



SPRITE CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.
PO Box 21, Fullarton, SA, 5063

2020 President's Annual Report

2020 has been a year with a difference!

When I sat in the chair at the February General Meeting, we had a loaded calendar for the year with a range of events to suit all tastes. We also had a plan to ensure our social drives headed to the areas affected by the recent bushfires and support these communities and businesses.

During that month we had a successful display at the All British Day, an informative technical night at Marque Restorations and the MSCA Display Day had presented trophies to the winners of 2019.

The March meeting was held as normal, but within a few days the worldwide effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic started to affect the Sprite Club. The Mid-Week Meander was postponed, the McLaren Vale Vintage and Classic was cancelled, as was the 2020 Sprite National Challenge. Our members either competed or officiated at the last Australian motorsport event for many months at the MSCA Super Sprint at Mallala.

The Fullarton Park Community Centre was closed for use, so we were unable to hold a General Meeting, so the Sprite Club of SA, along with the rest of Australia and the world went into hibernation.

Unable to have the normal meetings and events the Sprite Club kept members informed and updated via the web site and Facebook page. With Flashback Fridays, Sunday's in the Shed plus other information and posts we were able to keep the Sprite and Midget interest going during the lockdown period. And that's how it was for six months.

During this time, we had the passing of two past Presidents, Founder Member Kevin Warren and Tony Guest, as well as other members like the Doube's stuck in overseas travel trying to return home.

As a positive of the COVID-19 lockdown people found the time to "surf the internet" and many an overseas holiday funds were repurposed and suddenly a Sprite or Midget appeared in the driveway. We have had approximately 8 new members who have brought Sprites or Midgets that have not been previously in the Club before, and we welcome them to join us at the events we have planned.

Currently we have a total of 91 Memberships which with partners make a total of 134 Members. While some members vehicles have also been sold interstate, The Sprite Club has maintained a fleet of Club Registered vehicles with approximately 70 vehicles on this registration scheme.

With the changes in restrictions over the past couple of months and the reopening of the Fullarton Park Centre and various cafes and business the Sprite Club has returned to some sort of "new normal" holding it first General meeting in October and re-running the Mid-Week Meander a few weeks ago.



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With a Classic Sports Car Cruise and Re-union Re-united Dinner planned for November, the year will finish off where it started, offering a number of various events for its Members.

I would like to thank the Sprite Club of SA members for their support of the Club over this challenging period and their commitment to abiding by the various restrictions we have had to implement as part of our return to some sort of normality.

In closing I would like to thank the 2020 Committee for their work in the various roles throughout the year, post boxes need to be emptied, bills had to be paid, Club Rego Log Books need stamping, Web sites need to be updated, even if we were not meeting face-to-face. Also, for their support with planning the various events, particularly over the past few months as we tried to unravel the various restrictions and standards that we have had to meet in conducting these few events.

I hope that 2021 will see a better Sprite Club year, but I am cautious that the year may be different than what the Club can normally plan for. The current Committee has stated that we need to reduce the risk to members when planning and conducting events. And already various iconic events will not be happening, All British Day, 2021 National Challenge and similar have been cancelled as planning for these large events takes a lot of energy as well as meeting the COVID-19 requirements placed on organisers by SA Health and the various authorities.

In 2021 the Sprite Club will continue to “Promote, Foster and Preserve” Austin Healey Sprites and MG Midgets through a range of events that will meet the new normal, socially distancing, hand sanitising environment that we have experienced for the past year. While this will be a challenge, I envisage the Members of the Sprite Club of SA and the new Committee will continue to “Sprout Forth” as it has done for the past 48 years!

Yours Spritely

Gordon Boyce
President and the Committee – Sprite Club of South Australia