and have long gangly legs or big bellies, and stay to the end of the performance. These folks can also be very surly people.

**The Coffee Law** - As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

**Murphy's Law of Lockers** - If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

**Law of Physical Surfaces** - The chances of an open-faced jam sandwich landing face down on a floor, are directly correlated to the newness and cost of the carpet or rug.

**Law of Logical Argument** - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

**Brown's Law of Physical Appearance** - If the clothes fit, they're ugly.

**Oliver's Law of Public Speaking** - A closed mouth gathers no feet.

**Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy** - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

**Doctors' Law** - If you don't feel well, and make an appointment to see the doctor, by the time you get there you'll feel better. But if you don't make an appointment, you'll remain sick.



# IT'S ON AGAIN - TAKE 2



**THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF  
THE BALLARAT MORRIS MINOR CLUB IS ON  
SUNDAY 21ST MARCH 2021**

**FORMAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO COVID-SAFE rules at the time**

<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Registration at the BMMC Clubrooms until 9:45am</b> <b>Hut 56, Airport Rd, Mitchell Park</b> <b>Raffle tickets for sale- GREAT PRIZES</b> <b>Tea/Coffee available, Special mugs for sale \$8</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Outdoor video then Group Photo with cars</b> <b>Voting for People's Choice (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b> <b>Historical Questionnaire</b> <b>Morning Tea-slices, biscuits</b>
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Drive to Lunch destination (~ 45 mins)</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch interspersed with presentations and raffle draw</b>

Contact Event Director Glen Whitbourne for details on 0458 343 792  
or email him at [bmmceventdirector@gmail.com](mailto:bmmceventdirector@gmail.com)  
or check the website at [www.bmmc.org.au](http://www.bmmc.org.au)

**Cost will be \$10 per person, children under 12 free, Sunday lunch will be  
your own cost (vegan, gluten-free meals are available)**

**COME ALONG to REMINISCE and have FUN**

The Ballarat Morris Minor Club Inc is making a second attempt to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in conjunction with our Invitation Weekend in 2021. Fancy that, from a small group starting in April 1980, we have grown to an ageing, but still vibrant club today, as have many other MM Clubs. Note entries close on Fri 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Enclosed is a poster to advertise the event with your members. Your Club members are invited to attend and be part of our celebrations, to be held on Sunday 21 March 2021. The format will be arrival early Sunday at the BMMC Clubrooms, Video and Group Morry photo, Voting for People's Choice, Historical Questionnaire, Morning Tea, Drive to Lunch venue, Lunch interspersed with presentations and the raffle draw, finishing about 3:30pm.

Entry forms will be available on the website [www.bmmc.org.au](http://www.bmmc.org.au) or members can copy the form provided, fill out the entry section and post to the Secretary, BMMC Inc, P.O. Box 1278, Wendouree Village 3355. Payment is preferred by direct deposit but a cheque or money order is accepted with the entry. See bank details on the form. Any queries can be directed to the event director Glen Whitbourne at [bmmceventdirector@gmail.com](mailto:bmmceventdirector@gmail.com) or phone 0458 343 792.

The BMMC members look forward to seeing you and your members to finally celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Remember that any Covid-safe rules current at the time will apply.

[Marlene Barrow \(President BMMC Inc\)](#)

**The Registration Form is available on the BMMC Website within the Current Newsletter**

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## Membership Report – January 2021

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Membership statistics are as follows...

There are 170 Financial Members plus 7 Life members.

93 Cars are registered on the Club Permit Scheme.

Should you have any Membership queries or suggestions do not hesitate to

Contact me on - 0419 517 363 or email - [membership@morrisminorvic.org.au](mailto:membership@morrisminorvic.org.au)

### Club Name Badges:

These are available for **\$11.00 per person**, contact me to order a badge.

Come to a meeting in your Morrie, wearing your badge, and be in the running to choose a prize from the raffle table.

### No New members this month.

### *Feel Better & Get Well Soon*

To any members of our Club who are unwell or recuperating, we hope you are back with us soon.  
If you know of any member/s who are on the sick list, please let me know.

\*\*\* **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** \*\*\*

### *January Birthday Bunch*

Anne McPherson	Don MacLean	Ann Druery	Michael Dearie
Jamie Fowler	Joseph Hopwood	Alison Fowler	Kieren Gibbon
Matthew Pertile	Ern Miller	Catriona Bruce	Matthew Harriage
Eve Tompkins	Jillian Thorpe	Stephanie Carr	Natalie Downes
Phillip Steel	Adam Kenner	Karen Todd	Kate Hutson
Joanne Tilley	Peter Tilyard	Narelle Vogels	Leon Deutsch
Stephen Coleman	Hazel Whitaker	Robert Rooth	Helga Grzona
Robert Thorpe	Andrea Dangerfield		

Jim Gourlay - Membership Officer



## Acting Club Captain's Report – January 2021

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Hi everyone,

Hoping you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

2020 finished well, Club activity wise with a great run from Diamond Creek to the Sugarloaf Dam in Christmas Hills on Sunday 13 December which was very well attended (37 members) following the recent relaxation of the Covid restrictions. A detailed run report on the event appears elsewhere in this Generator.

The next Club event will be the first for the year on Australia Day (Tuesday 26 January) at Westerfolds Park Templestowe. As in recent years it will again be a picnic/BBQ from early morning for as long as you want to stay. Please refer to coming events section of this issue for full details.

I look forward to seeing you at the Australia Day event and other events including meetings during the year with the first real meeting for this year being Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> February.

I would again appeal to other Club members to consider taking up the position of Club Captain as my acting capacity in this position is fast drawing to a close. I would be pleased to spend time with any members considering the position to assist and explain what is involved. I would ask those with even the slightest of interest to ring me anytime on 0400 273 328.

Before closing I would ask members to volunteer to organise a run on a date of their choosing in February. If no volunteers come forward, there will be no run in February.

Cheers and best wishes to all for a healthy and safe 2021

Michael Dobson – Acting Club Captain January 2021

**PS. Keep those Stories-of-interest coming people.**

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# Coming Events Calendar 2021

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Tuesday 26 Jan 2021

**Australia Day BBQ Picnic at Westerfolds Park Templestowe**



Venue: Westerfolds Park (Melways map 33G2) Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe.

After driving through the gateway continue around, bearing to the right, ignoring the sharp turn to the left, until you get to the roundabout marked "Red Stringybark Carpark" where you turn left. Continue around until you see our spot on the right which is clearly marked with our two Club banners.

Time: Meet at the Park anytime from 9am (no prior meeting point and no convoy) for breakfast, brunch or lunch. Picnic location will be secured from 6.30am, so participants can arrive as early as they like and are encouraged to do so to justify our Club's retention of the site and to discourage other members of the public who may be seeking sites.

BBQ Supplied: The Club will supply a gas BBQ for your use, you only need to bring your food and drink.

Queries: Contact our Acting Club Captain, Michael Dobson, on 0400 273 328.

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February 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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March 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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April 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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May 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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June 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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July 2021

**Midyear Lunch**

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August 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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September 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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October 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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November 2021      **(Volunteer sought to arrange run)**

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December 2021

**Christmas Party**

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## Run Report January 2021

### THE CLUB CHRISTMAS PICNIC PARTY AT THE SUGARLOAF DAM 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020



**SOME CANDID SHOTS TAKEN AT THE PICNIC WHERE THE FOLKS  
ENJOYED LOTS OF GOOD CHEER WITH LOTS OF GOOD FRIENDS,  
EATING LOTS OF GREAT FOOD AND WINNING A FEW XMAS HAMPERS**

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## Run Report Continued

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Thirty-Seven (37) members took advantage of the recent relaxation of the Covid restrictions and attended the picnic lunch at the Ridge Picnic Area at Sugarloaf Dam in Christmas Hills on Sun 13<sup>th</sup> December. Thirty (30) members in 12 Morries and 4 moderns embarked in convoy from Diamond Creek at 10.40am on a very picturesque route via Wattle Glen, Hurstbridge, Panton Hill and Kangaroo Ground to arrive at the picnic site around 11.30am. Seven (7) members in one Morry and 3 moderns drove directly to the picnic spot and, with the others, enjoyed the cover of a large rotunda with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and Dam. The weather was warm and sunny and although a 30-degree day had been forecast this was hardly noticed as members enjoyed a cool breeze while eating their lunch and chatting with their fellow members. Shortly after their arrival at the picnic spot members were given a ticket by Percy for a raffle draw for Christmas hampers and wine. A highlight of the afternoon following the beautiful morning's run was the drawing of the raffle. The delight on Marj Hamshaw's face in snagging the last hamper and the nonplussed look on Braidy's face in winning a prize were sights to behold. Other winners of the raffle prizes were: Jeff Stanyer, Jo & Kel Hawkesworth, Marg & Mal Baker, Marcus Ball & David Webster and John Mason & Nikki Brujak. Congratulations to the lucky winners but particularly to Jeff Stanyer who endured a round trip of over 450 kms from Numurkah to be there on the day. What's more he made the trip in a side-valve 1951 Morry, a vehicle not known for an abundance of power or it's hill climbing ability!

Braidy acknowledged the preparation and organisation involved in the run by presenting Veronica (& Michael) with a bottle of Chandon sparkling wine which was greatly appreciated.

We are indebted to each and every member that attended on the day to help make it such an enjoyable event but particularly to those undertaking the practical tasks required prior to and during the event. Namely Veronica for securing and setting up the site including the carrying of bricks from her car to stop the banners blowing away, Braidy for arranging the prizes and Christmas cake, Percy for the raffle organization, the Smiths as "Tail-end Charlie" on the run and Margaret Baker for acting as radio operator in the lead convoy Morry.

### Attendees:

Bob & Brenda Stork, Michael & Veronica Dobson, Trevor & Dianne Sarbach, Jeff Stanyer, Katie and Tony Hamilton, Graham & Leslie Dines, Lyn Waites & Wayne Cunningham, Marcus Ball & David Webster, Marj Hamshaw & Barry Phillips, Cheryl & Percy Scicluna, Mal & Margaret Baker, Braidy Davies & Peter Walker, Jo & Kel Hawkesworth, John Mason & Nikki Brujak, Rob & Trish Smith, Craig & Samantha Ellis, Brian & Gerardine Glass, Geoff & Cheryl Nougher and Neil & Sue Cheryl Cheney.

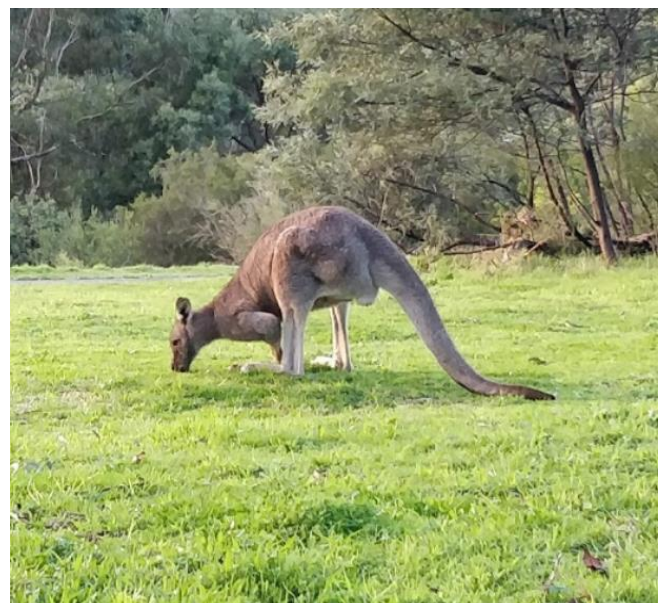
Michael Dobson – Dec 2020



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***Come join your fellow club members  
for a picnic at Westerfolds Park  
on January 26 Australia Day  
[see Coming Events Calendar for details]***

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**MORRIS MINORS ON THE MOVE!**  
**Melbourne to Brisbane and back April 2009**  
**by**  
**Sue Parritt**

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Melbourne Monday morning: light rain streaks the windscreen, heavy traffic tests fifty-year-old gears and brakes as we drive through numerous suburbs on our way to the highway. One yellow, one blue, one black, we're heading for the Hume in our beloved Morris Minors. Travelling north to the Sunshine State for the Morris Minor fourteenth National Rally to be held in Brisbane over Easter.

Near Flowerdale, roadside foliage bears Black Saturday scars. In the distance, burnt tree-skeletons stand sentinel over bare hills. For the first time, we sense the magnitude of that fateful weekend's devastation.

At the pre-arranged lunch stop near Shepparton, we meet up with other rally participants. Our convoy now numbers seven: two Morris Minor 1000 sedans, two Travellers (known as Woodies), two convertibles, one series II sedan.

Fed and watered, we set off in high spirits, cross the Murray near Tocumwal, take the Newell highway north to Narrandera, our overnight destination. The journey is uneventful, three emus and a dust storm the only distractions along the straight road.

At the caravan park, we're joined by a Morris Minor van – our convoy expands to eight.

Lying in my sleeping bag the following morning, I watch the sun rise over Lake Talbot, hear myriad birds call from lakeside gums. The day promises to be fine and warm as we embark on a four hundred and fifty kilometre drive to Gilgandra. Hours later we're strung out on the Newell like a multi-hued necklace, bright jewels shining in the sun.

After Dubbo the day deteriorates. The highway on this stretch is in poor condition - broken edges, uneven surface. Of more concern are the trucks bearing down on us, impatient to pass. Although we leave more than sufficient space between vehicles and travel at approximately 90kph, on several occasions we're forced off the road onto the crumbling shoulder. Cattle truck drivers seem the most aggressive, roaring up behind us, braking hard before overtaking, then pulling in close to catapult a stream of animal faeces over our bonnets. Late in the afternoon, we pull into our motel, weary and a little shaken.

Day three dawns bright and warm. We leave Gilgandra, destination Goondiwindi. Once again, the road surface is rough and worn but our mood lightens when the spectacular Warrumbungles appear in the distance. These grey-green mountains dominate the landscape, their ancient volcanic cores stark against the clear blue sky.

Double B trucks abound on the long trek into Goondiwindi. Some drivers appear hell-bent on destruction, overtaking on hills, around bends, over double white lines. Fortunately, no one tries to push us into paddocks.

Prickly pear looms from roadside grasses as day four unfolds. Our convoy has increased to nine with a 1949 side-valve convertible, driven by eighty-three-year-old Jack who purchased the car sixty years ago. Road trains thirty-six metres long pass us safely on the long straight highway.

Nearing Toowoomba, crops replace interminable stretches of dry brown grassland. We stop for lunch at Picnic Point; bounce over lush green grass to drink in magnificent views of densely forested hills. Below us, black bitumen snakes into fertile valleys.

We wind carefully down the range, conscious of the strain on elderly brakes and gears. Safely descended, we re-group at one of the farmers' stalls lining the highway, load fruit and vegetables on top of back seat luggage.



Last stretch, soon we'll be happily ensconced in our Easter accommodation drinking beer or tea. Alas, no one had warned us about the Ipswich Motorway. For hours, we inch forward negotiating the nightmare of extensive road works and vast volumes of traffic. Stationary halfway up a steep incline, handbrake hanging on for dear life, I reconfigure the famous tourist jingle: Brisbane – beautiful one day, gridlocked the next.

The light is fading fast when we enter the holiday park. Luxury accommodation greets travel-weary eyes; parched lips close around cold stubbies. Nine Morris Minors rest gratefully, sheltered from the elements beneath carports.

We wake on Good Friday to a torrential downpour. The forecast is rain for the next few days, not a good omen for a veteran car rally. Later in the day we make our way to rally headquarters for registration, huddle under verandas balancing tea and cake. The scheduled afternoon drive to Mount Coot-tha is cancelled.

Grey skies greet us on Concourse Day and heavy showers slow our progress to Southbank where the cars are to be displayed. Fortunately, one of our group has twenty-first century navigation technology mounted to his fifties dashboard so our convoy arrives in good time. We're photographed individually before being herded into our various categories where we're handed long strips of cardboard to use as drip trays. Just as well, I think, as our car 'Muriel' is prone to a little incontinence!

One hundred and eighty Morris Minors eventually line up beside the Brisbane River. A kaleidoscope of colour, traditional and modified vehicles cheek by jowl, proud owners tenderly wiping raindrops from highly polished paintwork. The rain holds off for a couple of hours, giving the judges sufficient time to crawl under cars, raise bonnets, examine interiors.

How green and lush the Southbank parklands seem to my drought-dried Victorian eyes. Sheltering from the rain beneath a tarpaulin after lunch, a fellow from north-east Victoria remarks he hopes the roof of his 1950 convertible is watertight, only it hasn't been out in the wet for two years!

On Easter Sunday we depart for a bayside run. Well over a hundred vehicles trundle along a winding route to Mount Cotton, Lota, Wynnum and Cleveland Point. We inter-state visitors admire land and seascapes while locals admire our picturesque vehicles.

Sunday evening, we gather for the formal dinner and presentation of trophies. Much to our delight, three of our convoy wins awards. The date and venue for the next national rally is announced. Friends old and new make plans to meet again in Port Macquarie over Easter 2011.

At the farewell breakfast on Easter Monday, we shelter once more from heavy showers. Some folk are leaving Brisbane today; others staying on to take part in the range of activities organised for the following five days. Mark and I head north to stay with relatives, persistent rain and traffic slowing our progress.

What joy to leave the busy city behind and enter the peaceful surrounds of my sister's rural property. My brother-in-law has kindly left his car out in the rain so our poor old soggy Morris can dry out in the garage. I'm sure I heard 'Muriel' sigh with relief as the roll-o-door closed behind her!

Rain persists and next morning we learn 100ml has fallen overnight. Walking beside a swollen creek with my sister and her dog, I think of Victoria's steadily depleting dams, wish there were some way to pipe Queensland's abundant rainfall south.

The week passes swiftly in a whirl of visits to friends, shopping and eating out. Meanwhile, 'Muriel' rejoices in short journeys or dozes in the garage. Saturday morning, we re-join Rally participants and slowly climb the range to Toowoomba for a farewell lunch at a local club member's property.

Displayed on lawns and in enormous sheds are fifty-five vehicles. They include nineteen-forties Morris 2 utilities, Morris Minors and a Morris truck. All are in working order and registered. I wouldn't like to pay their owner's registration bill!

Next morning our convoy makes tracks for Tenterfield, stopping along the way at various Stanthorpe wineries and Girraween national park. Walking to the Granite Arch, I recall past camping trips, climbing one of the Pyramids, swimming in a glorious waterhole on hot summer days.

Memories are further evoked as we settle into our accommodation that evening, when Mark says this is the caravan park where we celebrated my twenty-first birthday in a tent, way back in nineteen seventy-one. No sparkling Stanthorpe wine on that occasion, I remember. It was Good Friday, and all the pubs were closed!

Later we meet up with members of another Victorian club, learn of their unnerving experience on the Newell Highway. Several truck drivers, having discovered which CB radio channel the group were using, broadcast a stream of insults, maintaining amongst other things that Morris Minors shouldn't be on the f\*\*\*ing road as they're too slow and too old. The following day, our poor opinion of truckies is substantiated when one of our convoy is verbally abused on the CB and tailgated for many kilometres.

The journey from Glen Innes to Tamworth passes more peacefully. The few trucks we encounter seem happy to share the road with us. Unfortunately, some car drivers behave aggressively, pushing us onto the shoulder at the end of overtaking lanes.

Steep inclines and curves test our veteran vehicles on the drive down into Tamworth, but all hold up well. It's a different story next day on the way to Mudgee when one of the Travellers coughs, splutters and finally stops just before Coolah. The diagnosis is a faulty fuel pump. Someone has a spare and minutes later we're on the road again.

Long stretches of brown grassland border the highway as we head south. Creeks are bone dry or contain just a few stagnant pools. Drought has reared its head again. As dust billows around grazing sheep and cattle, I reflect on the shrinking green rim of this, the driest continent on earth.

After Mudgee, we wind between wooded hills through steep cuttings down to the sleepy hamlet of Sofala, a thriving mining town of twenty-five thousand during the eighteen-fifties gold rush. Some buildings have been restored; others languish in century-old decay.

Climbing out of Sofala is tough on all the Morries. We crawl up the hill in second or third gear, depending on engine size. The run down into Bathurst is equally taxing, precipitous with sharp curves. On arrival at the caravan park, we discover the blue convertible's front passenger tyre is worn on one side. A wheel alignment and new tyre are hastily organised for the morning.

Mount Panorama proves irresistible to the male members of our convoy. Five Morries line up on the starting grid, rev up and head down the straight. Some climb the mountain in second gear, a Traveller doing 25mph passes our 'Muriel'!

On the outskirts of Bathurst, russet leaves scatter like confetti across black bitumen. Autumn wind blows chill through chinks in aged doors and windows. Seeking hot coffee, we detour into the village of Carcoar, established as an administrative centre in 1833. Walking through quiet streets to a café, we admire beautifully restored brick buildings bathed in morning sunlight.

Light rain follows us from Cowra as we turn on to the Olympic Highway, but the afternoon drive is trouble-free, the fresh green countryside easy on the eye. We pull into Cootamundra Station for a cuppa before continuing to our overnight stop in Wagga Wagga.

Last night in narrow bunks! How we long to lie in our International Chiropractors' Association recommended double bed. This trip has convinced us although 'almost senior' bodies cope well with the bumps and lumps of veteran car driving; they do require nocturnal comfort.

Early morning, we embark on our last and longest day's journey - four hundred and fifty-six kilometres to Melbourne, sixty more to our home on the Mornington Peninsula.

The dual-lane Hume is a breeze after hundreds of kilometres of single lane highway. From Greensborough down we farewell fellow travellers, by the time we reach East Link we're on our own, congratulating ourselves on 'Muriel's' problem-free performance.

But twenty kilometres from home, 'Muriel' teaches us a lesson. Buffeted by strong winds sweeping across Carrum Downs, we struggle to change a tyre, smile ruefully at the vagaries of our veteran vehicle.

Sue Parritt

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### Trading Places – January 2021

email [editor@morrisminorvic.org.au](mailto:editor@morrisminorvic.org.au)

or

Contact: Rob Smith: 0407 313 859



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#### **FOR FREE** Morris Minor Part

3

Series 1 (lowlight) bonnet in reasonable condition.

Contact John Hillel, 0429 085 693

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#### **FOR FREE** Morris Minor Restoration Rig

2

I would like to find a good home within the club for the rotisserie I had built a few years ago to use for some work on my Morris. It is free!

The men's shed in Berwick used it and added a flash stainless steel disc which allows it to be held in almost any position. A fellow in the Morris Car Club is interested but I would prefer that it went to someone in our club, the MMCCV.

Please contact...

**Peter Tilyard**  
18 Gillards Road  
Mt Eliza VIC 3930

House phone: **03 9787 1998**  
Mobile phone: **0407 098 980**

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## FOR SALE

1

### Restored 1959 Four Door Morris Minor Sedan - \$12,000



The restoration of this Morris Minor was carried out by members of the Mornington Men`s Shed. Many of the team had previous experience in restoring cars, including Morris Minors. The car was donated to the Men`s Shed by Len Cook of Ballarat Morris Minor Club. Members of the Morris Minor Car Club of Victoria also contributed by donating some parts. Some of the money raised by the sale of the car will go back to the Men`s Shed to cover the cost of restoration. The balance will be used to improve men`s health services.

The Morris Minor has had a full restoration. Complete repaint (inside, outside, and underneath), new interior (seats, door panel covers and new carpets), all new radial tyres including the spare, (the wheels were completely stripped of paint and repainted), new hub caps, rebuilt engine, new radiator, reconditioned shock absorbers, all suspension rubbers replaced, 80% of the chrome work is new. Fully restored wiring harness with extra cables fitted for the flashing turn signal lights, (the semaphore pop-out signal arms also work), and front retractable seat belts have been fitted.

The Morris Minor will be sold with a VicRoads Roadworthy Certificate.

For any further information and additional photos please contact Mark Parritt on 0403 104 021 or email [markparritt@gmail.com](mailto:markparritt@gmail.com)

