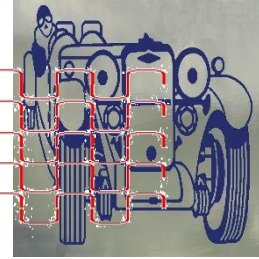


SINGERGRAM

March 2024 Vol. 37 No.1



ALL BRITISH DAY 2024



Ivan and Sue Margitich reversing their 1935 Le Mans into pole position

THOSE attending this year's All British Day at Echunga oval were treated to some of the best weather for the event in years. Compared to last year's duststorms and subsequent rain at departure, entrants and visitors this year simply had a pleasantly mild day. Around a thousand British vehicles were on display for drivers, passengers and visitors to walk past, examine, snap, and/or chat to their owners. The various stalls covering food outlets and local crafts, model displays, books and spare parts, along with Finch Restoration's SS100 Jaguar replica were well patronised, with many stalls sponsored and run by Echunga community organisations. Four Singers from our club were in attendance: Ivan & Sue, as above, Stephen and Wendy Bitmead's 1930 Junior, the editor's 1949 4A and Jeff Vale's 1951 SM1500. Club member Deidre Solly, under the banner of the Historic Motor Vehicles Club, entered her 1963 Austin A35 van and won the prize for Best Commercial Vehicle.

[more pictures on p.3]

SINGER CAR CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc

(To preserve the marque and unite the owners)

Meetings are held on the second Monday of selected months at:

Seven22 Bistro, 722 Port Rd, Beverley

Meet at 6.00 pm for a great meal or just attend the meeting from 7.00 pm.

OFFICERS FOR 2023

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Editor: Trevor Bailey, tel. 0402 434 398

singergramsingergram@gmail.com

Please send all material for the next edition to the above email address by 7 June 2024

Note, it is not necessary for articles to be about Singers — anything of interest to members will be considered.

Trevor

More All British Day pictures



Jeff Vale has found Classic & Sportscar Boutique provided him with excellent service in obtaining some hard to get spare parts (tel. 08 8332 3366; classicports@internode.on.net)



Secretary's Report to the 2024 AGM of The Singer Car Club of SA Inc

Monday February 12th 2024

2023 was a far better year for The Singer Car Club of SA after the disruption that COVID brought in the previous few years!!

We held our meetings every 2 months, and we did manage to have Social Events on many of the non-meeting months. These are great chances to sit around and catch up; they don't need to be anything fancy, just a time to meet old friends.

Secretary's Highlights.

- 5 formal Meetings for 2022
- Special Award presented at the club annual dinner to Rob Martin for his many years of dedicated service as Treasurer.
- We now receive all correspondence via email and forwarded onto members with email; the only exception being the Singer Owners Club Magazines, contact the Secretary if you'd like to read this very informative magazine.
- We continue to be invited to the Victorian organised Natter Nights over Zoom open to all members of the Singer Australian Club. These have continued in this form post-COVID.
- Our combined events with the other Rootes Group clubs have worked well, with 4 held in 2023 including our own two plus ,we went on the
 - Sunbeam Club - Proud Mary Cruise
 - Humber Club – Drive through the Hills
 - Hillman Club – National Military Museum
 - Singer Club – Glenbarr Homestead – thanks again to Pete and Diane for organising
- Ivan and Sue generously stepped up to host our Xmas Gathering and despite the unseasonal extremely cold weather which meant moving inside, disrupting all their preparations; however it went off without a hitch. Thank you very much to both of you.
- Once again I have not managed to attend any Presidents Meetings of the SA Rootes Group Clubs. These are a very good way of communicating between clubs and building stronger bonds between the clubs. It would be good if someone can take this on.
- 2024 is going to be a busy year, we are a small club and it needs everyone to help as much as they can.
 - Organising Singer's Combined Rootes Group Events
 - Organising some club events in months we have no meeting
 - Organizing on 2025 Singer Nationals
 - Things are well underway, but much still to do.

Finally, thanks to everyone for their contributions to the year.

Stephen Bitmead, Secretary 2023

NSW, SA & VIC – BORDER BASH 2024



Singer line up at Rupanyup, Victoria

LATE last year members of the Singer Car Club of Australia had the bright idea of hosting another Border Bash where members from the bordering states of NSW, SA and Victoria would join for a long weekend of friendship and enjoying their cars. The deal that Trevor Leech got for us at the local motel covered all meals, including packed lunches for us on our runs.

Twenty three of us assembled at the Westlander Motel in Horsham, late on Friday 15 March and after some unloading of cars from trailers, others unloading bags from boots, we all settled in with a relaxing catch-up and drink under the gazebo before our pre-ordered meals.



After a restful night we assembled at 7.30am for our breakfast and into our cars and off to see some of the local sights.

Horsham is the centre of a large grain growing area and stores grain in many silos, under tarpaulins and during World War 2 stored excess grain in huge “stick sheds”. Before we started our tours past many of the painted silos, we had a conducted tour of the last of the stick sheds. The Murtoa Stick Shed is 270 metres long, 60 metres wide and 19 metres high at the ridge.

From Murtoa it was off to the Grampians for site seeing and lunch.

Unfortunately, the SA contingent missed the Grampians drive as Stephen and Vida lost their brakes and Max and Rosemary protected their backs by following them back to the motel in their 2002 BMW. Stephen needed parts to fix the brakes so the car was parked back at the motel and we waited for the other travellers to return for drinks and a debrief under the pergola.

We had our dinner in the restaurant and after a long day it was off to bed to rest up for another busy day on Sunday.



Our Sunday drive included the Dimboola Pink Lake and more Silo Art at Arkona, Rainbow, Alacutya, Rosebery, Brim and Sheep's Hill.



Unfortunately the Sunday run totalled over 300 km and was accompanied by a heavy rain storm and the run was abandoned by those in old cars but the Schilds and the Lanes completed the course but didn't see much more than rain!

By the time we got back to the Motel the weather had improved and after we loaded Stephen's car onto the trailer it was time to catch up with the others under the pergola and at dinner.

After a very pleasant few days organized by Trevor Leech and Laurette Jardel we all said our farewells on Monday morning and headed for home.

Max & Rosemary Lane

SINGER NATIONAL 2025

Location - Victor Harbor – South Australia

Venue - The McCracken Country Club, McCracken Drive, Victor Harbor, South Australia 5211

<https://www.mccrackencountryclub.com.au/>

Date - April 7th to 10th 2025

As indicated at the 2023 National event in Goondiwindi, the SA Singer Club has, after much deliberation, made the decision to move our event away from the ‘traditional’ Easter weekend to a time when accommodation is more easily found and at a better price. Also the event locations will be less crowded.

We completely understand this may be disappointing to some but we felt that with the issues in finding a ‘Nationals Headquarters’ that can accommodate all attendees, to a standard befitting our event and at a price that was reasonable in these times of ever increasing costs, this was our only option. Many of our sister SA clubs have, over the years successfully moved their national events away from Easter for this very reason.

We chose mid-week dates, again for the same reasons of cost and fewer crowds at venues and on the roads. It allows interstate participants to travel there and back on the weekends either side, or extend their stay in SA if you so desire. The dates chosen are school holidays in some states (but not in SA), so this may assist those with younger families in attending, despite it not being Easter.

In addition, we decided to make the event 3 full days, plus arrival and departure days so that we can have a more relaxed event while still undertaking the activities we have planned. We also felt that this allows people to head for home in a more relaxed (and safer) way on the last morning rather than trying to decide what they can attend before heading off, as has been the case.

Victor Harbor and SA’s South Coast (Fleurieu Peninsula) are famous for many things, including:

- It was the site of the 1936 South Australian Grand Prix (no Singers in this event sadly)
- Australia’s FIRST Railway was run between Goolwa and Port Elliot (later extended to Victor)
- Nearly all produce from inland Qld, NSW and Victoria was shipped by river to Goolwa then sent to its next destination through Pt Elliot and later Port Victor
- It was a possible site for Adelaide, luckily for Victor, William Light decided the plains to the north were better suited
- American whalers and sealers operated here even before the colony was settled
- Humpbacks and southern right whales visit every winter, now the whalers have gone.
- It’s great surf
- The southern vineyards are only a short travel away.

Planning is in its early stages, but we already have more great options that can be fitted into 3 days. Travel distances each day shouldn’t be too long, maybe 40km maximum on the longest days, so it will suit even the oldest Singers, and there aren’t too many hills. We are looking to have a range of activities to suit all ages and interests (not just cars I promise).

We will have a get-together on the first evening (Monday 7th), hopefully the usual “trading Tables” and possibly the start of the Rocker Cover Races and then we’ll begin in earnest on the Tuesday.

Our Theme night is likely the Tuesday with our Formal Presentation on Wednesday night and a more informal dinner Thursday to allow for an early night and “quick getaway” the next day.

With people potentially wanting to leave sometime on Thursday we will likely make that evening a “pay your own way” event and not be covered by the event fees. But this is all to be decided. I am more than happy for feedback/suggestions. If there are no objections we could move the presentation night to the Thursday instead.

We are aiming to keep entry fees as low as we can, hopefully \$300 an adult, but we need a better idea of numbers and costs before we can finalise this.

Our venue – The McCracken Country Club has a range of accommodation options. See the attached “Registration of Interest” form for pricing. We have negotiated a “Fixed Price” for 2025 no matter what happens with inflation. The Resort facilities are of a very high standard and we have use of them all (there is a charge for golf. There is plenty of parking including for trailers in the resort grounds. The room price noted includes a “Buffet Breakfast” for 2 in the Resort’s Bistro, when we will also have our morning briefings. If there are additional people in your room this will need to be added in, plus the additional person fee.

To allow you to start planning, the Event Theme will be ‘Having a Whale of a Time’ and our traditional ‘Dress Up’ night will be: come in a ‘Nautical Theme.

We really hope you can join us in Victor Harbor in 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions/feedback/suggestions whatsoever. We want to make this an enjoyable event for all.

Stephen Bitmead, 2025 Singer Nationals Coordinator, 2025SingerNationals@gmail.com

NOTE to SA CLUB MEMBERS

Stephen Bitmead is looking for SA volunteers for a number of Singer National tasks – REMEMBER WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS WE WON’T HAVE A NATIONAL GATHERING!!

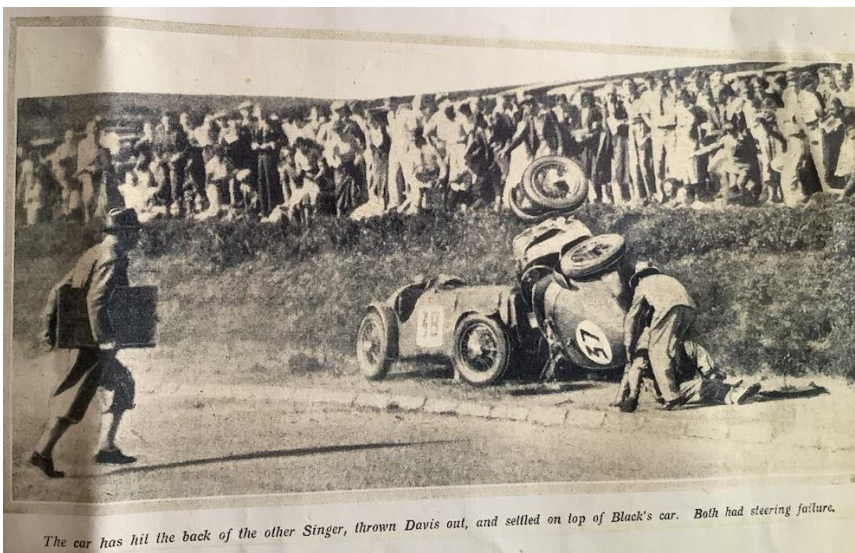
- **Sponsorship Chasing**
- **Raffle Prize organising**
- **Daily Run Organising (including places to visit, etc), we will have 3 days of events**
- **“Rally Pack” compilation**
- **Gifts for judges**
- **Trophies.**

HISTORIC ROAD CRASHES



Was Tutankhamun a Road Crash Victim?

Two African surgeons recently studied past forensic analyses of Tutankhamun's mummy and noted that, among his multiple injuries were a compound femur fracture and severe chest trauma. Such injuries are now known to typically occur in deaths from high energy impacts such as crashes and falls from heights. Given that Tutankhamun was entombed with some chariots, he may well have met his maker while riding, likely a preferred mode of travel seeing he had a club foot from birth. Also, he was a teenager when he died. Maybe he was also a problem young driver? Ancient Egypt continues to reveal surprises, it seems!



Singer Crashes

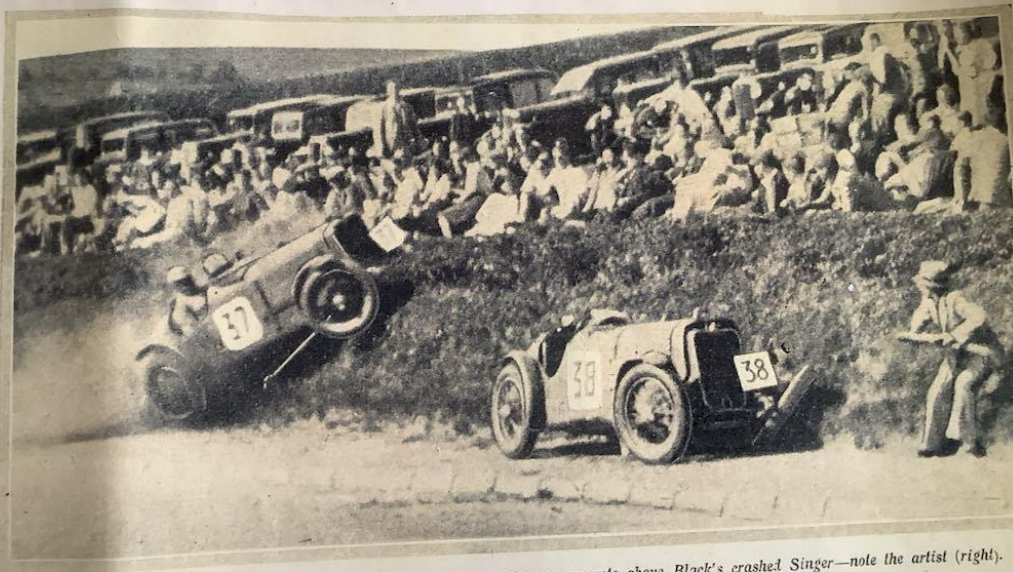
(spotted by club member Pat Oxley.
Thanks Pat!)

1935 Belfast TT

'The car has hit the back of the other Singer, thrown Davis out, and settled on top of Black's car. Both had steering failures.'

The car has hit the back of the other Singer, thrown Davis out, and settled on top of Black's car. Both had steering failures.

1935 BELFAST T.T.



First stage of S. C. H. Davis' crash with the Singer. The car mounts above Black's crashed Singer—note the artist (right).

'First stage of S C H Davis' crash with the Singer. The car mounts above Black's crashed Singer – note the artist.' [You can see him sketching to the right of car #38]

[Editor's note: The Wikipedia entry for the 1935 Belfast Tourist Trophy (TT) lists 38 entrants for this race. There were 4 Singers, all Le Mans replicas, and ALL 4 failed to complete the 35 laps over 767 kms, due to, wait for it, crashing!! As can be seen in the picture above, both cars 37 and 38 were Le Mans.



Road Rage Crash 1890s style!

130 years later, cyclists still tend to come off worse in crashes!

VEHICLES & OLD MACHINERY AT THE FLAT



SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2024

10:00 am to 3:00 pm



McLaren Flat Recreation Grounds

Classic & Historic

Cars, Motorcycles, Trucks, Tractors & Stationary Engines.

Catering

Coffee Van

Licenced Bar

Popcorn

Raffles

Market Stalls



Public Entry By Gold Coin Donation

Enquiries

Tim Osmond 0456 141 675

Rod Watson 0409 778 640

Allan Wheaton 0408 899 775

pop@ahmrc.org



Hosted by: McLaren Flat Community Club & the Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers Club

Singer Badges (wearable)



Imported from England. Cost: \$6 each or \$5 each if buying more than one. Contact

Stephen Bitmead: (08) 8254 2716 (H);

thebitmeads@gmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please advise Stephen Bitmead (Events Coordinator) of any changes or additions to our Calendar of Events (see contact details on p. 2 of this *Singergram*).

APRIL	
7	Vehicles & Old Machinery at the (McLaren) Flat (see page 11 for details)
8	Monthly meeting
TBA	Possible Hillman "Combined Rootes Group Clubs" event
14	Gawler to Barossa Veteran & Vintage Run (pre 1930 cars); contact Trevor Unsworth, 0402 891 891, vvrn@gawlerclub.com.au
29 April to 10 May	South East SA Safari: Federation of Historic Motor Clubs
MAY	
2 (Thurs)	Combined Rootes Groups visit to Mawson Lakes' Planetarium (9.45am), plus hotel lunch; Phone 0427 152 029 or email: the-vales@bigpond.com
JUNE	
10	Monthly Meeting
TBA	Singer Club Annual Dinner
JULY	
TBA	Combined Rootes Groups Clubs – XMAS In July Dinner; venue - 722 Club, 722 Port Road Beverley
AUGUST	
7 (Wed)	Drive from Mt Barker to Clayton Bay (SW of Milang), with café lunch
12	Monthly meeting
SEPTEMBER	
21 (Sat)	Combined Rootes Groups (organised by Sunbeam Club), visit to Old Government House, Belair National Park / Mt Lofty
OCTOBER	
14	Monthly meeting
20	Bay to Birdwood
NOVEMBER	
TBA	
DECEMBER	
8	Singer Club Xmas party at Angle Vale (kindly hosted by Rob Martin)
APRIL 2025	
8-11	Singer National at McCracken County Club, Victor Harbor