

MGB Register Event

Visit to Adelaide Hills Panel Works



We had been invited by Rob Ephgrave of Adelaide Hills Panel Works, to visit his premises at Nairne, on Saturday 27th July. Rob kindly opened up his workshop for us and arranged for his panel beater Brian "the Wizard" to attend and to show us some of his skills.

Rob has run AHP for some 11 years and they specialise in body restorations for all types of cars; vintage, classic, custom, performance etc, as well as undertaking insurance repairs. Usually working on one or two car restorations at a time through to completion, their practice is to invoice the Client monthly, providing detailed reports as to the works undertaken, whilst maintaining a comprehensive photographic record. Interior trim works are contracted out, as is mechanical and electrical work. In this regard we met Martin Wallace (0408 100 303) who runs his own mechanical, electrical, and minor trim workshop at Kanmantoo. Martin arrived trailering a lovely early 3.8 E-Type which he had been working on and which was being brought in for some minor rust removal and spraying of the front wing.

In AHP's workshop this day were two VW Karmann Ghias. One was undergoing extensive body work with several panels having to be remade. This car had been in the shop since April 2019 and was expected to be completed by Christmas. With one panel taking many hours to just fabricate and fit, such a time frame is understandable. The second Karmann Ghia was in the spray booth. The usual paint finish being a durable 2 pack plus a clear coat.

Brian, having been a panel beater all his working life, demonstrated some panel forming techniques as well as giving us some inside knowledge on preparing bodies for lead or plastic fill prior to painting. Brian is to retire shortly which leaves Rob with the dilemma of where to recruit a replacement for this dying art.

A visit to APH's website or Facebook page will give some idea of the works undertaken, but they include a GT Falcon rebuilt over some 18 months, and an Austin Healey 3000 rebuilt onto a new chassis, both projects costing in the order of \$150K!.

So we had a very interesting morning and our thanks went to Rob and his crew for taking the time to show us what great works they do. Thanks too to those members, especially to the two members attending their first event and to our one guest. As a bonus we also all enjoyed a lovely sunny, albeit chilly, Saturday morning's drive through the Hills, as everyone had come in an MG or in another classic British car!

AHP can be found at:

11 Woodside Rd. Nairne. S.A. 5252

tel: 08 8388 0755

fax: 08 8388 0766

www.ahpworks.com.au

Attendees:

Phil Crocker	MG ZT Wagon	First Club event
Barry Westin	MGB	First Club event.
Roger Ford	MGB	
John Wisden	MGB	
Bill Gilson	MGB V8	
John Roach	MGB GT	
Steve Spong &		
Dietmar Sauer	MGB GT	
John Tamke	MG RV8	
Gary Chapman	MG F	
Leigh Albertson	Mini Cooper S	
Graham Dean	Rover SD1	Guest

By

Steve Spong





Rob showing
us a front wing panel
made by AHP for the
Kahmann Ghia





Brian demonstrating how to form metal.