

PROGRAMMEJANUARY

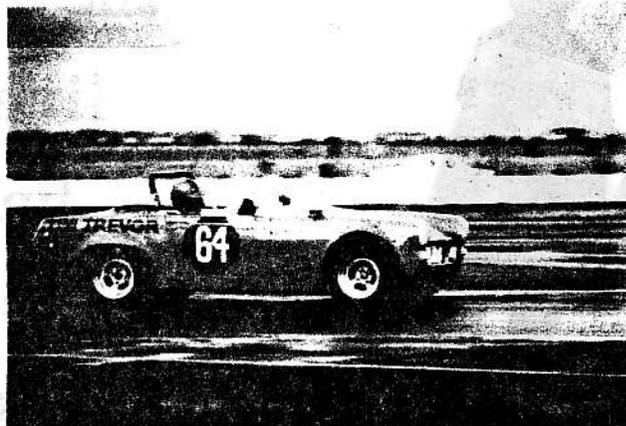
25th Natter Night

FEBRUARY

1st Film Evening
 8th Night Motorkhana - SPARC.
 9/10th Surfers Paradise - Tasman Round
 15th Night Run
 22nd Tour Night - A.P. Mills or Olympic
 24th Lakeside Sprints

MARCH

1st Natter Night
 2nd/3rd Open Trial
 3rd Day Run
 8th Hillclimb Preparation Night.
 10th Hillclimb - Mt. Cotton
 15th Night Run.
 17th Motorkhana - Birkdale
 22nd Party Night
 24th Open Motorkhana (Qld Championship - Round I)
 29th Bingo Night
 30/31st Lakeside Races.



EDITORIAL

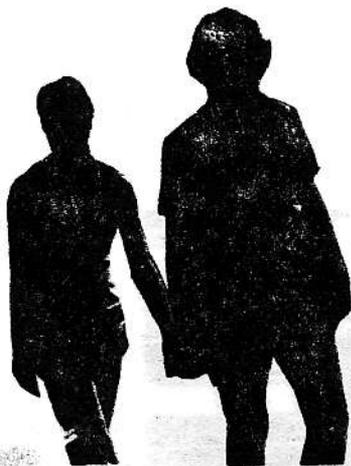
Welcome 1974 - hopefully a year of strengthened Club spirit and rekindled interest in Club affairs.

The new Committee will be trying hard to please you and to present a wide variety of club activities - hoping that at least some may attract your interest. If you have any bright ideas then let's hear them.

Try as I may to avoid "lecturing", I'm at it again. Let's see a healthy roll-up of a Friday Night and on the organized week-end events.

Fortify your own Club's strong position in Queensland Motor Sport -

and Happy Motoring in 1974.



**“And
they
lived
happily
ever
after”**

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT WRITES LETTER IN PRESENT
PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE

As President Pete is now floating around in Emerald (ahead of the oil slick), it has fallen on me to write this month's letter.

It's "membership due" time once more so be sure to send in your cheque as soon as possible. Don't forget to tell your friends who are not yet members of the club to join NOW to obtain maximum benefits.

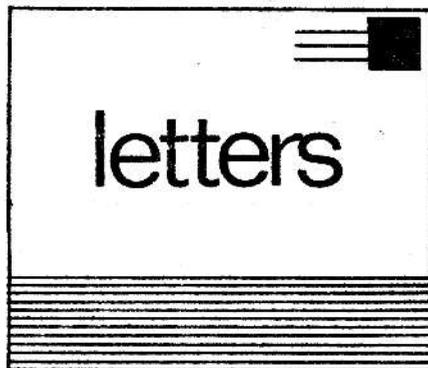
For most of us, holidays are now past and it's time to get back into the swing of things for 1974. Let's hope we see some new faces up there with the more familiar (Ugh!) ones who seem to be perpetually winning/arguing over/competing in/ watching/condemning our events.

A big welcome to all new members. I trust you will join in as many events as possible. After all, it's the best way to get to know people.

David Miles


NEWS FLASH

Black Pete is white! The flooding in south-east Queensland has exposed the real Pete and you'd swear he'd lost 3lbs weight. He assures us he'll be "sweet" when the rain stops so don't fret.



■ Dear Sir,

As the MG Car Club makes up a large percentage of those competing at Lakeside and Surfers, I feel your columns are suitable for presenting my complaint.

Why are there so many retirements or "non-showings" in races these days? A grid of 20 cars in most events is generally reduced to 10 to 20 at flagfall and if the promoters have to pay out all the promised prize-money, they're dashed unlucky! the finish is generally a mere handful spread over almost a lap - or more!

Where is the close racing that used to be? Individuals hell-bent on glory in the lesser classes go un-noticed without some sort of race with another car. Those who do prepare and present their cars to fit state to reach the checkered flag in all events invariably contribute to the gloom by racing their own shadows - a skill only appreciated by themselves.

Is motor and chassis preparation a lost art? Handling vices in a lot of cars are becoming obvious even to spectators and engines breaking down under load are spoiling the lunches of those too disinterested to even watch!

Reliability seems a joke! The tow truck must get a real laugh whilst on duty. You are raced two days a month. God! how

do your road cars make it on the other 28?

It's about time you got off your hobby horses for more dough and got out to make it with more show!!

signed Aquarius.

Dear Sir,

I made a trip into the Clubrooms the other Friday and was amazed at the amount of floor-space just sitting there doing nothing. There were a few guys in one corner, another couple there and a dozen or so the other end - with all this wasted space in between. Now I thought what a great place for a - er- now what was it I was thinking - yeh - what a great place to put one of those electric car tracks or a ping pong table or something like that. I reckon i"d come a lot more to those "free night" things if there was something of constant appeal in the room. So that's my letter. Did anyone get any spare groovy toys for Christmas.



Club Member Q898.



**FOR SPECIALIZED SERVICE AND ALL
GENERAL MECHANICAL REPAIRS..**

The Manager,
Sky-Scraper Constructions Ltd.,

Dear Sir,

On the 11th floor of the building you are at present constructing, there is a small pulley over which hangs a rope. It was my job to raise bricks to the 11th floor where the "brickie" could use them.

Having loaded a wooden barrel with bricks, I and my apprentice (a simple young fellow) took hold of the end of the rope and started to pull. Since our combined weight was heavier than the bricks, the barrel rose slowly upwards to ever-increasing heights.

They had almost reached the 11th floor when my apprentice was called away to another job and without a word he let go of the rope and left.

The weight of the bricks and the barrel was now greater than mine and they started to move downwards.

I met them half way between the 5th and 6th floors and received a severe blow to my right shoulder before continuing upwards. On reaching the top my head sustained a heavy bump from the pulley. I looked down to see that the barrel, on hitting the ground had fallen over and disgorged its load of bricks.

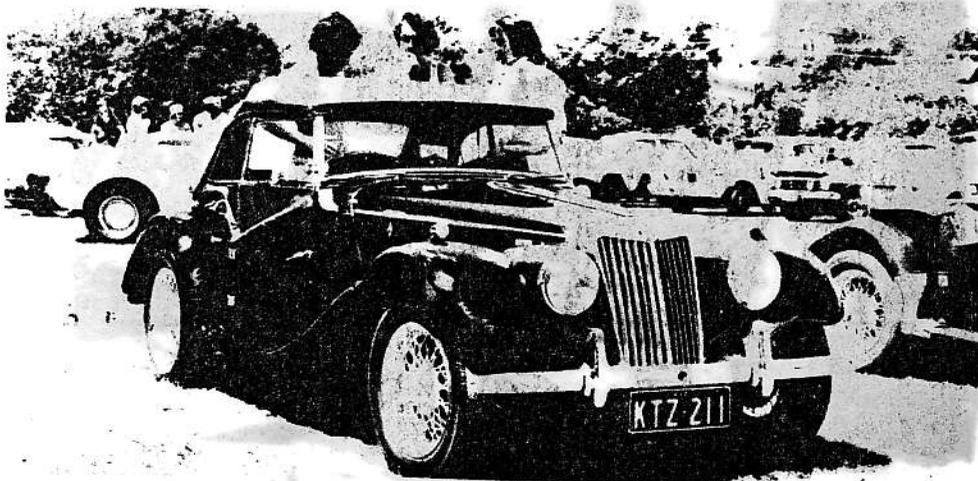
I was now heavier than the barrel. I met it once again between the 5th and 6th floors and as

is went by it dealt my shins a painful blow.

I continued downwards. When I hit the pile of bricks on the ground my whole body was jarred by the impace and, temporarily stunned, I did a silly thing. - I let go of the rope- The barrel, of course, was heavier than the rope and proceeded downwards, gaining speed. However, I was incapable of movement, and the barrel, after forcably striking my head, squashed my body between itself and the pile of bricks.

I respectfully request sick leave.

Yours

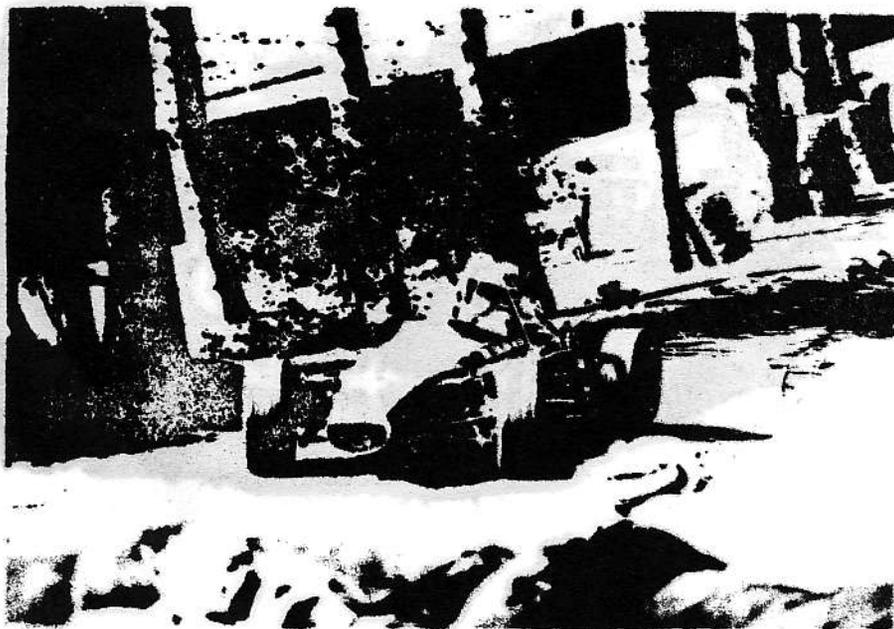


YOUR 1974 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE NOW.

CITY MEMBERS	\$10.00	(incl. \$2.00 Cams Capitation)
COUNTRY MEMBERS	\$ 8.00	(" " " ")
OVERSEAS MEMBERS	\$ 6.00	(" " " ")
NEW MEMBERSHIP	\$13.00	(" " " ")

The Committee would be grateful if you would pay your yearly subscriptions without having to be sent an account, as all this postage counts, and the Club may as well have the extra money as the Post Office.

**PAY NOW - AND BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER
IN ORDER TO GAIN POINTS FOR ALL
EVENTS.**



New Year Thoughts

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

- Peter Rayment - to wear irridescent clothing so that he stands out more from the undergrowth.
- Libby Sullivan - to flirt with the other half of the Club.
- Ann Thomson - to reduce her rally commitments to 100 drives in 1974.
- Ross Moir - to reduce Ann Thomson's 1974 rally entries to any reasonable number less than 5.
- Ann Thomson's Service Crew - to reduce Ann Thomson's 1974 rally entries to a reasonable number not exceeding 0.
- Keith Tufnell - to file 8 sides onto everything he owns to truly live up to his title - "Mr. MG."
- Mal Spiden - to plead with the Arabs for a direct line to his Sprite's sump.
- Alan Burns - to greet 1974 with a vengeance, to give the Octagon something to talk about.
- David Miles - to build a stronger accelarator pedal for his Centaur.

- Kerry Horgan - to build a house and a new shop - both capable of withstanding 900 mph gales.
- John Campbell - to beat his wife in her new MG Midget (...ooo, you beast!!).
- John Fraser - to collaborate with Kerry Horgan in building two explosion-proof engines.
- Peter Walton - to culture his wild-man image in a U-Z.
- Bruce Wasley - to beat Ken Wasley.
- Ken Wasley - to beat Bruce Wasley.
- Keith Tufnell - to beat MG record at Mt. Cotton.
- Gary Whittaker - to beat Keith Tufnell.

**If you can't
stop smoking**



NATIONAL MEETING MELBOURNE 1974 NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Where would you expect to participate in a weekend of social and competition events for only \$15? The 1974 National Meeting in Melbourne is where!

Plans are well in progress with the general formal for this coming event. Details of which are listed hereunder.

Social ActivitiesRegistration Day and Night.

Registration will be open from approx. 8.30a.m. on Friday morning at the Commodore Motel at which we have booked 55 rooms. Friday will be along the lines of previous years - a recovery and casual natter and noggin day, naturally sampling the local nector, with the 'formal' part of the day commencing about 7.30 p.m. This will be held at the motel during which time films of previous national meetings and slides in the photographic competition will be shown during the course of the evening. Still photographs and magazines entered in their respective sections will also be on display. Registration will close when all have apparently registered. Melbourne Centre members will be staying at the Motel as well to ensure good communications between interstate and host centre members.

Saturday Night (get to know you better party).

This will commence after dinner with refreshments and savouries supplied and will continue to a time to be arranged by mutual consent of those present. Venues for a suggested dining place, including estimated costs, before proceeding to the party site will be advised to Centre Secretaries AND Editors at a later date.

Sunday Night Presentation Dinner.

This has been arranged at the Savoy Plaza with suitable entertainment. Refreshments will be available on the premises so don't be embarrassed by bringing your own keg! (Taswegians take note). This evening will commence at about 7.00 p.m. and finish at 10.30 p.m. due to the liquor licencing on Easter Sunday.

Monday's Farewell Breakfast.

A chicken and champagne breakfast has been arranged within close proximity of the motel which will commence at 8.00 a.m. and finish at your pleasure with the delegates conference commencing at 10.00 a.m. at the motel.

COMPETITION EVENTS

These will consist of a motorkhana, the concours d'elegance and a Hillclimb. No explanation is necessary as to what these events comprise. Sites, number of events and categories and other relevant information will be advised at a later date. It is anticipated that classes will be along the lines of recent years with the ultimate decision resting on the number of entries received. We feel it is wise to point out now that as you can enter events when they are about to commence so to speak we will be endeavouring to adhere to starting times advertised; this is to try and keep events running smoothly. Normal requirements in respect of CAMS club licence will apply for all events. Personal Accident Insurance is optional but payment will be required on registering.

ACCOMMODATION

This has been booked under the one roof with 55 units at the Commodore Motel, Queens Road, Melbourne (Near Albert Park Lake). The cost includes a discount for the bulk booking which has been passed on to those availing themselves of this accommodation.

The tariff is \$11 single, \$14 double/twin, and \$17 triple with the double/twin being the predominant booking. Bookings will be \$10 per room with bookings open now.

COST OF ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED

To make budgeting for interstate centre members as simple as possible the cost for all events irrespective of the number actually attended will be \$15 per person or \$25 per double.

The idea of this is to allow you to decide at your own leisure whether you compete or not and also to try and encourage you to join in and compete as the cost will be the same for one event or all events - \$15 or \$25. Really where could you expect to find a cheaper weekend than in MELBOURNE at the 1974 NATIONAL MEETING.

POINTS SCORING

This will be along the same principles as Sydney Centre used in 1973 with suitable adjustments made for the change of venue and distances travelled by members from Interstate Centres.

MELBOURNE CENTRE.

NATIONAL MEETING MELBOURNE 1974 NEWSLETTER No. 2.

Most of you will have read the first newsletter by now. From that you will have realised that the coming National Meeting promises to be, no, not bigger or better, but as good as any previous national meeting. Everyone, we feel, realizes that these meetings are not designed for each Centre to go 'one better' than the previous meeting but to provide entertainment, both social and competition, of a variety that all those attending have the opportunity to participate in. The aim of these National Meetings is for all members of every Centre

to get together and meet one another in either a social or competition atmosphere. At least the opportunity and the invitation is open to all members to attend. To those of you who have had little more than passing thoughts on attending a National Meeting, especially those of you who have never attended one before, I suggest you ask someone who has been just how good these meetings have been.

Getting back to the purpose of this newsletter it is proposed now to explain, or provide further information on the social activities of the meeting.

Registration Day and Night

The photographic and magazine competition will again be held with the various categories being still photos (B & W and colour), slides and magazines from those Centres entering this section of the competition. Please note that all slides, photos and magazines will be returned to the owners. The reason for mentioning these competitions under this heading is that all the entries will be on display on the Friday night at the Motel. In addition to the visual display of the slides it is hoped that all films of the National Meetings held up to this year will be available for showing. Dinner, as well as lunch, will be available at the Motel for those interested. The Motel has a restaurant on the premises so a good menu is assured at moderate prices. Rather than try to provide a 'bite to eat' for people arriving from early morning to early evening it was decided to let people organise something to eat for themselves when they were ready from the restaurant. The formal part of the evening will commence around 7.30 p.m.

Saturday Night (Get to know you better party).

The purpose of this evening is as simple as the title suggests. To get together with the visitors and local members and discuss, over a

GLASS of the local nector, those topics of mutual interest to those in attendance. I have selected three venues for suggested pre-party dining places, all within close proximity of the Motel. One caters for food service in the car or table service in the restaurant. The name is Robs Drive-In and the estimated cost is (excluding drinks in all cases) about \$2.50 for car service and about \$3.00 in the restaurant. The next is Carousel Restaurant on the opposite side to the lake to Robs. This caters for table service only and the cost would be again about \$3 to \$3.50. The final venue is the Hot Pot Shop about 3/4 of a mile from the Motel. The menu here is primarily casseroles with the cost being about \$4.50. The Hot Pot Shop has a bring your own licence. It is suggested that if these restaurants are going to be made use of, a booking be made on the Saturday morning. A map indicating the locations of these venues will be displayed at the Motel. Getting back to the party it is proposed to commence the evening about 8.00p.m. As mentioned earlier suitable quantities of liquid refreshments will be on tap as will savouries. The theme of the night is to relax and mix with members of all Centres. This evening will continue till either those present decide to cease the festivities of the neighbours get the impression it is a pajama party and want to join in!

SUNDAY NIGHT PRESENTATION DINNER

Some difficulty was encountered in trying to find somewhere that was open on Easter Sunday much less being able to worry about the hours of the liquor licence. Fortunately (again) the venue is within close proximity of the Motel so there should be little difficulty for everyone to be there about 7.00 p.m. The events on the Sunday will finish in the early afternoon (about 4 to 4.30) to enable people to prepare for the evening. The cost of refreshments will be lounge bar prices and dress will be neat casual.

Monday's Farewell Breakfast.

This will consist of a chicken and champagne breakfast at the gas b-b-q's on the banks of the Yarra some 3 miles from the Motel. Little more is needed in the way of explanation as to what will happen at this farewell breakfast.

Accommodation

Just to mention this again, as a reminder, that all availing themselves of the accommodation arranged will be staying under the one roof. It is not proposed to arrange any billeting or camping as there is difficulty in ensuring that the billeting is still available at Easter even if promised and the camping sites around Melbourne are few and far between and little in the way of standards of the parks etc. is known. Early in the new year registration forms will be available from Centre secretaries in each State and it would be appreciated if advance bookings are made for the accommodation particularly bulk Centre bookings with the deposit of \$10 per room. The tariff is (as previously advised) \$11 a single, \$14 a double/twin and \$17 a triple.

Could you arrange to advise your members of the above preferably through your magazine. The next bulletin and registration forms should arrive late January, or early February.

MELBOURNE CENTRE.

A Car is
not a
Playground

HELP!

put
your
car
on
easy
street



THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

With JOHN FRASER,
Queensland Represent-
ative for the
Peter Wherrett
Driving School.
Classes involve
only half a day
and are conduct-

ed at both
Lakeside and
Surfers Paradise.
Contact John at
571380 (Brisbane)
or 075-351951
(Gold Coast) and
make an
appointment.



SEDUCED AND ABANDONED:

He grabbed me round my slender neck,
I could not call or scream,
He dragged me to his dingy room,
Where we could not be seen.

He tore away my filmisy wrap,
And looked upon my form,
I was so cold and damp and scared,
Whilst he was hot and warm.

His feverish lips he pressed to mine,
I gave him every drop,
He drained me of myself,
I could not make him stop.

He made me what I am today,
That's why you find me here,
A broken bottle thrown away,
That once was full of beer.



BODS AND BENDS

● Grant Beaumont is back in Brisbane for 6 months before zooming back up to "the islands" again.

● A welcome visitor to the Clubrooms recently was Don Mackay. He's heading for Texas (Qld!) this year.

● Peter Bull is Going Formula 3.

● So is Jeff Thompson.

● And many other Formula Ford drivers.

● Any maybe the Vines.

● MOVE BACK THE FENCES.

● Ian and Ken Peters have a new car - the ex-Peter Lander Welsor Waggott Clubman. A great car with 4 wheel discs to arrest 160 HP 1600cc crossflow Ford. Power to ground via 11 inch rims. Watch this one.

● Barry Lock is ready to go - another man to watch.

● Mort and Nancy Shearer and the twins are back in Brisbane, having shortened their UK. visit because of Nancy's unfortunate illness. We do hope she will be quite well soon.

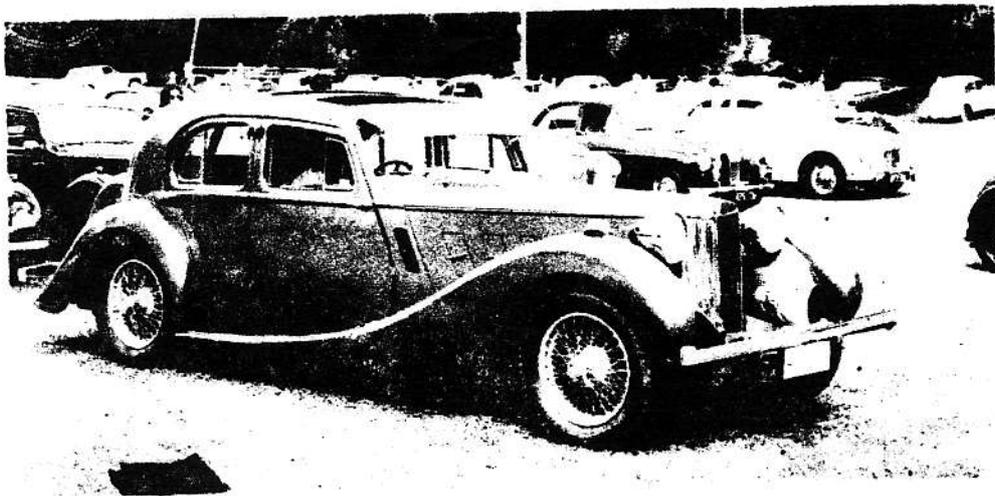
● LOST, STELEN, OR STRAYED -

1. Derek Finter, formerly of Tarragindi Rd., Moorooka.

2. Warwick Ormsby, formerly of 26 Jones Rd., Carina. (He works for Esso and is believed to be managing a Northside outlet).
3. Doug Yetman, formerly of 70 Granadilla St., Macgregor.

■ Long and creditable service to motor sport at State or regional, rather than national level, is recognized by CMAS through the conferring of the CAMS Service award. Since 1953, only 105 persons have received this award, several posthumously.

In 1973, a further six persons have been nominated by their States, and their names approved as recipients by the NCC, of those honoured, three are from Queensland, namely Col Summers, Brian Tebble, and Ann Thomson. Hearty congratulations to these faithful servants of the sport.



TO OPEN THE SEASON

To tumultuous applause Alan Conway brought his vehicle (Pencil Mk. II) first across the line in M.G. Car Clubs opening rally for 1974. Second was that lead footed speedster and eagle eyed navigator Mal Spiden (Flight-of-Fancy G.T.). Bob McMurdo driving a Hard Bargain filled third spot.

The route took competitors S.W. from Toowoomba (where directors Moir & Thomson found they couldn't count creeks), then west to Mt. Maria, and Formartin. North through some familiar country and then a scenic excursion through the Bunya Mountains where walking tracks were suddenly found to be trafficable. After falling down a cliff face they tip toed through the Tulips to Maidenwell. Some vile roads and 14 (certified) creek crossings took them to the Brisbane Valley Highway - where the Directors dumped them.

The number of navigators who didn't read the directions and/or questions properly was startling - or would be to any club less slap happy. Star turn was Miss L.S. who insisted on trying to fit Section 3 mud map to Section 2 roads.

Results

1.	A. Conway	97
2.	M. Spiden	113
3.	B. McMurdo	116
4.	P. Heath	123
5.	L. Sullivan	146
6.	N. McNeil	148
7.	K. Potter	151
8.	S. Reimers	164
9.	P. Simpson	181

There were some D.N.F.'s, but will spare their blushes.

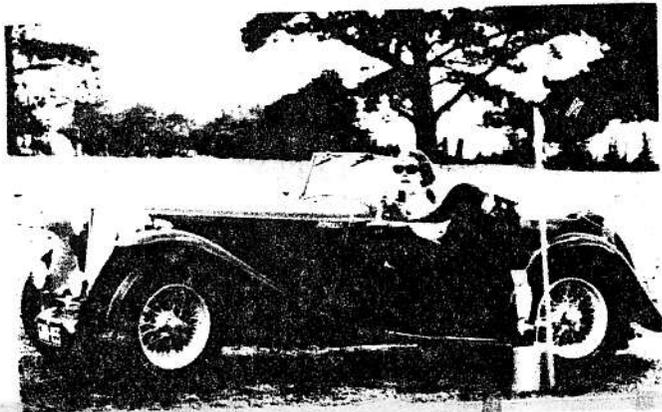
Quite a good start to 1974 - maybe with more Table Top rallies like this, more people will find their way to 620 Wickham Street.

NEW SPEEDO CHECKING SERVICE

This service was effective from 11.00p.m. to 12.30 a.m. and was most efficiently operated by members of the Queensland Police Force. It was situated outside the clubrooms, and members are most grateful for the courteous and efficient assistance they received! We don't know if the Sgt. in charge was as grateful to us as we were to him!

Speedo Errors noted

Ken Potter - 3MPH slow at 30 MPH.
Paul Simpson - 9MPH fast at 2MPH.
Spencer Reimers - 17 MPH fast at 52MPH.
Phil Heath - SPOT ON at 6.7235 MPH.



DOES ANYONE WANT THESE?

Mini Cooper hubcaps and badges
Tow bars for Holdens HD, HR, EJ.
Perspex shields for Mini, HG, HD Holdens (racing screens
etc?)
Mini windscreen
Mini mesh sunvisor
SU inlets and extractors wuit competition Ford 997-1500.
Mini seat covers
Phone John Campbell 692088 (working hours).

FOR SALE

HMV TR-10 stereo, as new, 3 piece, tinted perspex
lid, 10 watts RMS. New diamond needle. \$80.
Phone 696981 (working hours).

FOR SALE

Anybody interested in setting themselves up
in a LIGHTWEIGHT MINI, contact Russ Black at
557951 and arrange inspection. This car needs
finishing in detail (like an engine) but all
the hard work's already done.

The Octagon is the official Journal of the MG Car Club (Queensland Centre), affiliated with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport.

COMMITTEE

<i>President:</i>	Peter Rayment	355646 (683196A.H.)
<i>Vice President:</i>	David Miles	212749 (874976A.H.)
<i>Secretary:</i>	Joan Appleby	571561 (571561A.H.)
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Ann Thomson	781368 (781368A.H.)
<i>Asst. Sec.:</i>	Mike Keown	217866
<i>Club Captain:</i>	Mal. Spiden	335769
<i>Committee:</i>	Neil McNeil	526415 (672800A.H.)
	Libby Sullivan	713322 (741020A.H.)
	Gary Whittaker	
	Russell Black	
	Tom Hatton	

Clubrooms

620 Wickham St.,
FORTITUDE VALLEY
BRISBANE.

Postal Address

Box 1847 G.P.O.,
BRISBANE. 4001.

OCTAGON CONTRIBUTIONS

No later than end of 1st week of month.