

Vale Don Williams

This, the third Burble for 2023 was going to be a reflection on the start of the year and what the club has been up to so far, but rather I'd like to dedicate this to reflect on the passing of one of our members, Don Williams.

Don was possibly the first member of the club to welcome me in person at my first meeting. He quickly found me on Facebook and befriended me and, for what is now an all too short time, he as quick with a joke, freely offered me and anyone who asked technical advice and was just larger than life. Leaving a meeting one night he roared from the OTR encouraging some anti-social engine revving as I headed off down Fullarton Road and, whilst he wasn't able to drive up in the Bay to Birdwood last year but that didn't stop him sitting in the main street and shouting support from across the road. He was simply being Don and I'm reliably told he was exactly the same in his younger days. I can only image he must have been the life of most parties.

Gordon wrote a beautiful memoir of Don and his life within the Sprite Club of SA and I'm sure every member has their own memories of him and his love for his family and his Sprites and Midgets.

As a write this I'm overlooking the night time traffic on Melbourne's Kings Way and the West Gate Freeway and I won't be able to attend his funeral, but it doesn't mean I won't stop and reflect on his passing. Life is short enough as it is. If you have an opportunity to partake in a pastime that doesn't hurt anyone and brings joy to family and strangers alike, such as driving our Sprites and Midgets, then stop being busy for a short while and go and have some fun with family and friends.

My thoughts are with Don's surviving family and friends. Rest in peace.

Robin Dunk
President, Sprite Club of SA

Technical Tip (3)

Well, it seems I've been let down by my technical contributor who calls themselves Bernie Hands so I've had to resort to my own back catalogue for this month, so what I was hoping to be a scintillating discussion about what fuel is best for your classic is now an equally riveting discussion about temperature gauges! If you'd like to contribute a 'tech tip', feel free to email me something (and I'll even leave anonymous if that helps!)

I reckon I read at least one a week a post on Sprite related social media about what temperature a car should be running or where the needle should be pointing at. Seems pretty basic (to me) but the arguments as to what is the correct number it piqued my interest so I wondered if others are equally baffled. The lengths some people will go to arguing what is basically a moot point is astounding.

So here is my basic rule of thumb – ignore the number that the needle is pointing to but do take close note of where it normally points. It's not the number, it's the position and what I look for is when something is not where it should be as that's a sure sign that something has changed.

When I bought my first Sprite (a lovely red Mk3a), I knew nothing about these cars and the previous owner had put a white-out (Tippex/LiquidPaper etc) mark where the needle normally sat. This was a great idea as that particular car had a nasty habit of losing all its water at the most inopportune times and for me, as a complete novice, I knew something was going wrong before it became catastrophic ... and I quickly learned! More recently I had the case with my Midget where the temperature gauge suddenly dropped to zero because the ether tube (the delicate tube



that runs from the front of the block back to the firewall and into the back of the temperature gauge) broke and the temperature gauge failed. Stopped, figure out what had gone wrong and quietly drove straight back home. Now I know that it probably seems obvious to 99% of members in the club but more and more classic cars are being bought by people new to classic motoring that the don't know. Heck, some modern cars don't even have a temperature gauge and you only get a warning if the engine is cold or too hot!

For me it was only a broken gauge which I replaced. Not a hard job but somewhat fiddly as it required getting under the dash. If you find yourself in this position, there are a couple of excellent firms in SA that will repair/replace the broken sensor tube and recalibrate the gauge, or if you are like me and don't like waiting, you can do like I did and head to somewhere like MiniSport and buy a modern recreation and re-fit it.

But, in addition to putting in a new/repaired gauge, I decided to fit a backup system. I found a brilliant little company called Engine Guard (<https://engineguard.com.au/>) up in North Queensland who supply digital temperature monitoring systems into a variety of vehicles. It's given me two sensor channels, so I now have a digital read out of the temperature from the back of the engine block and also for the oil system. Its really simply to install (took me about 30 minutes), draws little power so it wont mess with the Lucas Electrics and it can be installed just about anywhere, either on the dash or discretely hidden away. If you want it completely hidden, it also has an audible alarm system.

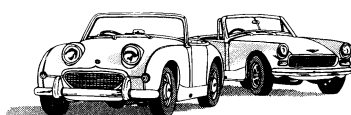
And best of all – its proudly 100% Australian designed and manufactured (not imported), so it's supporting local families and I like that! I'm happy to show the system to anyone interested or put you in contact with the company if you can't find them. I found them via Google and it didn't cost the earth.

Hopefully this was of interest to someone!

Next Two Months Events.

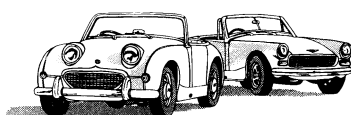
For full schedule, refer to the events calendar (

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| 5th Mar
Sunday | All British Day
Echunga Oval, Echunga.
<i>After several false starts and the threat of cancellation, All British Day returns to Echunga in 2023. Details to follow; however, the Sprite Club will have a designated area</i> |
| 5 Mar
Sunday | ClubbiesSA 1st Sunday
Perfect Note Café, 168 Main Road, Blackwood |
| 6th Mar
Monday | General Meeting
Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton Park.
<i>Remember to sign in the attendance book! Refreshments will be served.</i> |
| 12th Mar
Sunday | MSCA SuperSprint (Round 1, including the MSCA Come and Try Day)
Mallala Raceway
<i>The Marque Sports Car Association SuperSprint series returns once again for 2023 with five action pocked rounds between March and October. For more information, refer to the MSCASA (MSCASA - Event Calendar). The first event includes the MSCA Come and Try Day.</i> |
| 18th Mar
Saturday | Sports Car Cruise #1
Claremont Avenue, Netherby, 1815 for an 1845 departure.
<i>A scenic autumn run up through the hills and back into Adelaide. Details can be found on the Sprite Club SA webpages at http://www.spriteclub.com.au/?p=11478.</i> |



SPRITE CLUB OF S.A.

19th Mar Sunday	ClubbiesSA 3rd Sunday at the Rezz Hotel The Rezz Hotel, 0830
25/26 Mar Sat/Sun	Adelaide Motor Sport Festival Victoria Park, Adelaide <i>Held the week prior to the Melbourne Formula 1 Grand Prix, the Adelaide Motorsport Festival is a museum in motion, displaying historic, rare and significant racing vehicles in the Adelaide Park Lands and beyond.</i> Refer to the website for more information (ADELAIDE MOTORSPORT FESTIVAL)
29th Mar Wednesday	Midweek Meander #1 – A Southern Sojourn Meet at the Balhannah Tennis Club Carpark at 0930 for a briefing before we get under way at 1000 and saunter off in a generally southerly direction on one of Russell and Judy's magical mystery tours! RSVPs are a must as the venue has limited seating capacity for lunch! Lets hope it doesn't rain!! I'm reliably told you will need petrol for at least 160km of driving and no seas will be crossed on the journey!!!
1st Apr Saturday	Sporting Car Club of SA (SCCSA) Collingrove Hillclimb Come and Try Collingrove Hillclimb Circuit 71 Hill Climb Rd, Mount McKenzie <i>The 2023 SCCSA Hillclimb season kicks off with the first of their Come and Try days!</i> <i>If you have never experienced the challenge of a hillclimb and want to give it a go - this is a great event to be part of. Head to Motorsport Downloads Sporting Car Club of SA, complete the entry from and return it to motorsport@sportingcarclub.com.au.</i>
2nd Apr Sunday	First Sunday Breakfast Run Destination to be advised <i>Stay tuned for more information</i>
2nd Apr Sunday	Sporting Car Club of SA (SCCSA) Collingrove Challenge Trophy (Round 1) Collingrove Hillclimb Circuit <i>The ever popular (and hotly contested Collingrove Challenge Trophy returns for 2023. Can Peter Stanley find less than half a second and win the series for his class this year?</i>
3 Apr Monday	Stars and Their Cars/General Meeting Sporting Car Club of SA Clubrooms, King William Road <i>Always a fabulous night on the SCSA calendar and a general meeting with a distinct difference, come along to the Sporting Car Club and see who's cars are up on stage this year. Guaranteed they will all be interesting cars with fascinating stories from their owners!</i>
7-11 Apr Fri - Mon	MG Car Club National Meet 2023 South Australia <i>Head to https://natmeet2023mqcc.com.au/bulletins.html for details</i>
14 Apr Friday <i>*Change of Date*</i>	Sporting Car Club of SA (Classic and Modern Register) Healey Night Sporting Car Club <i>The Sporting Car Club of South Australia (Classic and Modern Register) will be having an Austin Healey night and has invited members of the Austin Healey Club and the Sprite Club to attend. Don will be providing his Bugeye for the evening!</i> <i>Numbers are limited to approximately 15 and a \$5 cover charge per person is requested to assist with the costs of the supper. Please RSVP Robin or Peter if you wish to attend.</i>
16 Apr Sunday	Sporting Car Club of SA (SCCSA) Ray Pank Hillclimb (Round 1) Collingrove Hillclimb Circuit



SPRITE CLUB OF S.A.

23 Apr
Sunday **McLaren Vale Vintage and Classic**
McLaren Vale. Lunch for the Sprite Club will be at Bec Hardy Wines
More details and entry forms can be found here <https://www.vintageandclassic.com.au/>

Upcoming Events to Note:

7 May
Sun **Peter Hall Memorial 6 Hr Relay**
Mallala Raceway
Details to follow – can we field three teams in 2023??

7 May
Sun **British Classics Tour**
McLaren Vale to Victor Harbor
Details ca be found here: <https://britishclassicstour.com.au/>

28 May
Sunday **Winery Run**
Winery and weather TBC!
With so many wineries to choose from its harder to plan than you might think!

18 Jun
Sunday **Winter Solstice Lunch Run**
A Spritely Run to a pub in the Adelaide Hills to celebrate the coming Winter Solstice!
Easy Mid Winter's run up into the Adelaide Hills, ending at a nice warm pub for a counter lunch and a natter. Who will brave the cold and drive up in style, top down??!

16 Jul
Sun **Sprite Club Slot Car World Championships**
Scalex World
Think you've got quick reflexes and hot wheels? The most hotly contested racing event on any calendar is back in 2023, bigger and better than ever. Meet at the Rezz Hotel for a coffee with the Clubbies and the meander over to Ridgehaven where the rubber will hit the road at Grant's Scalex World complex. It's rumoured that one member has pulled their slot car track out of the attic to practice and is building a special car for the event. \$25 charge per person.

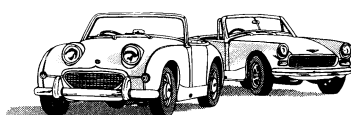
26th Aug
Saturday **Pie and Peas Dinner**
Fullarton Park Community Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton Park.
Pie and peas. Who would have thought it was a classic South Australian meal. Rumoured to have originated in Port Augusta of all places, the Sprite Club has well and truly embraced this culinary institution with a night dedicated to pies, floating upside down, in a bowl of peas!

16 Sep
Sat **51st Annual Dinner**
Venue TBA

1 Oct
Sun **Picnic Run to Collingrove Historic Hillclimb**
Run details TBA

3 Nov
Fri **John Blanden's Climb to the Eagle**
Victoria Park

5 Nov
Sun **Annual Sprite Club Display Day**
Wigley Reserve



SPRITE CLUB OF S.A.