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The Wobble Knocker

'More members and more cars on more runs, more often'



Congratulations to our newest life members! Left to Right: Terry and Cheryl Sawyer, Frank Borg and Norma May.

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Cover image and all other Christmas party and awards images: Richard Simpson.

President's report, November 2025

Hello members

It was a momentous occasion on Saturday 6 December when the club inducted its newest life members: Frank Borg and Norma May, and Terry and Cheryl Sawyer.

More than 70 people witnessed the presentation during the club's annual Christmas party and show and shine at the Sandown Park Hotel.

These four newly inducted life members were presented with their accolades by existing life members and club stalwarts, Gary Turner and Sue Wilson, who made the journey from Shepparton.



Left to right: Cheryl, Terry, Sue, Frank, Norma and Gary, President Bryce Eishold at the back.

Below is an excerpt from my speech during the Christmas party when we inducted Frank, Norma, Terry and Cheryl as life members.

According to past president, Gary Turner, Frank had a dream that one day he would establish his own club.

Before our club was founded, Frank and Norma, Terry and Cheryl Sawyer and Gary Turner and Sue Wilson were members of another British car club based here in Melbourne.

After a significant exodus from that club, Frank contacted Gary and Sue and told them that he wanted to start his own club featuring all BMC vehicles and asked them if they could help him get it up and running.

In July 2014, a group of friends came together in Somerville and created a committee for the new club, which ultimately became the BMC-Leyland Car Club.

At that meeting were Frank and Norma, Gary and Sue, now-life members Peter and Rae Luxmoore and Cindy and Martin French.

It was determined that Gary would be president, Frank vice president, Peter as treasurer and Martin as secretary.

Norma was a general committee member.

Frank was tasked with:

- 1. contacting VicRoads so the club become a stakeholder of the Club Permit Scheme*
- 2. liaising with Consumer Affairs Victoria so the club could be registered as a not-for-profit organisation, and*
- 3. designing our logo that you see today.*

A month later, in August 2014, the club was formed and held its first committee meeting where members agreed that the organisation would be a no-nonsense car club and a social club with a common interest in BMC vehicles, including the Leyland marque.

For 11 of the past 12 years Frank has served as vice president of the club, plus a one-year stint as president, and has overseen the club's website since it was created.

For a period, Norma served as the secretary of the club, and she has always been a shining light in our club.

Frank is the number one member or ticket holder and Norma chose number 38 because that is her favourite number.

Meanwhile, Terry and Cheryl have been members of the club since its inception.

Terry, who has been a vehicle scrutineer since he joined the club, has the membership number 10, and Cheryl was the club's 13th member.

In recent years, it is fair to say that Terry and Cheryl have become the backbone of the club.

Terry is the Club Permit Scheme Officer, Membership Officer, general mechanic and rust-removing guru.

Cheryl has played a pivotal role overseeing the club's finances and regularly organises events – including the AGM and Christmas party – and is the first to put her hand up and help with club runs throughout the year.

Members can thank Cheryl – the club's minister for finance – for the complimentary coffees and drinks, and occasionally sweets, or other subsidised benefits you receive on runs.

Those who have been unfortunate to be unwell or lose a loved one would know that the club takes pride in sending our best wishes or condolences to members, along with a small gift, once again organised by Cheryl.

On a personal note, in the last week, I've spent close to 30 hours at Terry and Cheryl's house in Carrum Downs, while Terry has rebuilt the gearbox on Edna (that's my car).

It gave me a first-hand insight into how important these two people are in our club.

Cheryl was fielding calls for members about the Christmas party and liaising with Sandown Park Hotel, while Terry was juggling new-member enquiries and queries from committee members about the Club Permit Scheme.

In fact, Terry receives that many calls from members, he has changed his voicemail so each time you call him and he doesn't answer, you hear "You have called Terry Sawyer from the BMC Leyland Car Club".

Terry and Cheryl are always there to lend a hand; help a member in times of need; and are keen to see the club grow and prosper.

The life memberships awarded to these four people recognise their exceptional, loyal and outstanding service and contribution to the club, not only in the last 12 months, but over the last decade.

On behalf of the members, I'd like to wholeheartedly congratulate Frank, Norma, Terry and Cheryl on their life membership status.

A special thanks to Gary and Sue who organised the life membership trophies and to Richard Simpson who captured the occasion and whose photos are published in this edition of *The Wobble Knockers*.

Show and shine winners

A newly restored Morris Six, an MGB and a well-known Morris Minor took out show and shine trophies during the Christmas party in early December.

Terry and Cheryl Sawyer's yellow Morris Minor convertible was selected by one of Sandown Park Hotel's staff members as a show and shine winner. The car is named Dorrie after Cheryl's mother and is arguably one of the best-known cars in the club.

Meanwhile, Rick and Kay Smith won the second show and shine prize for their 1973 MGB.

The Car of the Show, an award in memory of the late Graeme Williamson, was awarded to Gary and Jan Davies from Pakenham, who brought along their 1949 Morris Six sedan.

Gary told members he had recently completed a nut and bolt restoration of the head-turning vehicle, a nice addition to his 1948 Morris J van.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's show and shine. *See photos on following pages.*

A special mention must go to Christine and Murray Johnson from Raymond Island who won the 2025 Wooden Spoon award, presented by committee member Vince Stok (pictured below).



The goodwill gong, also commonly referred to as the breakdown award, was awarded to Murray and Christine after they encountered numerous mechanical hiccups and breakdowns in 2025. Let's hope 2026 brings you more reliability on the road, Murray and Christine!

A special thanks to Cheryl, who coordinated all aspects of the event, from liaising with the venue, to organising the raffle and RSVP list and much more.

The event would not have run as smoothly as it did without Cheryl's tireless work.

On a related note, as of December 2025, our club has 184 vehicles on VicRoads Club Permit Scheme, plus 264 individual members.

Sending our best wishes

Several members provided an apology for the Christmas party, including Bob and Val Strode, Rob and Anne Quinn and Toby and Yvonne Tyler.

We wish these members the best of health for the new year and look forward to their company in 2026.

Membership survey

Keep an eye out for the BMC-Leyland Car Club membership survey that is due to be released in the first quarter of 2026. The survey will seek feedback from members about all aspects of the club, including regalia, club runs and events, *The Wobble Knocker*, and more.

This survey will help inform the committee about the future direction of the club, so it's important you take the time to send us your honest and frank feedback.

The survey will be emailed to members in the new year.

In closing

I would like to thank the committee and the club's members for an enjoyable year.

Our club is entirely run by volunteers and without you, it would not exist.

One of my personal goals in 2026 is to attend more runs with the BMC-Leyland Car Club, having only attended a handful in 2025.

As someone who works full-time, I know how hard it can be to attend our monthly runs.

Life's busy and other priorities get in the way, but I won't let that be an excuse in 2026.

I extend the invitation to our newer members and those who have not attended a run in recent months and years to join me on my quest to attend more runs.

Attending club events is a great way to meet like-minded people, learn the tricks of the trade and how to keep our old cars on the road, and share our common interest in British vehicles.



I wish you and your family all the best for a safe and prosperous Christmas and festive season and look forward to seeing you on the road in the new year.

Quotable quote

"If everybody just drove a Morris Minor, the world would be a happier place"
– James May, motoring journalist, TV presenter and all-round excellent chap.

Yours in motoring

Bryce Eishold
President
BMC-Leyland Car Club Inc.



Our show and shine winners



Above left: The Car of the Show was awarded to Gary and Jan Davies from Pakenham, for their 1949 Morris Six sedan.



Above right: Rick and Kay Smith won a show and shine prize for their 1973 MGB. Below left: Alec Robinson, Run Coordinator, is not about to be upstaged by Santa. Below right: Terry and Cheryl Sawyer, with the award for 'Dorrie', their Morris Minor convertible. Images: Richard Simpson.



A colourful lineup of club cars in the Sandown Hotel carpark. Yes, we're a broad church.

That's 'Dorrie' in sunshine yellow on the far right, below.

Images: Gary Turner.



Member of the Year – Rees Williams

Congratulations to long-term member Rees Williams who was crowned the 2025 BMC-Leyland Car Club Member of the Year.

Rees was presented with a trophy and the honour board at the club's Christmas party at Sandown Park Hotel on Saturday 13 December.

BMC-Leyland Car Club Membership Officer Terry Sawyer, presenting the award, told the crowd Rees attended every run in 2025. That's 13 runs in 12 months!

The Member of the Year is determined by how many runs each member attends throughout the calendar year. One point is awarded to members who attend runs, while those who organise runs are allocated additional points for their efforts.

Five couples came in second place with 12 points, including Rick and Kay Smith, Andrew and Rachel Ratcliffe, Rod Kirby and his grandson Miller, Duncan and Hana Wellington, and Alec and Sue Robinson.

Rees told members he was humbled to receive the award and loved attending monthly club runs to catch up with friends and like-minded people.

"I enjoy the company of the people in the cars and learning a bit about other people's cars as well," Rees said. "I've been involved with British cars for 60 years. I got my first MG TC when I was 16 and worked as a mechanic for 54 years."

Rees joined the club in 2016 to meet people with similar interests, and he has not been disappointed!



Above: Rees sharing some tales of his extensive motoring history with President Bryce Eishold.

Welcome our new members ... and three Mokes and a Mini

Darren and Cathryn Vella, Ascot Vale/Rye

New member Darren Vella says his wife Cathryn is the main reason why the pair decided to buy their 1981 Leyland Moke.

The Vellas live at Ascot Vale but keep their tidy Moke at their holiday home in Rye.

"Being down on the Peninsula, we've seen a lot of Mokes and owning one has always been an interest of ours," Darren, who works as a traffic engineer, said.

"Cathryn learned to drive in a Moke on her grandfather's farm ... she ended up driving it into a dam where it probably still sits!"

The couple recently joined the BMC-Leyland Car Club in search of advice and resources to keep their car on the road.

They were previously members of another Melbourne-based car club.

"We joined the BMC club after a recommendation from Joe at Mini Makeovers," Darren said.

"We recently had our engine replaced by Joe, it had a 1275cc in it and it now has a rebuilt 1275cc.

"We have two young girls, and they love cruising around in the Moke and we thought it would be great to join your club to see other British vehicles and get access to more resources and knowledge about these cars."



Previous page: Darren Vella in his tidy 1981 Leyland Moke, which is stored on the Mornington Peninsula.

See you in the New Year, Darren and Cathryn, and bring your girls!

Robert and Dianne Booby, Bacchus Marsh

Retired barber Robert Booby and his wife Dianne have owned several Mokes in their lifetime, but they have never had the time to enjoy them – until now.

Robert and Dianne recently joined the club after having their recently purchased Moke assembled by Mini Makeovers at Sunshine North.

"The paintwork and body had been done when I bought it, but it had been dismantled," Robert said.

"Joe at Mini Makeovers put it all together for me and then suggested I join the BMC-Leyland Car Club.

"We put four seats into the Moke, so it had to be engineered as a four-seater, and we plan to put a roof on it made by Ace Moke Upholstery Specialists."

Robert, 76, admits though that the Moke will be mostly driven by his 19-year-old grandson, Lachy.

"My grandson is dying to join the club on a few runs," Robert said. "He does a lot of surfing and is really rapt to take it down to the beach and take part in a few runs."



Robert is in the process of finishing a nut and bolt restoration of a 1971 Ford Capri V6, a dream car which he has restored from the ground up.

"It is a British car, but doesn't come under the BMC marque," Robert said.

Above: The Booby family's fully restored Leyland Moke.



Above: Robert Booby's grandson Lachy, with the family's Leyland Moke.

See you in the New Year, Robert, Dianne and Lachy!

Tak Le, Sunshine North

The manager of a Melbourne-based biotech company, Tak says he has 'fallen in love' with his newly acquired 1992 black Rover Mini.

Tak joined the club recently and attended his first BMC-Leyland Car Club meeting, our Christmas party at the Sandown Park Hotel in early December.

"What first drew me to the Mini was that my sons grew up watching *Mr Bean* and always loved his car," Tak said.

Tak is a mechanical engineer by trade; however, his day job involves managing a biotechnology firm.

"For me personally, being mechanically minded and loving to tinker with things, I want to learn as much as I can about the car inside and out – and what better way than meeting people in car clubs who are just as passionate and like-minded."

He said he was looking forward to attending runs with the club.



Above: Tak Le says he has fallen in love with his 1992 black Rover Mini.

See you in the New Year, Tak ... and maybe your sons too!

Matt and Emma Guthridge, Camberwell

Management consultant Matt Guthridge admits he has wanted to own a Moke since he was in his teens.

The Melbourne man recently bought a 1975 Leyland Moke after he was exposed to them growing up.

"A friend's dad owned one," he said.

Matt and his wife Emma, a CFO in the advertising industry, hope to take the Moke on many adventures over summer.

Their Moke was rebuilt by a man and his son at Long Forest.

"It had been a passion project for them, and he enjoyed driving it for several years when it was registered at another club," Matt said.

Matt had some work done to the vehicle at Mini Makeovers and was advised to consider joining the BMC-Leyland Car Club.

"Joe cited Terry Sawyer (the club's Membership and Club Permit Scheme Officer) as someone excellent to deal with compared to other clubs," Matt said.

Since they acquired the Moke, a backseat has been installed. "We have a family of five and needed more seating options," Matt said.



Above: Matt Guthridge's tidy Moke that he bought from a father and son at Long Forest.

See you in the New Year, Matt and Emma, and bring your kids along too.

Welcome to all our newcomers, we look forward to seeing you on runs and getting to know you and your cars and your families.

SUN – 15 MARCH BMC-L CLUB – GARAGE OPEN DAY *Early Warning!*

Rendezvous: 10.30 AM onwards at 27 MAWBY ROAD, BENTLEIGH EAST

The Day: Vince and Marion Stok and kindly opening up their home for a Garage Day get-together for club members. Great opportunity to look over Vince's collection of cars and motorbikes and chat all things classic vehicles with a very knowledgeable fellow! There is also their extensive art throughout the home that they have completed themselves if cars aren't quite your thing. Come along for a chat and enjoy the hospitality of mixing with members over a coffee and biscuit.

REGISTRATION: WE WILL ADVISE CLOSER TO THE DATE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DAY AND THE NEED TO REGISTER FOR CATERING PURPOSES.

BMC- LEYLAND CAR CLUB INC

The ROAD RUNNER!!

Hi all

Well, we normally spend so much time looking backwards in our monthly newsletter but now is the perfect time to turn the dial toward looking forward!

So much to look forward to:

We all know of course what comes after Xmas, not the leftovers ... but the New Year's Day gathering on the cliffs above Mushroom Reef at Flinders! No better way to start off a brand new 2026 than having a picnic with your friends on the first public holiday of the year! Led by Kay and Rick Smith again, this event has become a staple event in our annual calendar. If you haven't been before, come along for what is always a relaxing and fine way to kick off the year.

You will see in the Run Calendar that the BMC-L Club will be participating in the AOMC/RACV British & European Motoring Show at Yarra Glen Showgrounds on Sunday 15 FEBRUARY. Our club has only recently joined this organisation (Association of Motoring Clubs) which is a non-profit body that promotes the Classic Vehicle community and its members and provides representation to government and VicRoads, etc. Paul Buck is our own Club Representative so let's proudly support our BMC-L Club by participating in the Club Display on the day – we may even win a trophy?! Bring along your windscreen sash, or order through Rod Kirby if you don't have one (see the Regalia section on page 34).

Regarding 'Breakdown Club' incidents, I thought you may like an update on the fate of Christine and Murray Johnson's 1989 Landcruiser, which broke down on their way home from Maldon as reported last month. All is well – the overheating issue with 'The Beast' was put down to a head gasket which is now replaced, and the vehicle is purring again, just in time for our Xmas party!

We have started to populate the event calendar for 2026 so have a squiz as some events/dates may have changed in the past month and there won't be another *Wobble Knocker* issue until February 2026 (see page 33 for details).

Remember we are always on the lookout for run leader volunteers and suggestions for future runs to your favourite secret places. We have a few gaps early in the year and would be keen on having something based in the Western or near Northern areas.

If you have any further suggestions for 2026 don't hesitate to contact Alec and remember there will be lots of support for any potential run leaders so you won't be on your own!

Alec Robinson – Run Coordinator 0410 479 140

Our next run: first of the year, on the first of the year!

The first run for 2026 will be the club's annual visit to Flinders on **New Year's Day, 1 January**.

Club members Rick and Kay Smith are organising the run, as they do each year, which promises some breathtaking views of Victoria's coastline.

Please confirm your attendance to Kay by **27 December**. The long-term forecast shows 1 January will be partly cloudy with a top of 24 degrees, perfect for blowing off the post-New Year's Eve cobwebs for members and their cars!

More information and how to RSVP is in the tile below.

THURS – 1 JANUARY 2026: NEW YEAR'S DAY FLINDERS **PICNIC**

Rendezvous: 10.00 am at THE RED HILL BAKER, BALNARRING for great coffee, cakes and a toilet stop.

The Trip: A scenic country drive to Flinders from 11am to stop and pick up your Fish & Chips, something from local stores (if you haven't already selected some yummys from the Balnarring Baker!) or of course BYO picnic items from home. We then move onto the clifftop picnic spot at Mushroom Reef – there are no facilities or toilets there so please bring along any tables, chairs, rugs etc as well as sun protection (hats, sunscreen, umbrellas, as it may be warm).

This always is a fun and relaxing way to start the NY with your club friends, in a setting with lovely vistas.

PLEASE CONTACT KAY SMITH BY 27 DECEMBER ON 0412 813 145 WITH NAMES AND MOBILE NUMBER TO HELP CO-ORD THE DAY OR IF YOU REQUIRE ANY MORE DETAILS.

Our February run: Yarra Glen for the British & European Motoring Show 2026

See full details in the show flyer on the following page.

SUN – 15 FEBRUARY: AOMC/RACV BRITISH & EUROPEAN MOTORING SHOW

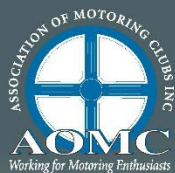
YARRA GLEN RACECOURSE

Rendezvous: 8.30 AM for a 9.00 AM DEPARTURE - MAROONDAH HWY, LILYDALE (use service road parking 50 metres on left past Anderson St/C 401 Swansea Rd intersection heading EAST BOUND. (Toilets, coffee etc available at McDonald's opposite our rendezvous point.)

For those who wish to join us later, entry for Spectator Vehicles is \$10, but you will be in a general parking area only and entry is after 10 AM.

The Day: Depart in convoy to Yarra Glen Racecourse, Armstrong Grove entrance for a BMC-L Club Display and join us for a day of fun, food and activities. \$15 per car entry for our Club Vehicles. Should be a huge range of cars on display as well as food and refreshments on site or BYO picnic and chairs.

PLEASE CONTACT PAUL BUCK ON 0412 627 711 by 8 FEBRUARY WITH NAMES, CAR TYPE AND MOBILE NUMBER TO HELP CO-ORD THE DAY OR IF YOU REQUIRE ANY MORE DETAILS.



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For site plan and more info:

www.aomc.asn.au/britishandeuropean

fb.com/infoaomc



Sunday 15th February 2026

Yarra Glen Racecourse Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen

BMC LEYLAND CAR CLUB RUN CALENDAR

2026

THURS – 1 JANUARY

Annual New Year's Day Flinders Picnic Run



SUN – 15 FEBRUARY

AOMC / RACV British & European Motoring Show @ Yarra Glen Racecourse

SATURDAY – 28 MARCH

Melbourne to MOVE Rally (Museum of Vehicle Movement) Shepparton

*...pop them in ya diary **now.***

LONGER RANGE PRELIMINARY EVENT OUTLINES (subject to change)

APRIL – to be advised

MAY – Sunday 3 May: Gippsland WALHALLA RUN – Bryce Eishold

JUNE – Sunday 21 June: Battle of Waterloo Interclub sports – Paul Buck

JULY – Saturday 18 July: Sandown Park Hotel AGM – Cheryl & Terry Sawyer

AUG – Sunday 9 August: Dandenongs RUN – Peter Nodzio & Terry

SEP – Yarra Valley area – Andrew & Rachel Radcliffe

OCT – Multi-day tour – TAGGERTY (TBC)

NOV – Tuesday 3 November, Cup Day

DEC – XMAS PARTY

***“More members in more cars
on more runs, more often”***

The BMC-Leyland Breakdown Club

The latest report on an exclusive sub-category of membership – the BMC-Leyland Breakdown Club!

Well, here I was crowing in last month's newsletter that we thankfully had NO NEW MEMBERS of the Breakdown Club to report, not that we actively welcome them mind you, much prefer a clean slate!

I had put the pen away for this year having nothing else to report, but unfortunately, someone received an early shock Christmas gift from the Grinch (pictured below) after our club Christmas party at the Sandown Park Hotel.



Glenn Sanderson was tootling home in his Commodore (AKA the Dunny Door), having enjoyed the festivities, when he came to a complete halt. He managed to roll the car safely into a bus stop area while awaiting the flat-top trip home!

The culprit evidently was a very small bolt retaining the distributor rotor button, which had dislodged itself – a pain to diagnose and fix as intercooler pipework obstructed access, but the fear of a major engine problem at least was unfounded, and Glenn is back on the road! See pic on following page.

Glenn, given the unfortunate timing of your Commodore breakdown, literally three hours after the 2025 Annual Awards, I am pleased to advise that you will be eligible for consideration for the **2026 Awards**, you've just got in super early but at this stage you are leading the vote count!



Left: The culprit.

While we're on awards, big congratulations to Murray and Christine Johnson for taking out the inaugural **Breakdown Club Wooden Spoon for 2025**, presented by our foundation member Vincent Stok.

What a year it's been for them – by my reckoning, multiple breakdowns across three of their vehicles (not all run related) is averaging out around a flat-top tow breakdown once every two months for the whole year!

Christine writes:

This is the Jag when the engine died in April. It was on the way home from Melbourne to MOVE, in which the club participated (the Jag's first club outing).

Surely 2026 will have to be easier on both their driving experiences and wallets.

So, stay safe all, looking forward not only to seeing you on as many of our runs as possible in 2026 but also wishing you happy motoring and NO BREAKDOWNS in the NEW YEAR!

Alec Robinson – Run Coordinator



Just for fun ... the Austin we deserved

Here's a car many of us wish had been available to BMC fans Downunder ...

The South African Austin Apache, the rarest, coolest Austin we never got. Check it out on YouTube.

Thanks to club member Tim Coronel for providing this image.



A BMC fence ... can things get any weirder?

Peter Rigall, club member from Tasmania, who has an eye for anything BMC, writes:

These are a couple of pics of a fence of a BMC fan located at Tarleton, which is between Latrobe and Spreyton in NW Tasmania. Featuring a MK I 1800 and a Morris Nomad.



The BMC/Leyland Factories

– Tony Cripps

Most older members familiar with Sydney city environs will remember the location of the BMC/Leyland factory at Zetland. This was the site of the old Victoria Park horse racing course, purchased by William Morris in 1948. Building of the factory began in 1950. In later years, the site would be shared with associated companies such as Joseph Lucas, Conveyancer Fork Trucks, Olympic Tyre and Rubber, Beaurepaires, Thornycroft, James N. Kirby, Champion Spark Plug Co. and The Distillers Co., the latter a somewhat questionable outlier in what was mainly an automotive precinct.

Originally, the front entrance was in Joynton Avenue and was simply an iron gate with a watch house. With the expansion of the factory and buildings, a new Administration Building was opened on the other side of the site in November 1966 and made a much better impression on visiting dignitaries, dealers and suppliers. With the change of front entrance from Joynton Avenue to South Dowling Street, the official address of the factory changed from Zetland to Waterloo although technically speaking, Waterloo was the suburb just to the north of the factory.



The picture above is probably what most people would remember as they drove north along South Dowling Street. The building in the foreground is the Sheet Metal and Body Division, and the new Administration Building is the brown building to the right in the distance. All of this has of course been demolished and is now mainly a housing estate. Apart from the Victoria Park site, BMC/Leyland Australia also had factories and workshops in many other places, in Sydney and elsewhere.

The Leyland Australia Plant in Cosgrove Rd Enfield in Sydney was purchased from Pressed Metal Corporation (PMC) in 1968. Previously PMC was a sub-contract assembler of Austin Healey Sprite, MGA, MGB, M.G. Midget. After the close of Victoria Park, Mini and Moke production was moved to Enfield, and then later assembly of Peugeot and Land Rover and National Bus.

A new Parts and Accessories warehouse was built at Liverpool in 1965, and in the 1970s, a dedicated 'Environmental Protection Centre' at Moorebank (located next door to P&A). This Environmental Protection Centre only lasted a few weeks and with the close of Victoria Park became 'Engineering Services' where product engineering was done for vehicles produced at Enfield and elsewhere, including the Army Land Rover vehicles.



The photo above shows the staff at Engineering Services as of about 1978. At the far right is Norman Prescott. Other divisions and sites less well known were at:

- Truck and Bus Division, 51 Milperra Rd, Revesby NSW
- Pressed Metal Corporation Ltd, 75 Marigold St, Revesby NSW
- Aveling-Barford Australia Pty Ltd, 24 Belmore Rd, Punchbowl NSW
- Leyparts South Australia, 216 Flinders St, Adelaide SA
- Truck and Bus Division, Grand Junction Rd, Wingfield SA
- PMC South Australia, Royal Park SA
- Truck and Bus Division, Paramount Rd, West Footscray VIC
- Truck and Bus Division, Ipswich Rd, Rocklea QLD
- A B Denning & Co Pty Ltd, Acacia Ridge QLD
- Leyland Western Australia Ltd, 555 Great Eastern Hwy, Redcliffe WA.

In 1981, a new Managing Director, Phil Hovell, reinvented the company in the form of an importer and specialist and luxury vehicles and for a while, profits soared. But by 1991, Jaguar Rover

Australia (JRA) was flying too close to the sun, and the wax began to melt. Hovell wrote to his shareholders:

“No-one can take away from us the fact that we were the key part of Australia’s largest MBO at the time, and it was immediately highly successful until we were seduced by the financial engineers and blitzed by the market collapses. However, we are part of a very small group of Australian managers who have had the opportunity to participate. Better to have loved and lost, then never to have loved at all!!”

A new company, Clifford Corporation, eventually picked up the bus and coach pieces in 1997. Their newly formed subsidiary, Austral Pacific Group (APG), predicted a 700% increase in growth based on forward orders for buses and coaches, chiefly with government and semi-government authorities. The upcoming Sydney 2000 Olympic Games were expected to add further orders, with tenders for fire engines being pursued in NSW and Adelaide, as well as potential exports in India, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Investors thought it was marvellous.

But by December 1998, Clifford was in trouble. Despite reporting accounting profits and paying dividends, the company sustained substantial cash losses. Dividends to shareholders came from the sale of new shares or bank loans. Share dividend plans were on an opt-out basis, and new shares issued for ‘working capital’. Money flowed to and from shareholders and banks but it appeared little was actually coming from the core businesses. The resulting collapse left shareholders and creditors with a deficiency of some \$98M and the directors facing legal action.

In May 2004, the Court found that each of the directors of Clifford, and one other, had contravened various provisions of the *Corporations Act*. Penalties involving prison terms were handed down on 30 September 2004. An inglorious end to Lord Nuffield’s vision of 1948.

A timeline of significant events is shown below.

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| 1950 | Mar | CKD Plant opened by Premier McGirr and Lord Nuffield |
| 1951 | Nov | BMC founded by Austin/Morris merger in the UK |
| 1954 | Aug | BMC Australia formed G.A. Lloyd Managing Director |
| 1957 | | J.W. Buckley appointed Managing Director |
| 1958 | Apr | Ruskin Body Works, Dudley St. Melbourne, closed |
| 1958 | Feb | J.W Buckley resigns, GA Lloyd and H.J. Graves appointed joint Managing Directors |
| 1959 | Jan | H.J. Graves appointed Managing Director |
| 1963 | Jun | R.L. Abbott appointed Managing Director |
| 1965 | Jul | Parts and Accessories Division opened in Liverpool |
| 1966 | Nov | New administrative offices, South Dowling St, opened |
| 1968 | Jan | Announcement of BMC/Leyland merger |
| 1968 | May | British Leyland Motor Corporation formed |
| 1969 | Jul | J.O. Martin appointed Deputy Chairman: Enfield plant purchased |
| 1972 | Mar | Company name change: Leyland Motor Corporation of Australia |
| 1973 | Jan | P.J. North appointed Managing Director |
| 1974 | Jun | J.D. Abell appointed Managing Director; P.J. North resigns |
| 1974 | Oct | Closure of Victoria Park announced |

| | | |
|------|-----|--|
| 1975 | Mar | J.D. Abell returns to UK; G. King appointed Managing Director |
| 1976 | Jun | F.F. Andrew appointed Managing Director |
| 1980 | | R.J. Hancock appointed Managing Director |
| 1981 | Feb | P. Hovell appointed Managing Director |
| 1981 | | Austin-Rover Group formed – part of British Leyland |
| 1983 | Mar | JRA Ltd formed |
| 1986 | | Rover Group PLC formed replacing BL PLC |
| 1987 | Feb | Management buy-out of JRA Ltd |
| 1987 | | Leyland Trucks (UK) purchased by DAF (Netherlands) |
| 1988 | | Rover Group PLC privatised and sold to British Aerospace |
| 1988 | Mar | Enfield site sold to Auto Auctions |
| 1989 | | Rover Group PLC renamed Rover Group Holdings Limited |
| 1992 | Oct | Receivers appointed JRA |
| 1993 | | Leyland Trucks management buy-out |
| 1994 | | Rover Group Holdings Limited sold to BMW |
| 1995 | | Rover Group Holdings Limited renamed BMW (UK) Holdings Limited |
| 1996 | | JRA purchased by Clifford Corporation |
| 1998 | Nov | Clifford Corp. collapses |
| 1998 | | Leyland Trucks purchased by PACCAR (USA) |
| 2000 | | BMW sell Land Rover to Ford |
| 2000 | | BMW sell to Phoenix Consortium but retain marques Mini, Riley, Rover, Triumph. Phoenix Consortium only has a licence for Rover marque, ownership retained by BMW |
| 2000 | | MG Rover Group formed by Phoenix Consortium |
| 2005 | | MG Rover Group, after liquidation, sold to Nanjing Automotive Group China |
| 2006 | | BMW sells Rover marque to Ford |
| 2006 | | MG Motor UK formed by Nanjing |
| 2007 | | Nanjing and SAIC merge as SAIC and now own Austin, Austin-Healey, MG, Morris, Princess, Sterling, Van den Plas (with TATA Motors India), Wolseley marques |
| 2008 | | Ford sells Rover, Jaguar, Daimler, Vanden Plas (Canada and USA) and Land Rover to TATA Motors India |

Readers, this is my last article for the BMC-Leyland Club newsletter, and I thank you for your kind interest. I began these articles at the suggestion of Richard Simpson when we were discussing the use of the BMC and Leyland logos, for which I have a trademark. I am glad to say that I feel both the club and I have benefited from the mutual cooperation and I thank Richard for his unending good will and support. I wish you the very best with your BMC vehicle.

Tony Cripps

mail@leylandaustralia.com.au

PS. I only have a very small number of print versions of my books available which would make a fine Christmas present. Remaining stocks are on Ebay. In future, books will be available as 'print on demand' from Amazon.

Craig's Big Kiwi Adventure – meeting the BMC 1300 GTS

Craig Ellis, Morris Minor driver, man-about-town and all-round BMC aficionado, reports on a recent trip to the Shaky Isles ...

Date – 9 November 2025: Arrived home from NZ yesterday after three weeks travelling around. Had an amazing time, particularly in the South Island (Te Wai Pounamu: The Land of Greenstone), which is stunning.



My friend Andrew from Auckland is a BMC addict and picked me up from the airport in his Austin 1300 GT, just brilliant.

Tasty, innit. And wait till you see what's on the following pages.

The immaculate little number overleaf has the New Zealand Motor Corporation (NZMC) sticker on the rear window.

NZMC was a major NZ car assembler, formed in 1970 by merging British Leyland's key distributors (Dominion Motors and Austin Distributors Federation) to assemble UK cars like Morris, Austin, Rover and Triumph in NZ plants.

Bits generally do not fall off these cars. Look at those shut lines.







There's
ANOTHER ONE
hiding in the
garage, see
below ... **RED**
goes faster.

*(Editor's note:
Just ask my
Wellington
flatmate Peter
Challis, who had
a red GT with
black vinyl roof
back in '82. Two
speeds only –
stop and FAST!)*

Above and below: owner Andrew (in sunglasses) and the lads hanging out with the fancy old motors in traditional blokey poses.



Thanks Craig, and it's comforting to see how many of these brilliant cars are being preserved and driven down there in the Shakies.

Club contact details and officials

Website: www.bmcleylandcarclub.org

Email for all contact: bmcleylandcarclub@gmail.com

Phone number for all contact: 0400 252 431 (Cheryl Sawyer)

OFFICE BEARERS

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Bryce Eishold 0458 588 449 |
| VICE PRESIDENT | Francis Borg 0414 989 822 |
| SECRETARY | Jo Hawkesworth 0490 875 905 |
| TREASURER | Cheryl Sawyer 0400 252 431 |

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| MEMBERSHIP OFFICER | Terry Sawyer 0417 344 371 |
| RUN COORDINATOR | Alec Robinson 0410 479 140 |
| REGALIA | Rod Kirby 0439 933 116 |
| WEBMASTER | Francis Borg 0414 989 822 |
| AOMC DELEGATE | Paul Buck 0412 627 711 |
| VICROADS CPS OFFICER | Terry Sawyer 0417 344 371 |
| PRE-1948 VEHICLE SCRUTINEER | Vincent Stok 0411 416 912 |

If you wish to contact a member of the committee by email, please use
bmcleylandcarclub@gmail.com.

NON-COMMITTEE

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR | Kathy Hope 0412 873 111 kathy.hope@bigpond.com |
|-------------------|---|

LIFE MEMBERS: Gary Turner, Sue Wilson, Peter and Rae Luxmoore, Frank Borg, Norma May, Terry and Cheryl Sawyer

Authorised members and scrutineers

- *The following members are authorised by the club to sign **VicRoads renewals**: Terry Sawyer, Vincent Stok, Francis Borg, Russell Lindon, Sue Wilson.*
- *The following members are authorised to sign **Standard Declaration and Eligibility forms** for the Club Permit Scheme (CPS): Terry Sawyer, Vincent Stok, Francis Borg.*
- *These members are **club scrutineers and safety officers**: Terry Sawyer, Vincent Stok, Francis Borg.*

Roadworthiness requirements for club vehicles

A certificate of roadworthiness is required for all club vehicles manufactured on or after 1 January 1949, except street rod vehicles, light trailers and plant-based special purpose vehicles (e.g. tractor). Get a certificate of roadworthiness at a roadworthy tester.

It is optional for vehicles manufactured on or before 31 December 1948 to have a certificate of roadworthiness. The club scrutineer/official may inspect and declare the vehicle to be safe to use on the road.

VicRoads renewals

Authorised members who can sign your renewals are:

Terry Sawyer

15 Kingfisher Court, Carrum Downs, Vic 3201 (Also new vehicles) **0417 344 371**
teznchez@robsawyer.com.au

Francis Borg

1321 Murradoc Rd, St Leonards, Vic 3223 (Also new vehicles) **0414 989 822**
francis.borg@gmail.com

Russell Linden

70A Richelieu Street, Maidstone, Vic 3012 **0411 449 955**
russelllinden@hotmail.com

Vincent Stok

27 Mawby Rd, East Bentleigh, Vic 3165 (Also new vehicles) **0411 416 912**
enigmas09@bigpond.com

Sue Wilson

222, 65 Channel Road, Shepparton, Vic 3630 **0421 841 939**

If posting your renewal to be signed, **send the whole form**, and do not detach any part of it until it has been signed.

Also please send a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** so it can be returned immediately.

Club banking details

BMC-Leyland Car Club Inc

BSB: 633000

Acct: 152525515

Editorial and advertising policy

- All copy to be sent to the Editor by email at kathy.hope@bigpond.com as a **Word document or email body copy**.
- Please supply images as **jpegs**. Images should be sourced from the original photographer when possible or written/verbal permission obtained when using third-party photos. You can include jpeg images in your email if you are supplying copy that way.
- All copy will be edited for sense, style and clarity, at the Editor's discretion. Any questions will be sent you for resolution before publication.
- PDF is acceptable for material from other publications, with acknowledgement of the source.
- All club material and communications must be sent from the official email. Personal email accounts are not to be used.

Advertising

- Club members may advertise their vehicles, spare parts or memorabilia for sale free of charge. Please email the Editor at kathy.hope@bigpond.com with photos and details.
- Wanted ads are also welcome if you are looking for spares.
- Businesses that wish to advertise in *The Wobble Knocker* can email the Secretary for more information: bmcleylandcarclub@gmail.com

Deadline for copy and images is 2 weeks before the estimated publication date. This allows time for copy editing, layout and proofreading. *Exemptions apply for run reports.*

Changes to publication schedule in 2026

- As of 2026, the club newsletter will be published **every second month**, starting in February. We aim to publish in the first week of each month.
- Please send your copy by the **second week of January for the February issue**.

Thank you, we appreciate your interest and contributions.

Club regalia and clothing

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Car Club Banner | \$10.00 |
| Embroidered Cloth Badge | \$10.00 |
| Club Cap | \$20.00 |
| Grille Badge (New) | \$40.00 |

Bumper stickers sporting the club's logo and slogan – *More members and more cars on more runs, more often* – are available for purchase.



New Club Banner



New Grille Badge



Cloth Badge



Club Dress Shirt



Club Polo Shirt



Rugby Jumper



Club Caps - navy or black

Contact Rod Kirby: 0439 933 116

Clothing is made to order. Send us your size/measurements so we can fit you properly. The club shirt is dark grey, very smart and flattering for both sexes. We are proposing to add a sleeveless puffer jacket to the range, at the request of our female members but suitable for chaps, too. Clothing can have your name embroidered at no extra charge. **All regalia and clothing must be paid for on ordering, postage extra.**

Support our sponsors



Ph: 03 8668 9336

Address: 111 Munro Avenue

Sunshine North Vic 3020

enquiries@minimakeovers1275.com.au

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