



GARDEN ROUTE MOTOR CLUB

JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER



Convenors:

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FOR YOUR INFO.....

- Regular Breakfast Runs are held on the last Sunday of each month
- Meeting places – KNYSNA – The Quays at the Waterfront at the end of Grey Street
- SEDGEFIELD – Engen 1 Stop

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016

Date	Host Club	Event	Quays Start	Convenor
July 2016				
17 th	GRMC	Storms River Passes – Lunch at Tsitsikamma	09h30	PP
31 st	MG	Breakfast Run – Zucchini Rest	09h00	TC
August 2016				
14 th	GRMC	Braai – Plett Angling Club	10h00	PP
28 th	MG	Breakfast Run – Sao Concalo's	09h00	TC
September 2016				
11 th	GRMC	AGM	GRMC members only	
24 th	MG	National Model Planes – Oudtshoorn		TC
25 th	MG	Breakfast Run – Zucchini Rest		TC
October 2016				
11-13 th	GRMC	Technical Tour to PE		PP
30 th	MG	Breakfast Run – Sao Concalo's	09h00	TC
November 2016				
26 th	GRMC	Xmas lunch	TBA	PP
27 th	MG	Breakfast Run – Zucchini Rest	09h00	TC
December 2016				
Friday 2 nd	MG	Prawn Braai	MG members only	
Friday 9 th	MG	Street Braai – Bodge Eng/NF/BB		

CHAIRMAN'S CHIRP.

STORMSRIVER PASSES MEMORIAL RUN -- JULY 17

We often get approached by casual fans about our classic cars and the passion that we have for this hobby. I am sure you all have experienced this. We might share with these folk about the truly special breed of people we are who just love to care and drive our cars and to mix with likeminded people -- Petrolheads !!!

On Sunday July 17 it was one of those occasions, a fun run through the Bloukrans and Groot River passes for lunch at the Tsitsikamma Village Inn.

Only on this occasion it was also to remember a true petrolhead, Graham Yendall, who initiated this run some years ago . What a fantastic turnout we had from GRMC & MG club members, a total of 73 members. Surely this must be a record number for an event ??? . We are really lucky to be able to still drive this scenic route and get close to nature with some fantastic views. The second pass, Groot River , is not in a good condition and it is a real pity that the Eastern Cape have totally neglected this beautiful pass. Maybe, as some members commented , we should do a clean-up before our run next year !!! .



The food and service over lunch could not be faulted and with the vibrant chatter and noise a great time was enjoyed by everyone. Until next year!!!





Our lovely ladies....

Please note in your diaries the following points / dates per our events calendar. :

- If you have not yet paid your subs, please assist in doing so to avoid further follow-ups.
- Sunday August 14 -- Come and join us at the Plettenberg Bay Angling Club for a relaxed bring and braai at this beautiful venue .
- Sunday September 11 - The GRMC AGM . Please join us and bring along any ideas of the things that you would like us to include in our activities. Remember it is your club and we would like to hear from you. Please don't miss this.
- October 11 - 13 - The Technical tour to PE . The planning of this event is in progress and should again prove to be very interesting. The group size cannot exceed 24 people, so when we provide the details and you would like to join in , please register immediately.

Until next time,

Peter



Birthdays

BEST WISHES TO THE FOLLOWING WHO CELEBRATE THEIR BIRTHDAY DURING AUGUST.

1st Sue Simms

9th Viv Vadas

14th Shirley Hornby

22nd Duncan Miller

29th Allan Hamilton

6th Hugh Cordell

10th Margaret McDonald

19th Peter Pretorius

25th Carrol van Niekerk

31st Elsbeth Albisser

8th Anne Parker

11th Gail Turner

20th Alister Gibb

29th Jeannette Esterhuizen

1958 Golden Austin-Healey 100-6

Have you ever held a steering wheel of solid ivory?

Have you ever sat in bucket seats finished in mink?

Have you ever looked out on the road over a bumper plated with 24-karat gold?

Not bloody likely. Not unless you were the lucky Brit who won the Austin Healey 100-6 displayed at the 1958 Earls Court Motor Show. Not unless; you were one of a selected few owners that followed—including most recently Inan Phillips, wife of Bruce Phillips, who together own Healey Surgeons Inc in Takoma Park, MD a suburb of DC.

It was, said the London *Daily Express*, the "world's most flirtatious car." All the bright metal on the exterior of the car was gold plated, from the bumpers to the toothy grille to the rings around the headlights to the windscreen frame to the spinners on the gold-plated wire wheels. The disc brakes were gold plated. There was even a solid gold key ring with a gold model of the car.

The seats were upholstered by "rally driver turned furrier" Lorna Doone Snow in "rare Champagne Diaden mink," used according to the *Daily Express*, "by the big French fashion houses." The door panels and dash were covered in Chinese kid. The steering wheel and all the usually plastic dashboard knobs were cared in solid ivory from the tusks of an African elephant. As a finishing touch, the car was painted ivory. To maximize the impact at the show, the car had been prepared at the factory in maximum secrecy.

The car was, said the *Express* in stereo typical British understatement, "not a model of understatement." It was in its outrageousness; actually more in the tradition of the tarted-up production models which have always been the mainstay of the American auto show scene. Donald Healey was quoted as saying "It took 50 skilled craftsmen to produce the golden



Healey. We really think it is the most sumptuously luxurious sports car ever made. And we made it as a tribute to British craftsmanship."

Balderdash and poppycock, of course. Healey did it not as a tribute to anything but to draw people to the Healey stand. And, anyway, one suspect those were the words not of Donald Healey, but K.A. Gregory, personal consultant to Healey at the time and whose concept the golden Healey was.

It most certainly caught the attention of the *Daily Express*, which bought the car as it stood on the stand and offered it as a contest prize while the show was still running. No one seems to remember now who the winner was, except that the car was sold shortly afterwards to a wealthy businessman who gave it to his wife.

After going through several other hands, the golden Healey landed (where else?); in a barn where it was discovered by a friend of Inan and Bruce. The Phillips bought the car sight unseen almost 25 years exactly after its debut. Despite the car's deplorable condition, the owner was initially unwilling to sell it out of England, yielding only after being convinced that these Yanks, what with their Healey credentials of some 14 years, had honorable intentions.

The restoration was substantial. Rust showed through the gold plating and, as a result of special panels added to the car to make it look good on the show stand, the car had rust in some rather unusual places. The upholstery was frayed and torn and the ivory had cracked and shrunk.



Although the mechanical and bodywork was performed at Healey Surgeons, new gold-plated stainless steel spoked wire wheels were made by Dayton Wheels (at about \$1000 per wheel), the gold plating of the bumpers and body trim was performed by the same company that gold plates for Rolls Royce (no firm in the US with tanks large enough to plate the bumpers could be found). And it wasn't just the big pieces that got plated. There were fender beads, bags of screws. It was quite a sight spread out on the workbench, says Inan. The reupholstering, in mink like the

original, was done by Martin J. MacGregor Coachtrimming in Dundas, Ontario. It took 27 baby goats to cover the interior, the Phillips were told.

Today the Healey resides at Healey Surgeons and is driven to car shows and similar affairs, albeit only in fair weather. Granted that putting gold on a Healey may be like putting lace on a bulldog—though The Duke could wear a tux and nobody went poking him with a sharp stick.

And maybe that's what the golden Healey is. For under the jewelry the golden Healey is still very much a Healey, still rough and ready, still shaking the floorboards with its basso exhaust, still one of the best shapes ever to come off the island of the Union Jack.

And bloody likely the most special Healey ever made.



SAVVA Technical Tip 111 - Flasher units

A club member had a brilliant idea and that was to fit LED indicator bulbs to his older car. This is a very good idea as they are bright, run much cooler, and rarely burn out like bulbs can - except in his case they didn't work. He didn't realise LED's use a totally different type of flasher unit.

If you change over to LED's you must also fit an **electronic flasher** unit. These flasher units don't require the filaments of the bulbs to operate a "hot" wire like the early flasher units do.

Older thermal flasher units

Many of our older cars are fitted with flasher units that have a thermal wire to operate them. These early systems often use 2 x 20 watt bulbs in series with a thermal wire in the flasher unit. When operating, the bulbs go on, the thermal wire gets hot, stretches, opens the points and the bulbs go out, the wire cools, the points close, and so on. If one uses bulbs of the incorrect wattage the bulbs will either flash too quickly or too slowly.

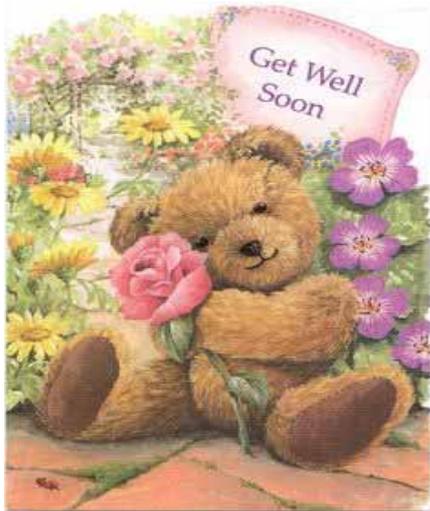
Newer electronic flasher units

The electronic units open and close regardless of the wattage of the bulbs therefore one can use LED's that draw very little current. Two things to remember – firstly, they only operate on 12 volt. (I'm sure 6 volt are available but will have to be imported from specialist suppliers). Secondly, if you connect the + and – incorrectly you have an ex-flasher unit on your hands. The components will blow instantaneously.

Most spares shops still have the old type 12 volt units in stock but it's unlikely that they will have 6 volt. If your car is six volt it may pay to visit flea markets as they often they turn up there. Regardless of whether your car is 6 or 12 volts and you are still using bulbs and old type thermal flashers it may pay to keep a spare.



New electronic on left and older thermal type on right



Best Wishes to Lionel Hewitt

May your back problem soon be healed. We are thinking of you and hoping for a full recovery.

The importance of having an occupation after retirement.

As we get older we sometimes begin to doubt our ability to "make a difference" in the world.

It is at these times that our hopes are boosted by the remarkable achievements of other "seniors" who have found the courage to take on challenges that would make many of us wither.

Harold Schlumberg is such a person:

THIS IS QUOTED FROM HAROLD:

"I've often been asked, 'What do you do now that you're retired?'

Well, ...I'm fortunate to have a chemical engineering background and one of the things I enjoy most is converting beer, wine and spirits into urine.

It's rewarding, uplifting, satisfying and fulfilling. I do it every day and I really enjoy it."

Harold should be an inspiration to us all.



TO OUR NEW MEMBERS...

Arthur and Penny Field
Martin and Cheryl Worth
Kevin and Nola Taylor

May you spend many happy miles and smiles with us....

THANK YOU....

Dear Peter,

This is a very belated thank you for the wonderfully generous donation of R10000 given to Kaws from the car club.

I am very embarrassed that it has taken so long for someone to write to you and acknowledge your magnanimity.

I was involved in collecting the Kaws dogs and bringing them to the car show to be paraded and to encourage people to donate and hopefully adopt some of them.

Hopefully we will be allowed to participate again next year as any exposure of our beautiful dogs may lead to a them finding a home.

Once again, many thanks!

Kind regards,

Ingrid.

KNYSNA ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY.

Dear Mr. Pretorius,

I would like to thank you again for your generous contribution towards our organization. I appologize for not being able to attend last week, as I didn't receive your invite. My understanding is that my auxiliary worker, Patience Maguga, and our community development worker, Desi Botha, stood in for me. I really would have liked to meet you myself and put a face to our conversations. I really want to thank you sincerely for opening your heart to our organization. I look forward to communication with you in the future.

Have a blessed day!

Kind Regards,

Andrea Taljaard

Maatskaplike Werker/ Social Worker

Badisa. Family Care Services, Knysna.

Our Website address is

www.grmc.co.za

To get on to our Facebook page Google Facebook and go to "gardenroutemc

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