

# HISTORIC TORQUE

JUNE 2024

2023 Group Q Champion  
Robert Foster



*Photo by Trapnell Creations Photography*

The Official Journal of the Historic Racing Car Club (Qld) Inc

Patron: Kevin Bartlett



THE SPORT OF MOTOR RACING HISTORY



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# FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

Winter is upon us and looking back on the Autumn Historics at Morgan Park the committee, competitors, volunteers and attendees can all agree it was a terrific weekend at every level. Great weather, excellent racing without many incidents and a wonderful social feeling.

The meeting was not without some small challenges leading into practice on Friday and early on the Saturday but many thanks to everyone working together to overcome these hiccups.

John Miller delivered his first event as Secretary and with magnificent support from Paul Clemens managed to get through to Sunday without a heart attack. John and the team will be better for the experience as will the HRCC team so thank you John for taking the step up.

Thanks also to Graeme Hodges and his band of helpers for delivering an effective Friday Practice as always and the forever reliable John Tupicoff and Jim Goulden for picking up the pieces to make sure we all experienced a wonderful event.

Often overlooked are the efforts of the Treasurer when it comes to all the up-front work prior to, through and after these race meetings so please reach out to Morne Lombard when you see him next and say thank you for doing an excellent job. Morne has also been working very hard with me this year to modernise the club banking and accounting system and I'm happy to report this is greatly assisting to simplify that area of the clubs' operations.

Chris Fung has also been very active in the Facebook and related areas of the club and the visibility attached to the online profile this provides. Lisa Catchpole (Editor of this Newsletter amongst many other things) and Chris are working closely to align our messaging with results certainly showing good engagement.

Sadly, the decision had to be made not to proceed with the Shannons Motorsport Festival due to extreme low entry numbers from all corners. Factual information on what led to the decision is listed shortform here to assist members understand why.

Total entrants peaked at 60 with 3 weeks to go before event close.

- Increase in track hire costs are making it extremely difficult to provide more affordable events with our open door costs for this meeting approaching \$85k - this directly affects entry costs.
- Super Mini Challenge disappointingly, did not inform anyone within the HRCC they had made a decision on the Sunday of Autumn Historics to withdraw from the commitment they made to attend all HRCC Meetings in 2024. We only learned of this after a call was made to ask when they were entering.
- The bulk of the Inter Club Challenge member clubs did not enter citing the QR venue and entry costs (which were reduced in line with what they do pay based on track time & inclusions). The big exception was the MX5 club which supported at a very high level with 17 entries.
- Part of the early pre-event conversation did include direct discussion with the Porsche Club. Their original indications of providing 30 - 60 entries turned into zero and this due to them already going to the QR a couple of times in 2024 and not wanting to go again.
- Our own membership only contributing 25 entries of the 60 in total.
- Other external feedback on reasons why the event is not popular heavily weight the QR race track being boring and / or hard on cars and not promoting good racing, track location which affects the off track socialising in a negative fashion, accommodation choices, time of year due to people heading overseas for European holidays etc, car readiness, health concerns, ability to pass MA medicals and new compliance requirements with exiting vehicles etc.

Ultimately the club will need to consider what the future looks like for the number, location and timing of events. The time consumed by the committee and various external volunteers like Benn Gregory to put an event together only to get no support is a huge disappointment. This is especially frustrating when we all receive requests or questions why the club is not doing more events for members.

Our next event is the **HISTORIC QUEENSLAND at Morgan Park on October 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>** so put it in on your calendar as we would like this to be a big one.

Yours Sincerely,  
Brian Henderson  
President HRCC Qld



# SHANNONS MOTORSPORT FESTIVAL

Celebrating 60 Years of Mustang

5, 6, 7 JULY 2024

Queensland Raceway | Champions Way Willowbank



## CANCELLED

Due to extremely poor support of the upcoming event, the Management Committee have made the difficult decision to cancel the meeting. The hard work by all committee members and the secretary of the event to secure sufficient numbers to proceed with the event have been unsuccessful however, this effort is appreciated.

Why? Event costs are very high and the HRCC must achieve a minimum number of entries in order to cover expenses. We forecasted that we would not meet the threshold.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to this point, including our volunteers, committees and Event Secretary Benn Gregory.

The club thanks all the entrants that had committed to this event and we will look to reward your support in future events.

Full refunds will be made to all who paid and you will be contacted by the club so these can be processed. The event has also been removed from the MA Portal.

All in all, it is a very disappointing result for the hard work put in. Thank you to everyone for your efforts and in particular Benn Gregory as the Secretary for working hard to try and get an alternative event for this HRCC to succeed.

Best Regards,

Brian Henderson  
President HRCC Qld



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# Autumn Historics - Morgan Park

## A Lotus Perspective

by Peter Svensson

This article is broadly based on an article by Peter Svensson which appeared in the June edition of "Lotus Notes".



Patrick Townshend's 1960 Austin Healey dwarfs Elan".

Over the weekend of 27 & 28 April the weather on Queensland's Southern Downs was perfect for classic sports car action - mild, dry and clear. Over 135 historic competition cars had assembled at the attractive and challenging Morgan Park racing circuit on Warwick's outskirts. The HRCCQ's annual *Autumn Historics* program, including practice and qualifying sessions, ran to 37 events: six regularities, five super sprints and twenty-six races. Something for everyone and plenty of track time.

It might be expected that such a recipe would, amongst others, attract a goodly number of production-based sports cars. One expected to see at least a few Alfa Romeos, Austin-Healeys, clubmans (of various marques), Lotus, MGs, Triumphs and, perhaps, a sprinkling of early Porsches. We know they are out there, so where were they?

From a sports car enthusiast's point of view, sadly there was a distinct lack of production-based sports cars altogether; a mere fifteen or so in an entry field dominated mainly by touring cars. While not devaluing the importance of historic racing, sports-racing and touring cars, the absence of healthy numbers of Group S and "invited" production-based sports cars was somewhat depressing. Indeed, given that Morgan Park's "K" circuit represents one of the best and safest venues for sports cars to be driven in the classic tradition, the very low numbers of such cars remain a mystery.

However, as a Lotus *aficionado*, it was particularly disappointing to this writer that just three Lotus entrants turned up to represent one of the twentieth century's most innovative and successful racing marques.

Photos by [www.motorsportphotosaustralia.com](http://www.motorsportphotosaustralia.com)

Bruce Melville made the trip from NSW to make his Morgan Park debut in a 1967 Lotus Elan S3, Peter Boel brought along his (controversially re-bodied) 1968 Lotus 23 (the "Flintstone") and Peter Svensson shared his 1967 Lotus Elan with support technician, Scott Kelly.

Of the three cars, Peter Boel's Lotus 23 was a constant front-runner over the four races for the Historic Sports & Racing Group. Bruce Melville's Elan has an interesting history, having been imported from California just a couple of years ago after a racing career and thorough rebuild in the USA. Originally consigned from the factory to Bermuda, it had the advantage of being built as a right-hand drive version, although Bruce only uses the car for competition outings rather than road work.

Peter Svensson drove his 26R-bodied Elan in the regularity events while Scott Kelly tackled the more competitive super sprints as the sole sports car. Confounding pre-race scepticism about the performance of the diminutive Elan, Scott set very quick times against tin-top competition to the astonishment of commentators and spectators alike.

While both Peter Boel and Bruce Melville hardly laid a spanner on their cars throughout the weekend, the Svensson Elan had dramas first thing on Saturday morning.

Peter returned to the pits on his first lap trailing a plume of smoke and the Elan spent the next three hours in the pits as Scott, with a number of nearby Weber "experts", attempted to resolve carburetor problems. It was pit bay neighbor, Patrick Townshend from NSW (1960 Austin Healey 3000) who scoured the paddock and found the pair of new copper floats which enabled the Elan to resume competition.

Because the Elan had missed practice, it began behind all the twenty-odd regularity competitors at the rolling start. As a result, Peter had to work his way past several cars before catching up with Bruce's Elan. Thereafter, the two Lotus cars kept very close company, passing and repassing each other as they dived with other 1600 class cars. As Bruce said at the end of the weekend: "At least we demonstrated that Lotus cars can still put on a good show".

It is strongly recommended that historic and classic sports car owners give the HRCCQ events at Morgan Park a try. The three competition levels of regularities, super sprints and races provide a good range of events for our cars. The organization was professionally run, incidents were minimal, the support of fellow enthusiasts heartening and the sporting comradeship unsurpassed.



Elan's interior set up evokes its long Targa Tasmania history



Elans ready for action



The Elans were inseparable at Morgan Park

**18-20 OCTOBER 2024**

# **HISTORIC QUEENSLAND**

**MORGAN PARK RACEWAY**



**HRCC.ORG.AU**

**INFO@HRCC.ORG.AU 0424 321 072**

Open to all 5<sup>th</sup> Category Historic race group cars and invited cars.

An invitation letter will be sent to all FULL Members of the HRCC when entries are open through the Motorsport Australia event entry system online.



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# VALE HELEN HUNT

It is with great sadness that we advise that Helen Hunt passed away suddenly in late May.

Helen along with her husband Grahame were toilers for our club over many decades and will be greatly missed.

The HRCC extended their deepest sympathies to Helen's family and friends.

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~ WANTED ~

# HRCC CLUB MERCHANDISE PERSON

We are still looking for a person to showcase the merchandise of the HRCC to competitors or spectators who attend race meetings here in South East Queensland? It is a great way of meeting club members and other race members from all over Australia who stop by the tent/trailer to enquire about our range of merchandise for sale.

The trailer is kept in a storage shed at Sumner Park, close to the Centenary Highway so easy access on the way to Morgan Park. The trailer has a lean-to tent, tables, and all current merchandise.

Be the person who selects the Merchandise items for resale and the choice is endless. Additions can be made through the present supplier or other suppliers.

If you are interested or want to some information please contact: John Tupicoff - 0408 197 344



## TENTATIVE ICC CALENDAR DATES FOR 2024

Date	Event Type	Host Club	Venue
14 July	Show 'n Shine	MX-5 Club of Queensland	Caboolture Aero Club
20 July	Super Sprint	Porsche Club Queensland	Morgan Park, Warwick
10 August	Regularity	BMW Club Queensland	Lakeside
1 September	Khanacross	HSCCQ	Willowbank
8 September	Hillclimb	MG Car Club of Qld	Mt Cotton
29 September	Navigation Run	MR2 Owners Club	TBC
27 October	Consistency Sprint	Qld 86 BRZ Club	TBC
14 December	Trophy Presentation	Inter-Club Challenge Queensland	TBC

The Inter-Club Challenge is a grassroots motorsport competition involving 12 Car Clubs and 12 different events in 2024.

See more on [Facebook](#)

# 2024 HISTORIC MOTORSPORT EVENTS

Event	Dates	Venue
HSRCA - Sydney Classic	8-9 June	Sydney Motorsport Park
Motorsport Australia State Championship Race Meeting Rd 3	15-16 June	Morgan Park Raceway
VHRR - Winton Festival of Speed	2 - 4 August	Winton Motor Raceway
Motorsport Australia State Championship Race Meeting Rd 4	10-11 August	Queensland Raceway
HLS - Historic Leyburn Sprints	17 - 18 August	Leyburn, Qld
GSCC - Historic Hillclimb	23-25 August	Mountainview Motorsport Complex
HRCC - Historic Queensland	18-20 October	Morgan Park Raceway
GCC - Australian Hillclimb Championship	24-27 October	Bryant Park, Vic
BF - Baskerville Historics	1-3 November	Baskerville Raceway, Tas
Motorsport Australia State Championship Race Meeting Rd 5	8-10 November	Morgan Park Raceway
VHRR - Historic Sandown	8-10 November	Sandown Raceway
HSRCA - Summer Festival	30-1 December	Sydney Motorsport Park



Proud sponsor of HRCC in 2024

**Disclaimer:** These dates are tentative and may change without notice. The Covid-19 pandemic or other matters may create a situation where events could be brought forward, postponed or cancelled.

# GROUP LEADERS

Groups A & C (Heritage Touring Cars)	David Paterson	0423 392 824	david.paterson@apclogistics.com.au
Group F (Historic Formula Ford)	Geoff Karger	0417 636 106	gkarger@optusnet.com.au
Group V (Historic Formula Vee)	Alan Don	0401 952 448	spit5@hotmail.com
Groups J, K, & L (Historic Sports and Racing)	Craig Carlson	0418 191 648	craig@envirohealth.com.au
Group N (Historic Touring Cars)	Claude Ciccotelli	0415 136 098	claudeciccotelli@gmail.com
Groups S & T (Historic Production Sports Cars)	Peter Richards	0408 957 966	peter.richards@paccon.com.au
Groups M, O, Q, R (Historic Sports Cars)	Mike Gehde	0413 651 867	gehde@guardianinvestments.com.au
Groups M, O, P, Q, R (Historic Racing Cars)	Barry Wise	0415 318 913	barryjanwise@spin.net.au
Group U (Historic Sports Sedans)	Mark Stockwell	0414 407 490	mark@4orceracing.com.au
Regularity	Andrew White	0473 435 606	acw46motorsport@gmail.com
Co-ord & Committee Rep for Group Leaders	Claude Ciccotelli	0415 136 098	claudeciccotelli@gmail.com
Website	Lisa Catchpole	0407 504 755	info@hrcc.org.au
Historic Torque Editor	Lisa Catchpole	0407 504 755	lisa.p.catchpole@outlook.com
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Concessional Registration Officer	Jim Goulden	0400 525 865	info@hrcc.org.au
Historic Eligibility Officers	Bruce Richards	0419 675 020	
	Peter Herlihen	0414 474 408	

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**Commercial Ads** – Advertising packages are available at a reasonable cost for inclusion in this newsletter as well as the HRCC website. Your support will assist in making HRCC a stronger voice in the historic racing community.

Contact the Editor

[lisa.p.catchpole@outlook.com](mailto:lisa.p.catchpole@outlook.com)

0407 504 755



**\$34,950.00**

### 1965 RAMBLER CLASSIC 660 CROSS COUNTRY WAGON

Built at AMI Port Melbourne, one of only 185 in 1965, this American/Australian beauty was discovered, unrestored, in Adelaide in 2009 and driven home to Brisbane by the current owner.

In 2010, all rust was removed and a full body structural restoration was completed by Pebble Beach award winning Sleeping Beauties, Brisbane.

A stunning duotone refinish resulted in a white turret overlaying a lower body in blue whilst internally the original red trim offsets the AMC tri-colour presentation. Over the years mechanical overhauls have returned this wagon to a high level of on-highway cruising ability.

In 2021/2 a complete engine overhaul was completed by Mark and Garry Hammond of Capalaba and the car was last displayed at the RACQ Motor Fest in June 2023.

Personalised plates, subject to state laws, are included in the sale.

Originally considered as an historic tow vehicle for a 1968 AMC AMX 390 the complete combo is also available with a tandem trailer to suit.

**John Carson**

**0408 735 358**

**[jaccarson50@gmail.com](mailto:jaccarson50@gmail.com)**



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### 1972 GROUP N Torana GTR XU-1, Trailer and Tow Car Combo

This well-known Queensland Group Nc Torana was first developed by Greg Burrowes in 1994 and ran at HRCC's Historic Queensland in 1995, at Lakeside.

Thereafter David Malone competed the car until, in early 2014, keen Holden man David Streat purchased the GTR and it again became a regular Group N entrant at Lakeside, and especially Morgan Park. David currently competes another XU-1 and so in August 2023 John Carson took over ownership.

Meanwhile this one-careful-lady-owner 2012 Mitsubishi Challenger LS Diesel automatic has done under 177,000 kilometers, features dealer fitted towbar plus electric brakes and has never been off-road or on the beach.

Unfortunately, due to a December 2023 skiing accident in Canada John is now having to give up motorsport and the Torana, a PBL 2490 kg ATM trailer and the Mitsubishi Challenger are now available for purchase. The PBL ATM 2490 kg tandem trailer is fitted with a 12,500 lb electric winch.



**Contact**  
**John Carson**  
**0408 735 358**  
**jaccarson50@gmail.com**



**\$79,975.00**

## 2002 HSV GTO

A rare item, this HSV Coupe is a six-speed manual having travelled less than 35,000 K in its 22 years of one-person ownership.

It is Build # 385 and is one of only a very few in this colour, trim and driveline combination.

This HSV Racing Green tan trimmed (oatmeal) beauty has always been garaged and comes with its original HSV documentation, alloy presentation brief case, console tool kit and complete history file.

Personalised plates do not go with the car. A reversing camera was fitted in 2023.

**Contact**  
**John Carson**  
 0408 735 358  
[jaccarson50@gmail.com](mailto:jaccarson50@gmail.com)



**\$35000.00**

## 1968 Morris Mini Cooper S, Group U Log Booked Historic Sports Sedan

**History:**

Competition history from 1977, mainly raced Amaroo & Oran Parks

**Restoration:**

Completed to 1983 spec for COD purposes. Livery: Rapid Transport

**Mechanicals:**

1380cc (new build by Ken Nelson) Russell Head, CAM. All the best components I could afford for reliability & performance. Diff: MED LSD ratio 3.9:1 Gearbox: Straight cut Remote Shift

**Paint:**

2 pack fresh total respray (2020 - GC Restorations)

**Wheels:**

Original set Mawer 13x8.5", 10x8", 13x8". Custom made Mawer 13x9", 10x8"

**Tyres:**

Hoosier Radial Slicks front and rear, 2<sup>nd</sup> set Avon radial front

**Brakes:**

Morris Marina Callipers (front), Morris Mini drums (rear), Master Cyl Triumph Stag

Way more than asking spent on the car as built to race not reluctantly sell.

Happy to answer any questions as the car has been a passion over 3 years of the research and build process.

**Contact Mark**  
 0414 047 490  
[mark@4orceracing.com.au](mailto:mark@4orceracing.com.au)





**\$4000.00 neg.**

## Car Trailer

Suitable for transporting a sportscar, small sedan or open wheeler.

Internal dimensions:  
1830w x 1300h x 4550.

Located at Tweed, NSW.

Registered until December 2024.



**Contact**  
**Phil Redhead**  
**philred43@gmail.com**



**\$380.00 ono**

**2 new and 2 part worn, Yokohama  
tyres A048 soft, 205/60R13 -86H**

Purchased July 2019, the 2 new tyres, never used stored under cover, 2 part worn good for rear, asking \$380 or nearest offer for the set of 4. Tyres stored at Wacol.

*Picture shows from Left A048 new, A048 worn & A052 new.*

**Contact**  
**John Tupicoff**  
**0408 197 344**  
**john.tupicoff@gmail.com**

# CONTACT US

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## Club Officers

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Club Merchandise	Vacant		

## TELL US YOUR STORY!

Why not share your story with us through the newsletter. It might be the car your building. an event you recently participated or officiated in or your travels with your pride and joy. All contributions for upcoming issues of Historic Torque are welcome. Please submit your story and photos to the editor at [lisa.p.catchpole@outlook.com](mailto:lisa.p.catchpole@outlook.com).

Alternatively, post articles to The Editor - Historic Torque, PO Box 353, Red Hill Qld 4059. Please include a stamped self address envelope for the return of your precious photos.

**Deadline - 12<sup>th</sup> day of each month**