

# January/February 2022

## **SPRITE ON**

### The newsletter of the Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc



Troy Mansfield

Vale Troy Kingston Mansfield -23.1.2022

The Sprite Car Club of Queensland Inc is open to and welcomes owners & drivers of all vehicles. Our marque is Austin Healey Sprites, MG Midgets and all of their derivatives.

# Club Information

## Website

<https://www.spritecarclub.com/> Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1737942263157816/>

## Correspondence

All correspondence is to be address to The Secretary: By mail:  
Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc,  
PO Box 252,  
Salisbury, Qld, 4107  
By email: [secretarysccq@yahoo.com.au](mailto:secretarysccq@yahoo.com.au)

## Meetings

Club Meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at The Mustang Rooms, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside.  
The formal meeting starts at 8pm but you are welcome to arrive anytime after 7pm for a sausage sizzle and a chat.  
Sausage sizzle and refreshments are available subject to the Covid safe plan. Contact the President for more details.

## Membership

Joining Fee:

New members pay a joining fee of \$100.00 paid pro rata depending on the date of joining. This fee includes the joining fee, annual membership fee for all family members residing at the same address up to May, and 2 name badges.

Types of membership -

Full membership is for current owners of Sprites &/or Midgets.

Associate membership is for all others.

Annual membership:

Continuing members pay an annual membership fee which is currently \$72.00 and is payable in May of each year. This fee includes all family members who reside at the same address.

## Club Banking

Details for direct deposits for membership fees, payments for events, purchase of regalia, etc: BSB: 034 002

Account Number: 613033

Account name: Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc

NOTE: Please use your surname, initial and reason for payment as the reference when making a payment.

## Advertising

Members may place "For Sale" or "Wanted" ads in the Classifieds section at no charge. Classified ads will be removed automatically after a 3-month period, unless the editor is notified to either delete or extend the advertising period. Ads should be emailed to the newsletter editor. Contact the newsletter editor for further information.

For paid commercial advertising please contact the Treasurer.

## Newsletter contributions

The cut-off date for contributions for the next newsletter is the 15th of each month but check with the editor for late inclusion possibilities.

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## PLEASE NOTE:

The committee are having some problems with the club yahoo email accounts. If you send an email to any of these accounts please contact the member and tell them so they can confirm receipt. - Ed

**PRESIDENT**

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**Catering****Sunshine Coast Chapter Representative**

Chris Thwaites Mobile: 0403 426 233  
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# President's Report

Hello Sprite Car Club Members,

This month was a very sad one for The Sprite Car Club with the passing of a very well-known and much loved member - Troy Mansfield. Troy will be missed by members but will never be forgotten. It was great to see so many car club members come along in their Sprites & Midgets to farewell Troy at his funeral. May he now rest in peace. Nev, Ella, Trudie, John, Deb and Helen, please know that we are thinking of all of you.

I would also like to make a special mention to Nev Mansfield, Keith and Karen Gordon and Phil Cuthbert - thank you for taking the time when we all stuck together and did what we had to do when Troy needed his friends and family the most. We all have comfort in knowing he is now in a peaceful place.

The first club run for 2022 will be Gary's Twilight run on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February starting at 4pm at Lota. I am looking forward to seeing as many members as possible. The next general meeting is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – I am also looking forward to seeing you there. The Sunshine Coast meeting is at the Morayfield Tavern on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Gold Coast meeting is at Dublin Docks on the 17<sup>th</sup> - Both should be great night out for members.

The club committee have decided that this years Sprite Expo will be held back at Pelican Park at Clontarf so everyone please tentatively mark the date on your calendar - May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

If any member would like to organize a run/event for in the last 6 months of 2022, please contact Gary Hawkins to help you with any assistance.

The club committee are still working on some slight changes to the club's current constitution and will bring any changes to be voted on at a general meeting once they are finalised. Lets all hope that we will be able to get out and use our club cars more in the next 12 months and try to get back to some sort of normal.

**Mark Gillman - Club President**



# Troy Mansfield

Troy Mansfield was a very well known & highly respected member of The Sprite Car Club of Queensland - he first joined the club in 2002. Troy was the president of the club and only stepped away from this role in the last couple of months. He was always very involved in the club with the social & racing side and took on many committee positions in his time as a member.

Troy was very knowledgeable about Sprites & Midgets and was always helping members with technical issues on their cars also offering good advice on how to fix the car correctly & where to get parts.

Troy was always extremely generous over the years towards the Sprite Car Club with offering to supply raffle prizes at many events and general meetings each month. He also donated trophies that he had made himself for the club for different events. He always stepped up and offered help and assistance with inter club challenges and events with the Sydney and Victorian Sprite car clubs, who could ever forget when he dressed up for Nev's World.

When he wasn't running his transport company, he would spend many weekends with family & friends on club outings and events often turning into verbal sparring matches with blokes in the club on who has the best or fastest Sprite in the club. Everyone in the Sprite Car Club could never work out how such a big bloke like Troy could fit into such a small car especially with a hard top fitted but he did it quite easily.

Troy was very competitive on the race track and at times very helpful especially when he was at the Cootha Classic and helped the officials move the tyres at the top of the track with his race car as he forgot to do a u turn to come back down the mountain and ran into them head on, but still completed the course in a good time.

Troy was always encouraging Sprite Car Club members to take their cars to the track, get involved, get the clubs name out there and have a go, it did not matter if you broke your car while doing this as long as you were having fun that was the main thing, we can always fix a car if you break something.

Many a time while at Morgan Park Raceway he would brag about how fast his rotary engine powered Sprite was - only to be told by a NSW Sprite racer & verbal sparring track buddy Steve Purdy, (Troy when the flag drops the bullshit stops) boy did this wind Troy up - but it was just all part of the fun from great weekends away at the track.

Troy was very social, one of the Sprite Car Club's most popular members. Any member that met him will agree he was a gentle giant, a true gentleman in every way, who had a great passion for everything Sprite & Midget - he will be well remembered & never forgotten.



## Sunshine Coast Report

The Sunny Coast dinner was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> with 10 people attending. Numbers were down due this month but that is not a surprise with a lot of Covid around the area. We had a nice meal at the Beerwah pub, lots of chat and car talk, with parts being supplied. No trivia was held this month due to slackness on my behalf, but we enjoyed our evening. The next dinner is at the Morayfield Tavern on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. See you there.

**Chris**

## Gold Coast Report

Our first Gold Coast meeting for 2022 was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January at the Hope Island Tavern. With COVID concerns abound down here on the Coast we had 8 members attend, with Peter Fellows in hospital at the time with shoulder surgery. At the time of writing he is recovering well at home with plenty of care from Jo. We were to have a Leaving Dinner for Leigh and Bobby before they headed to Hervey Bay but time was against us. They will be back in a few months for a visit so we Gold Coasters will have a delayed send off for them both.

Our next meeting is at Dublin Docks on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.

**Gary Stevens.**

## What is the world coming to? Quiet sports and rally cars?

### 1. Electric Bugeye

It had to happen, but why a Sprite? Quiet Sprites just don't seem traditional.

<https://www.bugeyeguy.com/category/electric-bugeye/>

### 2. Electric MGB

It doesn't just get done to Sprites, MGBs as well.

<https://mossmotoring.com/mgb-gt-reborn-electric/>

### 3. Electric Skoda Rally car

Who else remembers the sounds of rally cars coming through the forests?

- Colin Bond in the Torana XU1 in the Warana and Southern Cross Rallies?

- the throb of the Subaru STIs?

- weber carb'ed Ford Escort RS engines?

- and that unearthly banshee scream of the V6 Ferrair engined Lancia Stratos that was here in the mid 1970s?

- and many others.

But now, is this all coming to an end? Here is an article about an electric Skoda rally car, yes electric, achieving a podium place last year. Watching the video, it just doesn't seem right somehow. A quiet rally car. How will we be able to hear it coming?

<https://www.skoda-storyboard.com/en/motorsport/electric-premiere-in-rally/>

### 4. Dakar Electric Rally Car

Watch Carlos Sainz, who cruises quietly past in his Audi RS Q e-tron petrol-electric hybrid.

[https://www.pistonheads.com/news/ph-features/2022-dakar-rally-ph-meets/45191?utm\\_campaign=enews%2520bulletin&utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=Newsletter%20Send%20Smart%20List](https://www.pistonheads.com/news/ph-features/2022-dakar-rally-ph-meets/45191?utm_campaign=enews%2520bulletin&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Newsletter%20Send%20Smart%20List)

Audi's hybrid car is a new concept for the Dakar and, as it was when it took to Le Mans with a diesel, its rivals are questioning the FIA's equalising rules. They say Audi has been given an unfair advantage. Sainz says it's the opposite: the Audi is heavier than its rivals and should be allowed more power to compensate.

**Mike Dwyer**

## NEW Summer Shirts

With the hot Queensland Sun and the importance of Sun Protection, we have added some Long Sleeved Shirts to our Regalia Collection.

These shirts have UPF 30 sun protection. The Polo shirts are the same as the Life Guards wear.

The Mens and Ladies button up shirts can be ordered individually, but the Polo shirts, I need an order of at least 5.

If you would like a shirt, please contact me on 0412 658 415.

If you want the sizing measurements please contact me.

All shirts will have our Sprite Car Club Logo embroidered on them.

**Karen**

Polo  
Shirt

\$45



Button  
Up  
Shirt  
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# 2022 Club Runs

So far we have the following run dates penciled in.

## WEEKEND RUNS

Saturday 5th Feb (Twilight Run, Gary Hawkins)

Sunday 13th March (Rod Constable's Run)

Sunday 30th April (Alex Robertson's Run)

Sunday 22nd May (Sprite Expo)

Sunday 12th June (Gary Hawkins Run)

Sunday 3rd July (Michael Dix's Run)

Remainder of year has not be settled yet.

Of course, all are subject to confirmation closer to the dates, but hopefully that is enough to help members make plans.

## MIDWEEK RUNS (Mike Millard)

Thursday 24th March

Thursday 28th April

Thursday 26th May

Thursday 23rd June

Thursday 28th July

Thursday 25th August

Thursday 22nd September

Thursday 27th October

THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES AND REPORTS  
IS THE **FIFTEENTH**  
OF THE MONTH



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37 Lemana Lane, Burleigh Heads, 4220

Our new phone number is 5659 1455

[info@classiccarclinic.com.au](mailto:info@classiccarclinic.com.au)





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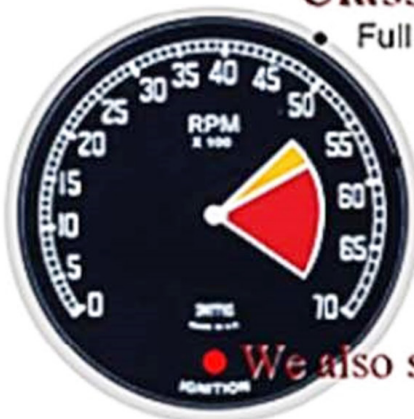
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# The 2021 Mystery Box Rally Report

Early in November, my wife and I participated in the **2021 Mystery Box Rally** which started and finished in Rockhampton. We had three major aims: raise money for cancer research, honour the memory of my sister who died a few years back and enjoy a drive through some Queensland back roads.



I actually entered the rally for early 2020 with our son, Nick, as co-driver, but COVID delayed the event several times through 2020-21. Of course, COVID related border restrictions finally meant that Nick could not make it up from NSW for this final date in November 2022. The border issues also reduced the field from 150 cars down to just 30 at the start. Nevertheless, the 150 teams and their supporters managed to contribute \$1.05 million to the research work supported by the Cancer Council.

The Mystery Box Rally is for 2WD cars over 25 years old, but still capable of highway speeds and not too old or frail. The only information known about the route beforehand is the start and finish point (in this instance Rockhampton). Each morning, just after breakfast, we were provided with a route map for the day and instructions about the destination camp site. This was the 'mystery' part of the event.



We used the team name *Father and Son*, however, once the event was underway our unofficial team name became *Mum and Dad* and all radio communication used this title. Cheeky! Our car, a 1988 Volvo 740GL, was one of 4 Volvos in the event and we called it *Lagertha* after the courageous Viking 'shield maiden' in the Vikings TV series.

Day 1 took us from Rocky to Injune where we camped at the race course and were fed and watered by a local sports club. A good day on mainly sealed roads, but plenty of rain overnight resulting in a wet tent and sleeping gear. Co-driver not happy!

The next day got very interesting. We left Injune under grey skies heading to Alpha via Tambo, Blackall through 220 kms of serious forest trails and long muddy stretches as well as some more sedate bitumen roads. The Volvo went well and we managed through the mud (just) but most cars were left stranded and bogged and had to be pulled through by the support crews. It helped to be in the first 3-4 cars through the mud! Another race course camp for the night and this time we slept in the stables to avoid getting too wet.



The planned route for Day 3 had us tracking north of Alpha on 400 kms of dirt trails. However, heavy overnight rain forced a late change and so we travelled further east then north on 660 kms of sealed and unsealed roads via Clermont and Charters Towers before stopping overnight at Pentland on another race course. This was a long, hot and tiring day and some cars did not arrive until after 9.00 pm with the support crews very busy out on the roads and in camp as cars arrived.

Day 4 took us to Airlie Beach via Charters Towers along lots of unsealed roads in the ranges south of Townsville before bringing us out near Bowen. This time we camped in the newly developed sports facilities near the marina. Lovely spot, great showers (at last) and sky divers landing beside the cars for our entertainment at breakfast.

The final day had us heading back to Rocky down the Bruce Hwy for a bit and then inland through the ranges (sealed and unsealed roads) before coming back to the Bruce just north of Rocky.

So, *Lagertha*, and the rest our group of 6 cars made it back relatively OK. The Volvo's #@\*%!##\* air conditioner broke down on Day 2 because the thermo fan died, a Falcon had a flat tyre on Day 4 and another Volvo lost its overdrive and consumed enormous quantities of fuel each day.

Other groups were not so lucky having to replace many tyres, rebuild suspension, repair diffs and battered sumps, fix

overheating etc, but the support crews were fantastic and every car crossed the finish line in Rocky (well, 1 was pushed). The rally covered around 2600 kms and *Lagertha* made it home to Lota with an extra 3900 kms on the clock. She now has 318,000 under her wheels. Just run-in really.

We want to acknowledge the tremendous support that we received from SCCQ members as well as family and friends and businesses. Of course, we proudly displayed our Sprite Car Club of Queensland stickers along with some from other supporters. Overall, we managed to raise nearly \$7000, well above our initial goal of \$5700 or \$100 for every year of my sister's life: she died after a short period of illness 4 weeks after she turned 57.

Finally, after much deliberation we have entered the 2022 Mystery Box Rally which will leave Port Lincoln, SA in June. This is a place of significance for us: we lived in a small town just 70 kms from Lincoln back in the 70's and our daughter was born there. My sister also lived there for a brief period and we have great memories of the Eyre Peninsula. This time, COVID permitting, Nick will be the co-driver and Anne will wave us off at the start!

**Mike and Anne Millard (and Nick)**



# JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING

## Meeting: Sprite Car Club of Qld

**Mustang Club Room** – Jean Howie Drive      **Date:** 14th January 2021

**Chairperson:** Mark Gillman      **Minute Taker:** David Chapman

**Present:** As per Attendance Book – 13 total members attended meeting plus Sephora (Mark Gillman's daughter)

**Apologies:** Scott and Leona, Carole, Alex Robertson, Leigh, Mike and Les

**Next Meeting Date:** 11th February 2022

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** No matters arising. Minutes for December meeting accepted by Karen G.

### President's Report

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The evening was sponsored by Gilbert Spares. A partnership between Mark and Phil and they are making available new and used parts for Sprites, Midgets, Austins and Morris'. Both Mark and Phil will do everything they can to fulfil your order promptly. They supplied the food and drinks for the evening which was a Pizza night and including the prizes and a cake to finish the night off with.

The next 3 months could be a tricky period with the new Omricon variant. Things could change at the last minute, however we will use all of our communication methods to keep you informed. Already with the start of the year, the first outing which was scheduled on Australia Day has been cancelled. This was Bayside Restorers Australia Day Rally. This means the first run for our club will be Gary's run to be held in February.

Gary Stevens has put his hand up to look after the Gold Coast chapter.      Mark G

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer detailed the financial

status of the club to everyone who attended the meeting. This included income and expenses for the month and balances of the General account, Challenge account, Term Deposit account and Petty Cash.

If anyone requires any information regarding the club's financial position, please contact the treasurer.

Treasurer's report accepted by Rod.      Matt C

### Secretary's Report

Mail received December:-

4 x Bank Statements

1 x invoice from lawyer

1 x invoice for trailer rego

2 x Sprite calendars returned – wrong address

No further correspondence.      David C

### Sunshine Coast Chapter

Next meeting at the Beerwah Hotel on Tuesday 18/1/22.

### Gold Coast Chapter

Next meeting at the Hope Island Tavern on Thursday 20/1/22.

Leigh W

## **Club Captain Report**

Mid-Week Run Report Gary Hawkins reported no news.

First half of the year runs have been organised. Going forward members can expect a month's notice before a run. Gary H

## **Membership**

Keith reported 109 members. So far 25 have returned updated information form. There has been a lot of changes in the 25 which have been returned. Karen & Keith G.

## **Web / Forum**

Mike reported that the new website is progressing well. He is working on a spreadsheet for the website. There will be an option page on photos. He is currently chasing up details for the website host. Mark G to give him contact details for Brendan regarding hosting. Mike D

**Newsletter** Mark G spoke to Carole by email. The next newsletter will be out before the next general meeting. This will be the second week of February. Carole C

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **General Business**

Mark G advised that we have delayed the vote on change to constitution. The committee is having a meeting on 23rd January and part of the meeting is to review the constitution. We will then take our recommendations to all members for a vote at a general meeting.

It is sad to hear that Leigh has sold his house on the Gold Coast and is moving to Hervey Bay. We will miss you Leigh. Thank you for all your great work with the BBQs and the great prizes you organised for the club.

Michael D is taking over the role of the BBQs at the meetings. Michael and Neville to work together on the prizes for the raffles. It was discussed for one of the alternative meals for the general meeting could be from Subway. Everyone thought this was a good idea.

Mark G had a light bulb moment. He suggested to the members why not consider the Sprite Expo for this year in May to be held at Joeys Diner at Eagle Farm. This was well received. Mark is going to see him to see if he would open the café on a Sunday. It is a central location for everyone to travel to and parking is easy. If Joey opens the diner all we have to do is bring the prizes and the Eftpos machine. We would also like to invite the Mini and Morris clubs as well as other British car clubs and make it a great event.

### **Regalia:**

Karen Gordon brought in a sample of new long sleeved light fabric shirts with collars. The shirts were very well received. There is a range of colours available. 7 orders were placed straight away for shirts at \$45 each. The shirts come with the club logo. Mark G

### **Facebook/Emails**

Scott Counsel advised he is continually sending out emails to members. Everything is positive on facebook. Mark G

### **Raffle Drawn**

First prize: Matt – wine

Second prize: Gary – Car care kit

Third prize: David – Oil adapter kit for Sprite

Fourth prize: Michael – Chocolates and calendar

### **Meeting Closed 8.41 pm**

"I have sighted this document and believe it is a true and accurate record of the meeting".

Signed:

# IMPROMPTU RUN RULES FOR FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THE SPRITE CAR CLUB OF QLD INC.

For members on Concessional Registration wishing to use their car on an Impromptu Run, you need to register your run on our Facebook page.

For an Impromptu Run to be valid, the registered car owner must be a current financial member of the Sprite Car Club of Qld Inc at the time of the event.

An Impromptu run can be started as soon as it is logged on to our Facebook page.

Events cannot be placed on the Facebook page after the event, as this will be automatically regarded as invalid.

Impromptu runs cannot be work related.

When creating an Impromptu event on our Facebook page, you must include:-

Your name

Car details and Registration number of car

Start time and date

Destination

Estimated finish time and date

Non compliance of these rules may compromise the car owners insurance and registration.

If you are not on Facebook – please email or text Mark Gillman with all of your information. Please give Mark at least 12 hours notice as we all have a personal life. Mark will endeavour to put your run on Facebook as soon as he can.

Marks details – Phone – 0411 053 861, email - markgillman@optusnet.com.au

For further information concerning Concessional Registration please check the Transport Department website link -

<https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration/register/conditional/about-conditional>

Concessional Registration is a privilege, as is Impromptu Events, do the right thing, please don't abuse it.

By lodging an Impromptu Run you automatically agree to The Sprite Car Clubs terms and conditions.

