

## Joy at Mallala

Oh dear, it's so hard to write this report without descending into the most awful pun, but what a Joy it was to be at Mallala Motorsport Park on August 11<sup>th</sup> for our hugely successful inaugural Ladies' Day.

All eyes were on our very own 99-year-old motorsport veteran Joy Pearson, the star of the show as she was chauffeured around the track by grand-daughter Cara (who celebrated her birthday on the day) in the immaculate red 1966 MGB which sparked Joy's love of the marque back in the 1970s.

She was interviewed by Tara Miko from The Advertiser and a great story was published the following morning, with a big photo of Joy at the wheel with a huge smile on her face. She also featured on Page 1 of the paper with a photo of her holding a chequered flag and the caption 'At 99, Joy's living life at 100km/h'. And there was another photo of her, and a quote, on the Opinion page.

There were 24 entrants in the event, and all the ladies reported having a really great time. For most it was their first time ever on a track, and judging by the number who said afterwards they thought the pace car was too slow, it could be that some of them may be venturing out again in earnest . . .

Full marks to Lynden Burns for coming up with the idea of this day and for leading the team who made it all possible, including Dick Manning and his helpers with the BBQ and Motorsport Secretary Steve Bowra who drove the pace car. Every aspect of the day was a huge success, the Club got some excellent media publicity from it and everyone who helped make it happen should be very pleased with themselves. Thank you.

During a break in the proceedings Joy gave me an insight into how her love of MGs came about.

'It was during the 1970s petrol crisis and the Government was urging people to move from six cylinder to four-cylinder cars', Joy told me.

'Anthony had an immaculate MGA entered in the concours at the National Meet at Ballarat, and when I went along with him I immediately wanted an MGB. After all, it's a four-cylinder car and I just wanted it for shopping.

'So we sold our Holden and bought a red MGB and I asked Anthony to tidy it up a bit, but instead he totally restored it to the point where it's now been to 26 National Meetings all over Australia and won the concours many times.

'I've driven at Mallala competitively in sprints and motorkhanas, in hillclimbs at Collingrove, and at international meetings in the UK, the USA and South Africa. I've done timing at events at Mallala too – I've really got the MG disease! Our family owns 10 British-built MGs from pre-war onward and two modern Chinese-built models. I've been a member of the MG Car Club of SA since 1978.

'The highlight of all my many years of involvement with MGs and motorsport has been the people. Wherever you go in the world, you mention 'MG' and there's always someone who's got one, had one or wants one and you make friendships that last for years'.

And her final word: 'I don't like automatic cars. You don't feel that you're driving'.

Stephen Marlow  
President.