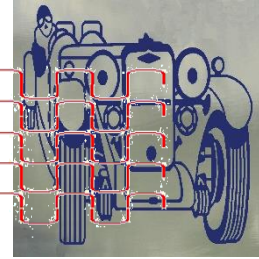


**SINGERGRAM**

**December 2024 Vol. 37 No.4**



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**OUR GENTLEMEN DRIVERS**



Jeff Vale and Robert Martin eat their well-earned lunch after travelling in Jeff's 1951 SM 1500, 'Black Betty', in this year's Bay to Birdwood.

# 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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## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



The editor wishes all Singergram readers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and fulfilling 2025. See you all at the All British Day on 2 March!

## SINGERGRAM EDITOR & CONTACT DETAILS

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**Please send all material for the next edition to the above email address by 9 March 2025**

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

**Trevor**

## BAY TO BIRDWOOD REPORTS

**I** DID my 17th Bay to Birdwood in my 1935 Austin 10 this year albeit some issues with a failed starter motor, which meant lots of encouragement for able men to push-start us at West Beach and again at Birdwood. My two grandsons did the full run from Anzac Hwy whilst my brother from Esperance came to the start and got off at Norwood. He was intrigued by the massive number of spectators and car clubs watching us go by.

Good to see Trevor's Singer parked behind me at the start.

A great day with excellent weather.

**David Biven**



David's Austin 10 parked in front of Trevor Bailey's 4A.

## Bay to Birdwood car start line up at West Beach



Stephen Bitmead's green 1970 SAAB Sonett



Remember drive-in cinemas?





In tune with the occasion, the above quartet were playing 'Puttin On the Ritz'





### Stephen Bitmead's Bird to Baywood account

**S**UNDAY Oct 20th provided absolutely perfect weather for this year's Bay to Birdwood. Because we've been moving house and my shed is yet to be built at our new house, our Singer Ten is still garaged at Goolwa, so we took our SAAB Sonett on this year's run. Since I first "bent it" in a previous B2B run, I just did some cursory checks on the SAAB to ensure everything was "shipshape", as she'd been running so well, including the drive up from Goolwa to Adelaide some two weeks earlier. This year, we arranged to travel up "in convoy" with friends in their Alfasud (and a beautiful example it is) and organised for a "meet up" on Burbridge Road at 7:30am.

Wendy and I set off from Vale Park just before 7am and all was going great (well except for not cleaning the windscreen and the sun glare was causing havoc), until suddenly on Fitzroy Terrace the Sonett started to backfire. I looked down and the oil light was glowing brightly – I checked the oil gauge and it was showing 60psi! Hmmm! I pulled over, checked the dipstick, and yes, "No OIL!" So much for "Cursory Checks"! I set off on a fast jog to the OTR on Main North Road 700 metres away (according to Google) and luckily found amongst all the food and grocery items, an overpriced 5 litre container of oil. The car supplies section is the smallest section in a "Service Station" — who'd have thought it! More varieties of doughnuts there than all the car parts combined! So much so, they even did not sell funnels! I jogged back to the car and saw that, without a funnel, I'd lose most of the oil on the ground trying to pour it into the engine. Luckily the B2B Instruction Sheet, printed on a nice glossy paper, was able to be rolled into a "1½ size funnel", which Wendy held while I poured the oil in.

With the engine topped up and running smoothly, we headed off to the rendezvous point, arriving some 25 minutes late. We were amongst the last cars to arrive but got tacked on the back of a row, with our friends in the next row. We caught up with Jeff and Rob, looking spiffing, while we were still flustered but relieved we'd made it and the Sonett was OK. Due to our late arrival we didn't get the signal to leave until after 10:30. So, we had to listen to the starter's commentary just far too long (on Trevors Singer - "you'd buy a Singer if you were 'moving up' from a Morris, but not going for a MG" - Baa humbug!) But the run went

fantastically well; the street crowds seemed smaller than before and the chance to interact from the Sonett just isn't the same as a Vintage Singer, although the kids love me "popping" the headlights. Overall, the traffic went smoothly; but for some obscure reason it was dead slow through Gumeracha. We arrived in time for a late lunch, a relax, chats to some others, had a check-out of some of the 1500 cars parked there, then headed home, weary but relieved. A very big lesson learnt from this days outing. The dipstick level barely changed through the whole trip, but there is a bit of a minor leak.

## At Birdwood



The Sonett's popped headlights



Black Betty



### 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.

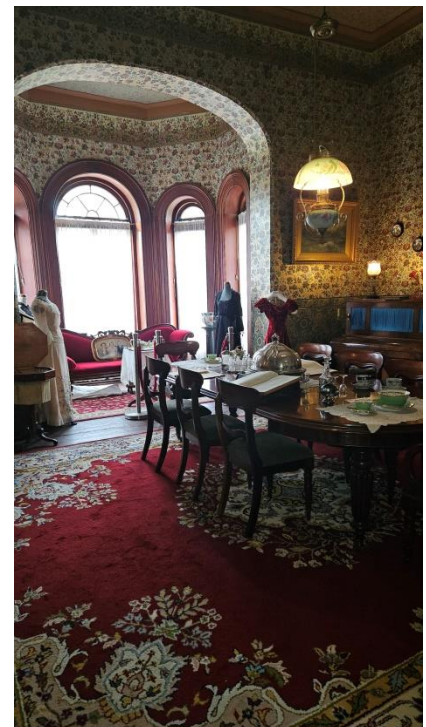
To learn more, visit: <https://mylicence.sa.gov.au/my-ultra-high-powered-vehicle-licence>

## VISIT TO OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE, BELAIR

**I**N 1974, the Sunbeam Car Owners' Club (SA) was formed and that club's first run was to Belair National Park and other car club members at that time were invited to come along. This September, the club celebrated its 50 year old formation by a revisit to the park and Old Government House in particular. Several Sunbeam Club members, along with those from the Singer, Armstrong-Siddeley, Hillman, Humber and Riley Car Clubs came along, 22 in all.



Many attending took the opportunity to first of all stroll around the bushland paths and the Playford Lake, also purchasing from the excellent State Flora shop, which specialises in native plants. Just before 11am, everyone assembled in 3 groups for the tour of Old Government House, built in 1860 as a summer residence for the State Governor. The house fell into disuse in 1871 when a grander summer residence was built at Marble Hill which, in turn, got burnt down in the Black Sunday fire of 1955. For 6 years during the 1880s, the 2-bedroom servants' quarters for Government House were used to manufacture rabbit poison. The whole property was then practically unused until 1960 when it was restored and opened to the public in 1961. The gardens, in traditional English style, are maintained by an enthusiastic band of volunteers, with the whole venue available for weddings.







All 3 tour groups were regaled for over an hour with stories of the house's rooms, occupants, clothes and artefacts donated. For example, I was fascinated by a metal contraption with a handle; it turned out this was an ice scraper. Even in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, summer drinks could be served with ice, thanks to blocks of ice delivered to the Port Adelaide docks by ships sailing from *Canadian* ports. The ships had been loaded with massive ice

blocks cut from the frozen Great Lakes at the start of the Canadian winter!



The Old Government House cellar (in which the ice blocks were stored) was adjacent to a plunge pool containing, not unsurprisingly, exceedingly chilly water. Public bathing was frowned upon in polite Victorian society, and the plunge pool was the first indoor pool in South Australia.

After a convivial BYO lunch, participants were asked to vote for the best classic car parked nearby. The most popular car was a Riley Elf. A 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration concluded the day.

Many thanks to Paul Heuer and his enthusiastic committee members from the

Sunbeam Club for a fantastic day out.

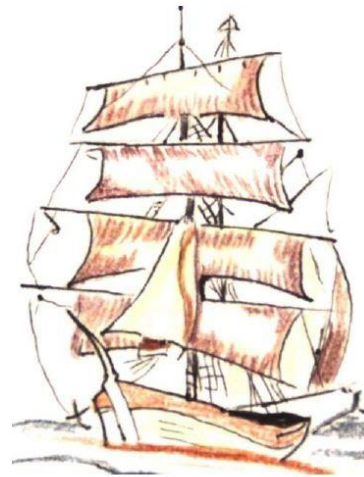
Trevor Bailey



## CLIPPER SHIP VISIT

Built in 1864, the Clipper carried immigrants from United Kingdom for 23 years. Conversions then became part of its history as a Collier ship, Hospital isolation ship, Royal Navy ship and WWII accommodation ship. The ship was re-named to SV "Carrick" in 1948 and later on the River Clyde flooding occurred on two occasions, ownership moved to the Clyde Ship Trust; but the ship sinks in Princes docks in 1991, later raised with another change in ownership to the Scottish Maritime Museum.

It was renamed officially back to City of Adelaide by HRH Prince Philip in 2001 before being "rescued" under the Clipper Ship *City of Adelaide* Ltd Group under its new and current ownership resulting in its transportation from UK to Adelaide.



The last Rootes Clubs outing for 2024 was a visit on 10 November to Adelaide's historic clipper ship restoration project, organised by the Humber Car Club. Participants travelled to the Port Adelaide site for morning tea, then a video and talk by Peter Christopher, Director, Clipper Ship — City of Adelaide, before group guided ship tours conducted by volunteers. Lunch followed at the Lighthouse Wharf Hotel.



Photos from David Biven and Stephen Bitmead

## 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)

Don't ever think of parking here, even your bicycle!



Something for the wives....



## 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*).

DECEMBER	
8	Singer Club Xmas party at Angle Vale (kindly hosted by Rob Martin)
MARCH 2025	
2	All British Day, Echunga
APRIL 2025	
8-11	Singer National at McCracken County Club, Victor Harbor

**And if the Australian Singers National is not enough for anyone, there is also the Dutch Singers National next year...**



**10e LUSTRUM**  
**DUTCH SINGER OWNERS CLUB**

Landgoed Nienoord Leek 29 mei - 1 juni 2025  
tel: 0594-249 256 email: [arends77@hetnet.nl](mailto:arends77@hetnet.nl)



### **10<sup>th</sup> Dutch Lustrum DSOC 29<sup>th</sup> of May-1<sup>st</sup> of June 2025**

Singer friends, next year we will celebrate 50 years (half a century!) of the Dutch Singer Owners Club: the 10<sup>th</sup> Lustrum. The organizing committee is making the final arrangements and we hope that the program of this Lustrum will be as much appreciated as it was on former occasions. Centre will be the campsite adjacent to “Landgoed Nienoord” an estate with a “borg”, a historical house from 1884, which also houses a carriage museum. (*Approx 2 hours north east of Amsterdam.*) The postcode is 9351 AC and it is situated near Leek a small village 17 km, 11 mile west of Groningen. We will have private fields with our own marquee and ample room for the Singers, campers, trailers etc.

The provisional programme is as follows. After the opening ceremony Thursday at 13.00 hrs, we will stay on the estate for a friendly contest and visit to the carriage museum. Friday day we will tour a rural part of the province Groningen and visit a stately home. Saturday we will tour the province Drenthe with prehistoric “hunebedden”, megalithic tombs. Sunday morning we are planning a visit to a historic church and a concert. In the next edition of this bulletin we hope to supply you with more information and entry forms. For more information: Rudi Arends, Secretary DSOC: tel: +31-594249256 or [arends77@hetnet.nl](mailto:arends77@hetnet.nl)