



October 2023 Newsletter

Presidents Update

Let me introduce myself.

I am a retired farmer and live with my wife, Paddy Ann on the outskirts of Wanaka.

We have 4 children. Both boys are farming. Jon and his wife Birgit (from Austria) are dairy farming near Edendale, Southland milking 1200 cows over 2 farms, and Chris and his wife Jammie have a farm and agricultural contracting business at Becks, Central Otago. Jammie also works for Agiseeds Wrightson's as an agronomist. Our Eldest daughter Gemma along with her husband Mike, have 3 childcare centres at Lake Hayes. Our second daughter Holly has a hair dressing business on Stuart Street in Dunedin. We have 7 grandchildren.

Paddy was born in the States. Her father who was a Kiwi worked there after WW11 and married her mother who was from New York. They moved to Dunedin in 1954. Her father was responsible for introducing Insulfluff to NZ and they moved over NZ setting up factories. The first one was in Mosgiel.

I lived my first 47 years in South Canterbury having been born on a dairy farm near Winchester. This is where I acquired my first MGB, a 1965 model in 1973. This was the car I took Paddy in on our first date. She was teaching in Timaru. After having established an Agriculture Contracting business which I ran for 7 years, we bought this farm in 1991. Having sold it in 1998, we moved to Southland in 1999 and converted a sheep farm to dairy. As our son, Jon was running the dairy farm, we moved to Millers Flat in 2009 to be closer to our support farm we owned there. The Dairy farm was sold in 2015 and after this, we bought the MGB we own now. In 2018 we sold the support farm and bought our present property in 2019.

The present "B" has undergone a fair bit of restoration with a reconditioned motor (which I assembled myself) and a repaint (done by a local paint and panel shop). I entered it in two Targas, VCC section. I am pleased to say we completed both without incident apart from a flat tyre and a leaking oil pipe (loose fitting). The motor is still standard 1800cc. This due to it being afflicted with the old BMC problem of a porous block so had to be sleeved during reconditioning. Before participating in the 2nd Targa, I had the head worked by polishing the ports and putting 3 angles on valves and seats. This has enabled it to go up hills one gear higher. Also, fuel consumption has improved having once achieved 36mpg. On top of that we drove to and back the events which were both held in the North Island. We also own an XJ 40 Jaguar which I bought from my uncle and a Lotus Excel.

Finally, I would like to thank the past committee, most who are still committee members. I would also like to especially thank past president Bill, who had his challenges with both health and time during his time. The club seems to be in good heart, and I look forward to another enjoyable year.

Rod Pemberton

President

Recent Activities

Annual Meeting held at The Coach & Horse Inn Lawerance



Club Captain's Run – Sunday 24 September 2023

After a few scary days of rough weather, rain, floods, snow and winds around Otago and Southland we wondered if the run would go ahead. On a lovely sunny Sunday morning five MG's left Dunedin at 10.30am for a panoramic drive heading south, picking up another member on the way, for lunch at Balclutha.

We arrived at Rosebank Lodge where we were joined by our new President and his lovely wife who had travelled all the way down from Wanaka to join us. After socialising for a while, we sat down to a very tasty lunch and during the dessert break the Club Captain handed out People's Choice voting slips to everyone - the winning car was Debbie Bishop's MGB.

Ngaire

Our MG run went well, met at Unity Park, Mornington Dunedin, a nice small group, good weather, a pleasant drive south. A very relaxed run south. The photo shows the day and view of the bridge at Kaitangata to the Clutha River Island of Inch Clutha. We have been to the Island a few times but not this day.

The lunch at Rosebank Lodge was good. Good company, good MG fun. A relaxed drive home. – Kevin Carter





Autospectacular – Saturday 14th October 2023

On Friday 13th October we set up the MG Club Otago Southland Centre display, we wondered if we would have enough cars to go ahead. Thank you to each of these for providing cars - Cooke Howlison MG4 - the very latest MG4 EV, Kevin - MG3 2020, Ray – MG VA 1937 and Clive – MG F 1996 for our display.



On a lovely sunny Saturday morning the public started filtering into the event. It was a lovely day meeting old and new members, answering questions from the public and viewing cars of all shapes, sizes, and ages.

Our club did exceptionally well in the fact that we gained 3 new members, liaison with 4 other car clubs, promises of combined runs to be held with other marques and a booking for our club to celebrate our 100th Centenary in the Autospectacular next year.



Coming Events

GARDEN VISIT 22ND OCTOBER 2023

As there will be other people visiting the garden it would be an easier entry by prepaying your cash entry and tea fees to me prior to leaving Dunedin.

Remember to wear your Name Badge and a flower.

If you are traveling from the North let me know and I will advise you of an alternative route to save meeting in Dunedin.

Entry Fee \$10.00 p/p Afternoon Tea \$5.00 p/p. Gluten free scones available

I will erect the 'MG' flag in the paddock so we can hopefully park together.

My contact details are email chopsuey42@actrix.co.nz mobile 027 297 2261

Hope to see at 1:00pm at Carter's Car Park on the 22nd, and weather will be kind to us.

Organiser - Sue Allum

Christmas BBQ –

Proposed to be held at Millers Flat Camping Ground on 3 December. Details in next Newsletter

Further Afield Tour 8th to 10th March 2024

When? –on Friday March 8th and finishing by lunchtime on Sunday March 10th.

Where? – beginning on the 8th at the Brydone Hotel (formerly Queens Hotel), Thames Street, Oamaru, with a social hour followed by dinner at 7pm.

Departing by 9am for Saturday's tour to places **further afield**.

How – we will be able to accommodate 20 cars with more accommodation available if required

We need names and numbers by September 30th with a deposit of \$50 payable by November 30th to confirm catering and beds.

Why? - Well, aside from the usual fun of the run, we'll be celebrating the mid-Twenties when Cecil Kimber and his band of Merry Men, (and a young lady, of course) laid the foundations for a sporting marque that would provide fun, friendship and fantastic motoring at a price many could afford. MGs were the original "*safety fast*" sports cars!

Activities, - There will be numerous activities, so we suggest you brush up on your MG history; develop some 1920s style croquet skills; then get your most embarrassing/ interesting/ exciting and (probably) very rare disastrous MG anecdotes together. Make your stories just two minutes long and bring some photos for a display board.

Note – this call for bookings is early as accommodation has been surprisingly hard to find for March next year and we want to be in a position to confirm with our hosts by November 30th. Plus, we are reluctant to limit numbers.

We want you to pencil these dates in early to make this a great MG Centenary occasion.

Graeme & Kate Rice - gkrice@xtra.co.nz – text 021 549 850 or 027 4884 589.

Note From Our Treasurer

Please check your records and bank statements to make sure you have paid the 2023/24 subscription. There are still a few who have not paid to date.

If you are having difficulties paying, please contact Ross at rbmiddlemass@gmail.com to discuss options. If you no longer wish to remain a member of the Club, please also advise Ross so your name can be removed from the membership list.

Article by Russell Walker

Hands up anyone who's heard of Bridget the Midget?

No, I'm not being insensitive. In fact, Bridget is probably THE most famous MG in the world (among non-racing MGs) and without a trace of a doubt has travelled the furthest of any MG in the world. Bridget is a 1977 (unmodified) MG Midget 1500, owned by Roy Locock from the UK.

We nearly met Roy and Bridget in 2019. Roy was planning a trip to Australia and New Zealand that year. I'd read about their planned trip in a 2018 copy of the UK's Safety Fast magazine, so I quickly wrote to Roy and offered to host him and Bridget if they managed to get as far south as Dunedin on their travels. Meanwhile, COVID, as we know, put a hold on that plan.

More recently, I was reading the November and December 2022 issues of Safety Fast when who should pop up again, yes that's right, Roy and Bridget. This time they had just completed a trip to Ukraine!

So, I thought it was time that I brought them to your attention – hence this short article.

Here’s Roy and Bridget, somewhere in the world.



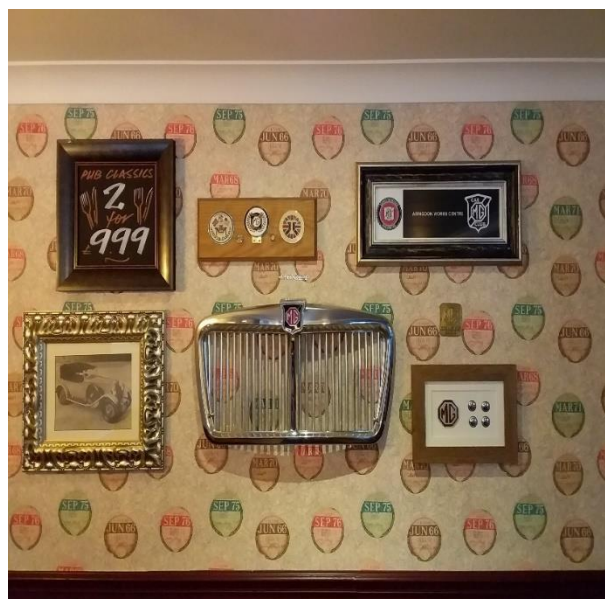
To date, Roy and Bridget have completed a World tour, an African Tour, a tour to the Arctic and a tour to Ukraine and the Balkins. The two of them have now travelled to sixty-three countries and racked up 200,000 miles. An outstanding achievement in any one’s book. Roy, now with a friend called Caroline, plus Bridget of course, are currently enroute to Sicily as we write.

For more on the pair’s travels (and their current threesome!) go to:
<http://www.bridgetthemidget.co.uk/tour>

I must write to Roy again and ascertain if he has NZ in mind as a destination for future travels.

Bridget has changed her colour a number of times from its original black to green to now Ferrari racing red!

While talking about MG Midgets, did you know that the Abingdon Works Centre of the MG Car Club hold their regular “noggin and natters” in a Pub called “The Midget: My 2018 trip to the UK included a visit to



Abingdon during which I called into The Midget for a “pie and a pint lunch”. It’s a nicely MG themed Pub with lots of MG photos and car parts adorning the walls.

And finally, here’s a photo of traveller Kevin in his and Doreen’s MG Midget. It’s somewhere in the world but more probably at one of the Club events at Horseshoe Station. He probably actually won the event.



Club Committee

2023 / 2024 Year	Name	Location	Contact Number
President	Rod Pemberton	Wanaka	027 295 5129
Immediate Past President	Bill Botting	Dunedin	021 435 181
Vice President	Russell Hawkes	Invercargill	021 970 997
Secretary	Ngaire Donaldson	Dunedin	022 049 7821
Treasurer	Ross Middlemass	Wanaka	027 236 4306
Club Captain	Clive Donaldson	Dunedin	022 678 4500
Committee	Don Carter	Invercargill	027 345 8985
	Kevin Carter	Dunedin	021 181 6126
	Tom Price	Palmerston	021 899 510

