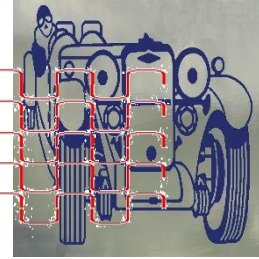


**SINGERGRAM**

August 2024 Vol. 37 No.3



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**SIENNA'S YEAR 12 FORMAL**



# 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.

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## **SINGERGRAM EDITOR & CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Please send all material for the next edition to the above email address by 30 November 2024**

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

**Trevor**

A FORMAL EVENT - FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2024

We're unsure if you have a young daughter or granddaughter. We are blessed with granddaughter Sienna. She is 17 and in year 12 at Sacred Heart College.

Year 12 can be testing but there is one event on the school calendar not to be missed and that is the school Formal.

You may recall Sienna when the National Rally was held in The Barossa and also at other Singer outings, sometimes in the Singer 4 AD and others in the LeMans 4 seater sports tourer.

Sienna loves the old Singers but especially the LeMans. She just "had to" turn up to the school formal in the LeMans and she asked if I would drive her to the event. Who could refuse! She also requested the hood be down with me being dressed in "formal attire" The forecast that evening was cold with possible showers.

The big day arrived and as it turned out the weather on the day was fine but cold. Sienna was wearing a silk ivory soft halter backless dress with maroon shoes and matching bag. She colour co-ordinated her outfit to match the colours of our Singer. The dress was flimsy in a stylish way. I warned her with the hood down she would freeze but to no avail.

The big event saw all the girls visiting tanning salons, beauty boutiques and hairdressers. Photographs featuring Sienna and myself with the LeMans were taken beforehand at my sister Andrea's Tudor home which was built in the 1930's. It was the right era for the LeMans. Afterwards we drove to Clarence Gardens for the before party where Sienna's school friends and parents had gathered. To my amazement Sienna had arranged for two of her close friends to join us in the LeMans. They were also destined to freeze on the trip to The Entertainment Centre at 6.00pm. More photographs were taken as we left.

The trip to the venue was uneventful except that we did "freeze". We took a route along busy Main South Road and to keep up with traffic had to sit on 60kms per hour and dodge the faster cars when changing lanes. The girls sitting on the back seat in their flimsy outfits were copping a blast of cold wind. They got plenty of exposure in more than one sense of the word. Even passed the school bus carrying other students to the event who gave us the looks we deserved.

We arrived on time. My passengers alighted without complaint on the cold trip. In fact they really enjoyed their ride in the Singer.

I left for the trip home with headlights ablaze and glad to return to the warmth of our home.

The Singer, unlike my heart, never missed a beat and even provided some warmth for the front passenger via the clever design of the engine compartment !!

Ivan & Sue Margitich (Best wishes, Sienna, for the rest of your Year 12 studies — Ed.)



## CHRISTMAS IN JULY 2024

### (HILLMAN CAR CLUB ROOTES GROUP EVENT)

**T**HE DAY was pleasant and we arrived to find approximately forty attendees already seated and chatting away. A very dainty fairy, aka Lyn Hunter, greeted us warmly and said numbers were down this year and therefore we were in the private room where we hold our Singer Club meetings. We enjoyed the company of others at our table with usual discussion about cars and events.

The set menu was delicious and the best food we have enjoyed at the 722 Bistro. I chose a salt and pepper squid entrée and the main course was steak and vegetables, cooked to my liking, and for dessert a mini pavlova filled with mixed berries and cream. In my opinion it was cuisine a cut above normal hotel fare. We were certainly well fed!

Lyn and her Hillman helpers had a good display of raffle prizes. which we watched disappear as we hoped our ticket numbers would be called. I was lucky enough to be closest guessing the nearest correct number of smarties and scorched almonds in a jar. Not only that, Ivan then won a small monstera plant in a pot, in the last of the raffle prizes. We certainly did not go home empty handed.

We look forward to next year's event although it is possible the Hillman Club will be wanting to pass the baton on to another club in our group.

Thanks to Lyn and members of the Hillman Club for organising and running a successful Christmas in July this year.

Susan Margitich

# GREAT LUNCH AT CLAYTON BAY

*From Jeff Vale*

**I**T WAS an early start for Maureen and I on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August when we set off for lunch at Clayton Bay. We had never been there before and were certainly looking forward to it. On the way we stopped at Rob Martin's place and he kindly drove us to our destination.

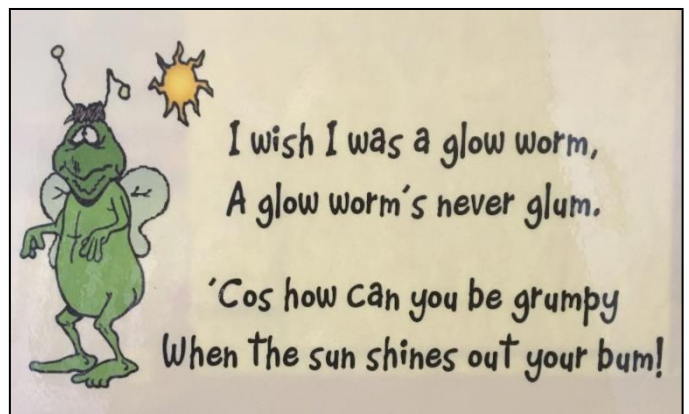
The weather was cool and showery on the journey down south but the cosy atmosphere at the Pier 28 Café was a welcome respite from the elements outside.

Thanks must go to Rosemary and Max Lane who organised the lunch venue, but unfortunately were unable to join us on the day. There were about 15 members in attendance which gave us a good opportunity to welcome new members Jim and Gloria Bertram who have joined our club after moving from Queensland.

Apart from a mix-up with one or two orders being delayed, the lunch was excellent with several people taking home "doggy bags" as the serves were quite substantial. The cellar beneath the Café opened to a small 'shop' with groceries and other commodities lining the shelves.

After lunch some of us took a walk to the jetty and along the cliffs. Although the weather was quite cool and blustery it was most enjoyable and gave us an idea of just how nice a place Clayton Bay is.

It is unfortunate that no one took any photos of our happy group inside the Café – something we will all have to bear in mind for our next outing.



## SINGER CLUB ANNUAL LUNCH

**T**HIS year's annual lunch on 23 June found 19 club members congregating at the historic Earl of Leicester hotel in Parkside. The hotel, built in 1886, has an extensive menu, including their renowned 600g Wiener Schnitzels (with at least one club member demolishing one of these gastronomic leviathans entirely).



We all had a great catch up discussing recent holidays and restoration projects in particular. President Jeff Vale thanked office-bearers for all their work, notably towards the Singer Nationals event next year. He then presented the Singergram Editor with a brass plinth featuring a piston within a shield frame, as the recipient for the 2024 Member of the Year Award.

Many thanks to Diane and Peter Wright for organising this popular club event.

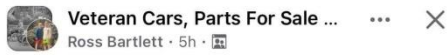


Spot the Singer crossing Sydney Harbour Bridge (1950s)

From club member Deidre Solly

## SINGERS 'SANS FRONTIÈRES'

**A** FEW Wednesdays ago I received a Facebook message from a fellow Singer owner in Victoria - Nathan Tasca - "Have you seen this?" There was a screenshot from a Facebook Marketplace group Veteran Cars and Parts for sale, where someone in Adelaide was selling 1916 Singer 10 engine pieces for \$250. Nathan and I both thought this was a very desirable piece of Singer equipment and while neither of us had a use for them, we both felt if one of us didn't want them the other did. Being a closed Facebook Group, you needed to be a member (Nathan was, but I wasn't), so I sent off a request to join (even today this hasn't been processed).



Mid teens Singer 10 hp motor in pieces.  
Nice crank case, sump, cylinders, crank shaft etc.  
No Carby or maggy or water rails.  
Pick up only.



\$250 · ADELAIDE, SA  
For Sale

Message

The seller, Ross, had told Nathan someone in Queensland wanted the engine, but it was too difficult / costly for him to ship there. The next morning while walking my dog on the beach I received a call from Graham Smith, "Have you seen the pictures I sent you?" "No," I replied "but I bet it's about a Singer 10 engine". Indeed it was. Graham who has been collecting parts to build up a "teens" Singer 10 was very keen to get the engine. "Leave it with Nathan and me" I said. Having had no luck in joining the Facebook group, I contacted Nathan and he let Ross know the engine was 'Sold' and got his contact number for me to arrange pick up and payment. As an aside, Graham wasn't the Queensland person who had contacted Ross.

I called Ross, who turned out to be located just up the road at Strathalbyn. There was an amazing number of Singer links in this story, Ross has been running a business called Autocar Creations, which he is winding down so is clearing out his workshop and has decided to sell the old Singer engine. Many years back, Ross was commissioned to restore the Singer 10 owned by the Robertson family of Chowilla, who needed some engine parts. So contacted someone else he knew who had a "teens" Singer 10 - Rex Howard. Rex kindly sold him a semi-complete engine. Ross used the two engines to build up as one and the bits now for sale are the leftovers. We were lucky enough to have the restored Chowilla Singer join us at the 2019 All British Day at Echunga, and what a car it is!



Ross gave me a tour of his workshop to see his remaining work projects; his focus is almost entirely on veteran cars but sadly I didn't get any photos. He did send me a photo later of another Singer Special he built for someone in SA that raced at Pt Wakefield and Mallala.

So, I paid Ross the very fair sum of \$250, loaded up the engine bits and headed home. They now reside safely in my shed awaiting Graham to collect at the 2025 Singer Nationals. "Smithy" I expect your engine to look as fine as the Chowilla Singer!

This just shows what can be achieved by a group of Singer enthusiasts across state borders! (Singers sans frontiers)

Stephen Bitmead

## NEW MEMBER CAR PROFILE – DAVID BIVEN

David owns a 1939 Singer 10, built in 2016-2018 by Bryan Scrivenor of Scrivenor Motors in WA. The car is dubbed a Triple S Special (Scrivenor Supercharged Singer).



### SINGER SPEEDS

#### A report from the Penrith speed trials in 1928 involving a Singer Junior –

The driver, a Mr Beasley, reported his fastest lap was at 64 mph (103kph), with an average speed just over 56 mph (90 kph). The Junior was only 3 weeks out of his shipping case, and Mr Beasley said he was surprised at the car's cornering and road holding abilities. Outside the trials, the driver said he had travelled 150 miles (241 km), finding the car remarkably comfortable and that corners on Blue Mountains roads could be taken at 25 mph (40 kph) quite simply.



From Nathan Tasca

### Ultra High-Powered Vehicles – New U Class Licence (SA)

Do you drive an ultra high-powered vehicle? You'll soon need a new class of licence to drive it.

From 1 December 2024, drivers of an ultra high-powered vehicle must hold a U class licence.

An ultra high powered vehicle is defined as any vehicle, other than a bus, motor bike or motor trike that has:

- a gross vehicle mass of up to 4.5 tonnes; and
- a power to weight ratio of 276 kilowatts per tonne or more.

To learn more, visit: <https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/my-ultra-high-powered-vehicle-licence>



# POT HOLE MANIA



If you fear damaging your car when hitting a pothole, read on. Until 1961, there was a Common Law Rule of non-feasance in Britain dating from 1788 (and hence applied in Australia), that road owners/authorities had legal immunity for damage when they had failed to carry out repair work on a road, bridge or footpath. It goes without saying, this was an incentive to the authorities not to bother repairing roads! Britain abolished this rule in 1961, but Australia took until 2001 to do so, but only after appeal cases involving a bridge collapsing on a car and a pedestrian tripping on a footpath. Even then, the High Court's repeal of the law was a 4-3 decision. By the way, the Romans occupied Britain 2000 years ago, not 4000, though it's remarkable that intact Roman road segments are still being uncovered from time to time.



How to prevent pothole damage!



**37<sup>TH</sup>**

# **POWER OF THE PAST**

**9th & 10th November 2024**

**Mount Barker Showgrounds**

**Alexandrina Rd Mt Barker SA**

Veteran, Vintage & Classic Cars, Trucks and Motorcycles, Heritage Stationary Engines, Machinery And Tractors. General Displays, Trade Stalls.

Childrens Activities, Fully Catered.

**Public Admission - \$10, Concession \$7 (Children U16 free)**



10:00am to 5.00pm Saturday and 9.00am to 3.00pm Sunday

Information:

Allan Wheaton 0408 899 775. Bev Hunter 0427 970 518

[pop@ahmrc.org](mailto:pop@ahmrc.org)



## FOR SALE & WANTED TO BUY

Singergram is happy to display For Sale and Wanted to Buy ads for up to 3 issues, unless cancelled or extended by request to the Editor (see contact details p.2).

### FOR SALE \$15,000 ---- 1949 SINGER 9 4A ROADSTER

'Dame Nellie', as pictured below, previously owned by the late Alan Day (co-founder of the Singer Car Club of SA) is now in the hands of his brother, Robert Day, and is up for sale. Nellie was fully restored in 1985 and was used regularly by Alan in club and other events. Since then it has been used occasionally by Alan's family members. Please direct all enquiries to Robert Day on 0448 600 123, or email [robtday@bigpond.com](mailto:robtday@bigpond.com)



### Singer Badges for sale (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](mailto:thebitmeads@gmail.com)

### SINGER SIGHTINGS – Unrestored 1926 Junior, spotted by Stephen Bitmead



This Junior can be seen in the sales office foyer of JP Pistons, 31 Innes Rd, Windsor Gardens, SA. Owned by the same family for nearly 100 years. Engine still cranks over, but there's no diff!

# 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*).

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## SEPTEMBER

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- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 1        | Drive It Day:- from Fremont Park, Elizabeth to Bethany Reserve (organised by Gawler Veteran Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club)   |
| 14 & 15  | Strathalbyn Transport Festival (celebrating the 185th Anniversary of the establishment of Strathalbyn and the 140th Anniversary of the opening of the Mt Barker - Strathalbyn Railway on 15th September 1884) |
| 21 (Sat) | Combined Rootes Groups (organised by Sunbeam Club), visit to Old Government House, Belair National Park / Mt Lofty  |
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## OCTOBER

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| 13 | Strathalbyn swap meet |
| 14 | Monthly meeting       |
| 20 | Bay to Birdwood       |
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## NOVEMBER

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|--------|--|
| 9 & 10 | Power of the Past, Mount Barker  |
| 10     | Visit to historic Clipper ship (built 1864), Port Adelaide (organised by Sunbeam Club) |
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## DECEMBER

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| 8 | Singer Club Xmas party at Angle Vale (kindly hosted by Rob Martin) |
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## MARCH 2025

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| 2 | All British Day, Echunga |
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## APRIL 2025

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| 8-11 | Singer National at McCracken County Club, Victor Harbor |
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