

THE BUGEYE BURBLE

The Official Bulletin of the Sprite Club of SA



THIS MONTH

- Pg1 Presidents Report
- Pg2 Fish&Chip Run Report
- Pg3 A Night at Richmonds
- Pg4 Run to Collingrove
- Pg4 Events Calendar
- Pg5 Upcoming Club Events
- Pg7 National Challenge '26
- Pg9 Clubbies Corner
- Pg10 General Notices
- Pg10 Cars and Parts
- Pg11 Sponsors' Corner

CONTACT US

Website

www.spriteclub.com.au

Email

editor@spriteclub.com.au

Phone

0431 247 746

Mail Address

PO Box 21,
Fullarton SA 5063

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

A Note from Management

What a fabulous month for the Sprite Club October was. We are relatively small club by any measure, any measure other than the numbers of members, their cars and their friends (and their cars) that our events seem to attract! We've had a fabulous month just gone by with some thing on nearly every weekend, from sprint racing at The Bend and multiple hill climbs at Collingrove, to meetings held in one of Australia's premier 'dream factories', two club picnic events, the Bay to Birdwood as well as the Climb to the Eagle (yet to be held at the time of writing). Something for everyone and every run well attended!

November doesn't show any signs of being any less either, with our annual Display Day fast looming up (the Bay to Birdwood was just the warm-up display event!) with the Austin Healey Owners Club of SA also attending as well as an old fashioned 'beach cruise' with the Sports Car Cruise in the first week of the month alone.

On a more serious note we also have the AGM on the first Monday night of the month. The Committee will stand down and all positions are up for re-election. If you have desire to be part of the Club's guiding Committee please consider putting your hand up on the night. If you have questions and want to talk to a current Committee member, just ask! Hopefully we can fill the empty positions on the Committee this year.

That's enough from me. Its sunny outside so I might see you out on the road!

Robin D



VINTAGE HILLCLIMB PICNIC RUN

A perfect spring day greeted us for a run from the Stanley Bridge Hotel and along the top of the Adelaide Ranges as seven Spridgets, a Mini, and Merc made their way to Collingrove to enjoy the annual Barossa Vintage Hillclimb. Pat and Chris later joined the party, Pat in his fabulous Hot Rod.

With a little help from Gary Dodd, the Club managed to get a near pole parking position inside the paddock again, ourselves creating quite a bit of interest from the spectators! Aided by the fabulous weather a broad brush of green across the hills and valleys, and of course an amazing collection of vintage machinery, one could have been confused to think they'd stepped back to an earlier time.

Club Secretary Peter was on hand holding up the honour for the Sprite brigade with some very respectable times up the hill, getting quicker each run. I asked him what was the secret to a quick time and he grinned and offered *"don't slow down at the first left hander, get that right and you'll set a quick time. You cant see the exit over the crest of the hill, you just have to trust your instinct!"* Peter then recounted the day he got it wrong, and you start to understand



why people approach that corner with some trepidation!

Highlight of the day for me had to be the Eldred Norman cars, his Zepher special and a recreation of his fearsome Double 8 monster built from left over parts from WW2. Having grown up with stories of both cars, Dad's encounters with Eldred as a younger man and his watching his speedway hero, Harry Neale, driving for him at the Nuriootpa Grand Prix, it was a sight to behold!

Our thanks as always to the Sporting Car Club of South Australia for staging this fabulous event and for keeping the Collingrove Hillclimb alive. Its a must visit event for enthusiasts of historic racing and people just looking for a great day out on the long weekend!



FISH AND CHIPS BY THE BAY

A perfect reason for a Sprite Club run!

What do you do with 11 Spidgets, a Datsun 240z, a couple of Clubbies, an MX5 and two Alfa Romeos?

You have a run through the city and the hills, grab piping hot fish and chips and then sit and enjoy the early evening telling tales and tall stories.

Thanks to Gary Dodd's efforts, the club assembled at the club rooms on Fullarton Road and headed off up Belair Road and across the top of the hills and back down before stopping at Seaview Fish and Chips in Seacombe Gardens for a F&C.

The procession (which lost one but gained another) then headed to Historic Kingston House to sit under the trees and enjoy the fabulous food, reminisce and watch the sun start to set over St Vincent's Gulf.

At terrible way to spend a Saturday evening really!

Thanks Gary!

NOVEMBER MOTORSPORT

8th -10th: Legend of the
Lakes Hill Climb @
Mount Gambier

8th -10th: Adelaide Rally

14th -17th: Adelaide 500



Sprite Parts

A compact workshop where you
and your car get personal attention

Fast, friendly, efficient service from
the only supplier open 7am to 7pm,
7 days per week

PHONE or FAX ORDERS
Goods are dispatched by overnight
air bag, express post, courier or
road freight

All you need for your MG, Sprite or Mini

Colin Dodds 2 Parklea Close, Dural NSW 2158

Ph 0414 789263 Fax: 02 9651-6703

Email Colin@SpriteParts.com.au Web: www.SpriteParts.com.au

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

A night out at Richmond's Showrooms!

Gordon Boyce (LM)
Registra

For the Sprite Club of South Australia's October General Meeting we had a change of meeting rooms.

Member Gary Dodd had arranged with Manger, Andy Morgan to visit and tour Richmond's – Prestige & Classic Cars Showroom on Richmond Road, Richmond.

Nearly 50 members (50!!) gathered for an intro to Andy who outlined the history of the company that has been in business for eight years. The facility covers the vehicle showroom, the workshop and the car storage facility.

Andy also has his new vehicle on display, 1964 Austin Cooper S. This Red and Black Roof vehicle showed the classic style of the early Mini Coopers, and Andy's is a perfect example of these fun vehicles. Andy has had a BMC interest, previously owning a Pale Primrose MGC (which was in the showroom) and a MG Midget Mk I.

Members were given the opportunity to view the cars in the showroom. These vehicles are on consignment, so the owners have the opportunity to sell their vehicles through this showroom, and the online site.

While there were no Sprites or Midgets for sale, there were MG, Triumph, Jaguar and Austin Healey examples for sale, so the Union Jack was supported. Surrounding these vehicles were Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes Benz, Dodge, Opel plus a range of European and American vehicles for sale. Oh, and a 1978 Aston Martin V8 'Oscar India' that the President is still waiting to be delivered to his house.... hmm. Somehow I don't think so!



Club President, Robin Dunk, gathered the Members for an "edited" General Meeting. With club members scattered throughout the showroom looking at the beautiful machinery it was more like herding cats!

One of the main items was the presentation of Perpetual Trophies that were not presented at the Annual Dinner.

The Club Person of the Year was presented to Gary Dodd for his arrangement of a number of Club Events, including the Fish and Chip Run, Sunday Morning Runs and the Night at Richmond's.



The new perpetual trophy The Paul Doube Memorial Trophy for Associate Vehicle of the Year was awarded to David and Carole Tye for their Lotus Elan. This vehicle has been a regular vehicle at many Club Runs as well as the Peter Hall 6-Hour Relay Sprint, so the Tye's were deserved winner of this new award.



BAY TO BIRDWOOD

Burgers, BBQs, Banjos and Brake Rebuilds

Some 10 cars from the Club were nestled in amongst the 1600 cars heading up to Birdwood on a warm Spring Sunday this year.

The hardier members of the Sprite fraternity gathered at the start at about 6.30 (yes, am!) and hosted their own BBQ whilst others who may perhaps value their beauty sleep joined the procession as it passed by their house on its way through Adelaide.

Arriving into the magnificent grounds of the Birdwood Mill, yet another BBQ ensured (use it whilst you've got it, right?) and we all wandered around some amazing motoring sights and sounds, music and more, and just generally lapping up the atmosphere!

For some it was their first Birdwood run, for others, another year's plaque for the garage wall. For some it was the first long run in their Sprite whilst others toiled across Friday and Saturday just to make it.

It's a fabulous event, a true icon on the South Australian motoring calendar and, as someone who's participated a number of times, it never dulls. Put it in your calendar for 2025!

CLIMB TO THE EAGLE

An Adelaide Grand Prix tradition continues

Whilst the Adelaide GP is many years long gone, one tradition remains, the 'Climb to the Eagle', this year brought forward a week due to the setting up for the Adelaide 500.

The event harks back to the Friday of the very first GP. The 'Readers Digest' version of events is the group tasked with staging the support acts for the GP. With the historic race cars for one of the events stabled about 500 meters from the track and needing to drive on public roads they needed a three day temporary rego.

So, what do you do with millions of dollars of priceless racing cars now effectively registered for South Australian roads? You run them up the highway, through Devils Elbow and up to the Eagle on the Hill of course and nearly 40 years later, the tradition continues!

Cars from the Sprite Club have participated on the run since the first one was opened up to the public (and possibly before) and this year was no different with about 10 members taking part!



CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE READ!

Many of us enjoy the advantages offered by the South Australian Government Conditional Registration scheme, be it for our historic car or individually constructed vehicle.

The conditional registration is tied directly to your membership. As a reminder, the membership year is 1 January to 31 December each year.

If you are **NOT** a financial member on 1 January 2025, you **CAN'T** drive your conditionally registered car on a New Year's Day run.

The Registrar needs to sight proof of your financial membership status before they can sign your logbook for 2025. If the logbook has **NOT** been signed for 2025, you **CAN'T** drive your classic.

Please, make no mistake. If you are not a financial member for 2025 and (or) you have not had an authorised Officer from the Club sight and sign your logbook, you cannot drive your Conditionally registered vehicle.

We were chasing a large number of people well into 2024. The Club must notify ServicesSA within 90 days of the new Club FY of non-financial members and those registrations are then cancelled. Not by us, but by Services SA. You are then required to restart the whole registration process so its best to just get it sorted as quickly as possible! Its a huge fine if you are caught. Well in excess of \$1000.

Memberships will be available for renewal AFTER the Annual General Meeting. We will be calling for a vote on a small increase in the membership fee (from \$50 to \$60 a year). Once the 2025 fees has been set you can pay your fees in cash, by cheque or electronic funds transfer.

Log books can be signed once you've paid at the December meeting, by appointment with Don or Gordon, or you can mail them in (with a stamped self-addressed envelope).

The club may hold a log-book night in late November or early December if there's enough demand.

*Robin Dunk, President
Gordon and Don, Registrars*



CLUB MERCH!

Club Badge Embroidery - \$5 (each)

Cap - \$25

Wide Brimmed Hat - \$25

Beanie - \$25

Scarf - \$30

Beanie&Scarf Combo - \$50

T-Shirt - \$30

Long Sleeve T - \$35

Polo Shirt - \$40

Hoodie - \$55

Stickers - \$3 or 2for\$5

Umbrella - \$30

Grill Badges - \$25

Logbook Covers - \$25

DISPLAY DAY 2024

03 November 24, from 0930
@ Wigley Reserve, Glenelg

Its time for the Annual Display Day so break out the polishing cloths! This year we are holding Display Day in conjunction with the Austin Healey Owners Club of SA so a visual feast of Austin Healeys big and small, MG Midgets and our wonderful collection of Associate Vehicles should greet members and visitors.

Peoples Choice awards for best Spridget, Big Healey and Associate Vehicle!

Non members are most welcome to come along and display their Sprite, Midget or Healey!





Sprite Club of SA
&
Austin Healey Owners Club of SA



Present

DISPLAY DAY 2024

All Sprites, Midgets and
Healeys Big & Small,
Clubbies and Club Associate Cars
welcome!

Visiting club Healeys and Sprites
also welcome!

Wigley Reserve
3 November 24
From 0900 onwards

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING

**MARQUE MOTOR
RESTORATION**



"WE BUILD YOUR DREAMS"

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4 November 2024

Clubrooms, from 2000 hrs

The Sprite Club of South Australia will hold its Annual General Meeting immediately following the General Meeting on the night of 4 November.

SPORTS CAR CRUISE

9 November 24

Semaphore, 5:45pm departure

Arrive at the Semaphore South Carpark (that's the southern-most one!) from 5pm for a 5.45pm departure.

This will be an old-fashioned beach and suburbs cruise, showing off our cars and just enjoying the late spring evening as the sun sets, making our way to Mile End by approximately 7pm.

Some of us might head to one of the local establishments for dinner after!

CHRISTMAS BBQ & GENERAL MEETING

2 December 2024

Clubrooms, from 6:00pm onwards

Come along and enjoy a BBQ dinner in the grounds of the Fullarton Centre, pay your 2025 membership fees and get your logbooks stamped and stay for the final meeting of the year.

Stay tuned as more details are likely to follow!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Every time you take an old classic car for a drive there's a chance something will go wrong. It's all part of the adventure.

Today was a great day, it just took a bit longer than expected"

*Kathie Leane
Climb to the Eagle*



The Sprite Club of South Australia

SportsCar **CRUISE!**



Join us for an old fashioned cruise along the foreshore and the city streets from Semaphore to Mile End cruise.

Distance - about 50km

Duration - about an hour and a half (no speedlimits will be harmed!)

When - 9th of November, from 5pm for a 5.45 departure

Starting Point - Semaphore South Foreshore Carpark

NATIONAL CHALLENGE 2026

Motorsport and more Motorsport!

Motorsport has been a central theme of the Challenge over its 50+ years and 2026 will be no different!

We are working to bring you a Super Sprint format event at the fabulous facilities of The Bend Motor Sport Park West Circuit in Tailem Bend, as well as a tarmac (not dirt!) Motorkhana, also at The Bend.

But wait, there's more! Like a free set of steak knives on a 1980s DemTel advert, for those participants who'd like to come for the Nationals and stay a for a couple of extra days, the Marque Sports Car Association of SA will be holding the annual Peter Hall Memorial 6hr, a long standing teams regularity event, the weekend immediately following the Nationals.

Come for the Challenge and race at the Bend. Stay on for the weekend and race at Mallala.

Two events,
Two iconic tracks,
One amazing trip to South Australia.

You can't ask for more than that!

[National Challenge - Latest Details and More](#)

[National Challenge 2026 - Expression of Interest](#)



THE **BEND**
MOTORSPORT PARK

MALLALA
MOTOR SPORT PARK



THE BEND UPCLOSE

Follow this link for a birds eye view of the 7.7km long GT Circuit in a Sprite

[A lap with Dean](#)





EOI 2026 National Challenge

2026 Sprite and Midget National Challenge - Expression of Interest

Note – this is an EOI to help us with event planning. You can change your mind!

Name (s)			
Name (s)			
Home Club			
Address			
Phone		Mobile	
Email	<i>Note – your email address will be the primary point of contact for the event</i>		
Vehicle	Sprite	Midget	Other
Accommodation	Couple	Twin Share	Single
	<i>Note – event costing is based on a twin share basis. Members travelling along and wanting a room on their own will be liable for full room costs</i>		
Parking/Garaging	Car only	+ standard car trailer	+ large/outsized car trailer
	<i>Please indicate your likely parking/garaging request</i>		
Events	I/we are interested in participating in the following events (circle/tick):		
Social	Display/Concours	Observation Run	Regional Touring
Competition	Sprint	Motorkhana	Both
	<i>Likely Competition Vehicle</i>	Sprite/Midget	Other/Associate
Post Tour Event Interest?	Post-Tour Tour	Yes / No / Maybe	
	Peter Mall 6Hr @ Mallala	Yes / No / Maybe	
General Comments?			

If you could please complete and email Sue Stephenson *at the email address below* at your earliest convenience it will help greatly as we look to reserve accommodation.

This is not a commitment – an official registration form will be forwarded separately!

Email Address 2026NationalChallenge@spriteclub.com.au

Post: Sprite Club of SA, PO Box 21 Fullarton, South Australia, 5063

'Challenge 26' Contacts Sue Stephenson (0408 858 046) and Robin Dunk (0431 247 746)

An event webpage at www.spriteclub.com.au will soon become active for all your Challenge updates!

CLUBBIES CORNER

ClubbiesSA Updates and Notices

Awesome weather greeted us for the Bay to Birdwood with 14 Clubbies and a Sprite cheering the cars on. Then a joining in with the the parade and enjoying the fun of the drive until detouring to the Rezz for a coffee.

Dont forget that following the 1st Sunday of the Month coffee (Coffeed Cafe, Aberfoyle Park), a number of us will be heading to Wigley Reserve for the Sprite Club display day so polish up the Clubbie and join us down there. For those who just want to head straight there, there will be a coffee can on site and one of the areas fabulous bakeries is just across the road!

All Clubbies welcome!



CARS AND PARTS WANTED/FOR SALE

Wanted - Gear Knob

Gear knob for a MkII Sprite wanted.

For Sale - 1949 MGTD



1949 MGTD for sale.

Excellent condition

Imported from the UK in 1951, its been in the same family since 1974.

A very early, highly original and much loved car; however, it now needs a new home for the next 50 years of its life! Contact the Club President (Robin, 0431 247 746) for details as he's assisting a friend find the car its next caretaker.

For Sale - 1959 Mk1 Sprite



1959 MK1 Sprite (Supercharged)

Ex Sprite Club of South Australia car, currently located in Victoria.

Period Correct Shorrock supercharger

Fully restored (to bare metal) by a SA Sprite Club member (Kevin), true to the original.

The car is a very regretful sale after 5 years of ownership. It runs wonderfully. Has not seen wet weather since I've owned it. Engine fully rebuilt by Bugeye Barn in 2017 with limited kilometres since rebuild (have all paperwork, as well as restoration photos). Original steel bonnet. An exceptional example.

Would love to see it go back to SA.

Looking for \$50,000. More photos available on request

Adam Toma, turty77@gmail.com, 0402700779



2025 CLUB SPONSORSHIP

For a small car club of approximately 150 members, we certainly seem to punch above our weight in terms of readership, with 500-750 people accessing the *Bugeye Burble* each month from around Australia and internationally, and the 2023 re-launch edition of our magazine, *Sprouting Forth* attracting over 5000 views since it was released in December 2023. These publications, combined and promoted with our website and social media platforms means our little club is starting to be known well outside the borders of South Australia and, indeed, Australia.

Perhaps you'd like to join our growing list of advertisers and sponsors and have your company profile here? We have full, half and quarter page spots available in our yearly magazine and all businesses placing advertisements will be featured in the Burble throughout the year, as is a company profile. Club sponsorship can be financial in nature or support in kind for our members!

All monies raised through advertising will go towards staging the 2026 National Challenge where we aim to bring as many Sprites and Midgets (and associate cars) together for a celebration of all things Spridget on the banks of the River Murray.

**YOUR BUSINESS
HERE**



Sprite Parts

A compact workshop where you and your car get personal attention

Fast, friendly, efficient service from the only supplier open 7am to 7pm, 7 days per week

PHONE or FAX ORDERS
Goods are dispatched by overnight air bag, express post, courier or road freight

All you need for your MG, Sprite or Mini

Colin Dodds 2 Parklea Close, Dural NSW 2158
Ph 0414 789263 Fax: 02 9651-6703
Email Colin@SpriteParts.com.au Web: www.SpriteParts.com.au



the
toastie
westie

NATIONAL AWARD WINNING

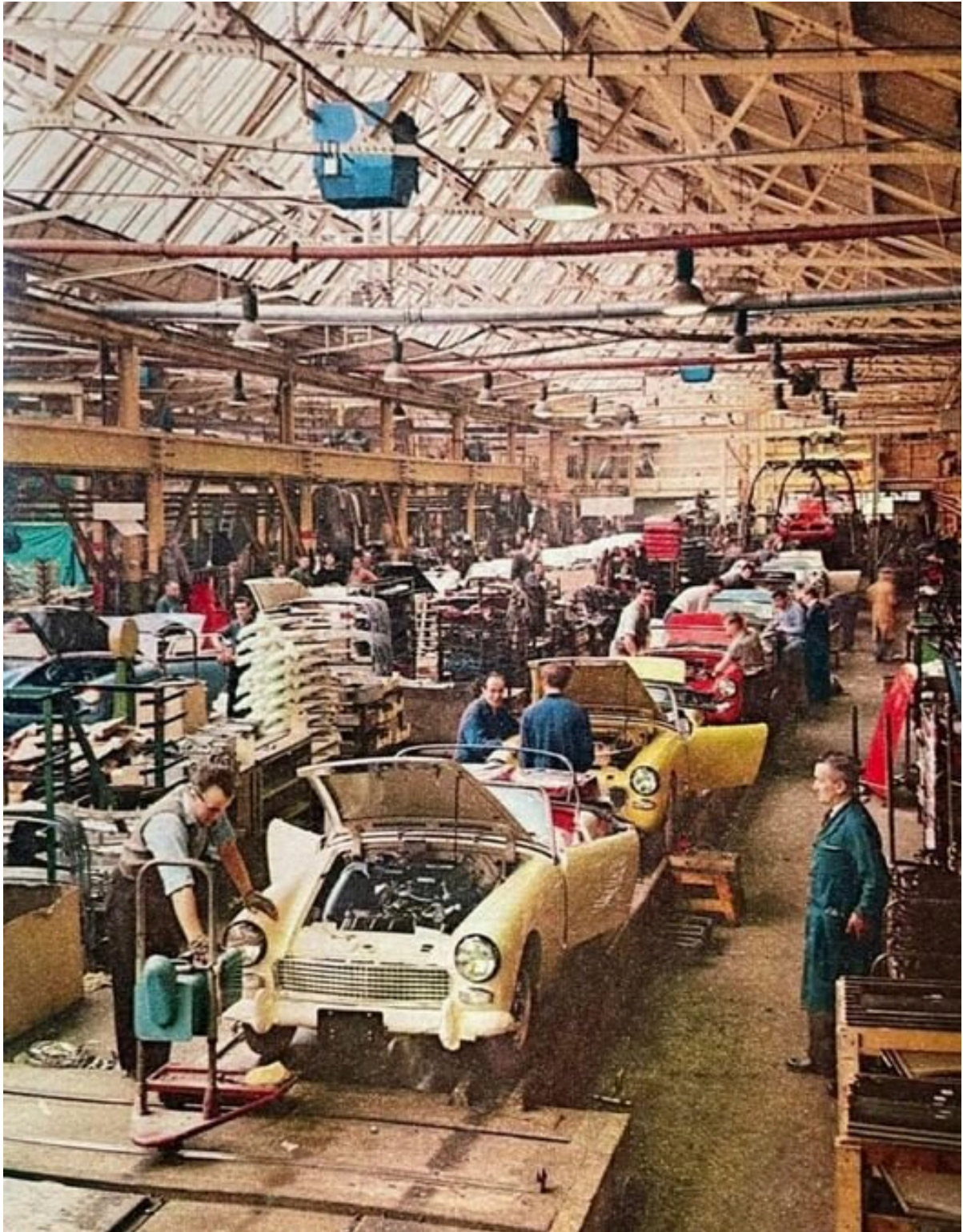
MARQUE MOTOR RESTORATION



"WE BUILD YOUR DREAMS"



THE BURBLE'S TAILPIPE



Sprites and Midgets on the Albingdon production line,
circa 1964