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BEACon August 2025

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Chris Manion's Car Collection **9/7/2025**

His cars.

Our cars.

El Presidente's new car. Nice huh! Photo: The shadow photographer

So, I thought to myself, this run will be easy to cover for BEACon. Just take one photo of the lineup at the Gardens, and a hundred photos at Chris Manion's place, and I won't have to write much at all. Well, that wasn't how it turned out at all.

Howard's schmick Karmen Ghia convertible. Photo: The Shadow Photographer (again)

Firstly, there was the matter of Owen's new (to him) car – a beautifully presented BMW 525i which he picked up at a recent car show. He praises it highly for it's silky smooth progress down the road, and the ease with which it accomplishes everything asked of it. So it seems that Owen has gone from an Alfa **R**etired **O**ld **M**en **E**ating **O**ut, to a **B**oss **M**an's **W**heels.

Surprise of the day was the appearance of a bright yellow Harmen Ghia Convertible in the hands of Howard, a friend of Ken Macaulay-Black. It is the sort of car that makes you happy just looking at it. I have

commented before that it would be nice to have a K-G in the club, and Howard seemed to enjoy the run as much as we all did.

Photo: Owen S

When we got to the Manions', I had to decide whether to caption the photos accurately or not caption them at all. Being basically slack, I decided on the latter. So if you see a car that you find interesting, you'll have to ask Chris about it. Meanwhile, just enjoy the marvellous range of beautiful and often rare cars that were on display for us.

After a morning tea of coffee and biscuits Chris and Margaret had provided for us, Chris took the group on a tour of the sheds, providing a (sometimes humourous) commentary on each car.

57846 H

Photo: Owen S

34054 J

63193 H

GRPA00

Beautiful MGB GT Photo: Owen S

Now how's this for upholstery (and back seat passengers) in your big metallic pink Pontiac.

In the end one could only marvel at the range and variety of machines on display. It is a tribute to Chris's knowledge and his ability to pick up the right vehicle at the right time. I know that a couple of the collection were the subject of some interest from BEAC members, but whether anything comes of that, we'll have to wait and see.

Kombi with modded engine. 'This one goes up hills' was Chris's comment.

The ladies chat…

…while Chris explains

Photos: Owen S

It wasn't only looking at the cars that made us happy. The Manions' dog 'Turbo' was a huge hit, running all over the place, a friend to all.

After a while, Turbo had had enough of chasing us around the property.

Chrome Photo: Owen S

Amidst all the wonderful cars, you couldn't beat this Chevvy for 'look at me' quality. I can see this car at every Rockabilly gathering in Australia.

The gang's all here! Photo: Owen S

All too soon it was time to move on to lunch at Tahmoor Inn. Now the last couple of visits there have had problems, but this time all went well indeed. Food was good (Owen liked his steak, and that's a good indicator of that), service was good, and everyone was satisfied with the venue.

So ended a day that I think had more smiling faces than just about any other run we've been on. And I think the main reason for that is that the club was engaged in the activity that brought us all together in the first place – appreciating classic cars with like-minded friends.

Excuse the non-BEAC HSV hogging this photo of 'The Bunker' (my nickname for Tahmoor Inn).

The club owes a huge vote of thanks to run organiser Peter Carpenter, and most of all to Chris and Margaret for so graciously hosting us to view the marvellous collection.

Phil O'

President's Pondering

aka: from the 'Alpha Romeo' - Really Old Men (and Women) Eating Out

Hello BEAC members,

Welcome to the 100th edition of BEACon from our editor Phil O'.

That's correct, this August 2025 issue marks Phil's 100th production of our club's newsletter, BEACon. I asked our esteemed editor if I can contribute something to mark the occasion and he encouraged the idea.

Luckily, to fill me in on a bit of history, Phil included the following in his reply: "My first edition as editor was February 2016. The previous editor was Rob Turner, but he was doing it in caretaker mode after the previous editor finished up. I don't know, or at least I can't remember who that editor was. When I took the job, BEACon was about three pages, mostly the calendar of events and not a lot else.

"My first edition was 13 pages long, but eight of those pages were the papers for the AGM. I had my first run report (a one pager), which I'm going to include in the 100th edition, and I introduced a photo of the venues on each run in the club calendar. In those days, the club's runs were set at least two months ahead, so I could report the next four runs in each edition."

Not surprisingly, Phil is the only one left from the six names on his first BEACon's masthead (the club's committee) who is still a regular attendee of BEAC activities.

I fondly remember catching the train from Bundanoon to Sydney one day some years ago (to pick up my Triumph Herald after having its twin SU carbies reconditioned) and I had printed out the current BEACon to read on the train. I was amazed, what a publication! It had a story, if my memory serves me correctly, about the development of the Mini, a really engrossing read. And Phil includes a similarly interesting story in every BEACon, something different every issue!

So, 2025 is Phil's 10th year as BEACon Editor, a remarkable achievement. And this month is his 100th edition of BEACon - enjoy the issue and enjoy the history. Thanks Phil!

Cheers,
Owen Sinden

PS So… some of us have had the memorable experience of being an editor, whether it being for cars or business or a sporting club - and all those editors have one thing in common - they crave contributions! I don't think 'crave' is too strong a description, in fact it's probably perfect. Leaving everything to the editor means the editor has a rather onerous job, being responsible for everything in the publication.

There is a solution… become a contributor yourself! Don't worry about punctuation and spelling, the editor will fix that - it's the story that's most important, especially if it has a photo or three with it.

The moral of all this? Editors LOVE contributions! What can you contribute? Well, if you organise one of our bi-weekly runs, write a story about that. Or… we have 60 BEAC members and every single one of us can remember our first car - so 'My First Car'. Or maybe 'My First Classic Car'. Or if your name is Chris, maybe 'My First 50 Classic Cars'.

Or 'Background of your Committee Members' (do you really want to know? Will you believe them?). Or… 'My-Friend-Gail-Who-Took-Eight-Goes-To-Get-Her-License-In-The-1970s-And-Still-Criticises-Every-Other-Driver-On-The-Road' - improbable but true, you really want to know about this one!

From my first BEACon

For this, my 100th BEACon, I thought you would indulge me reprinting my first ever run report from my first ever edition in February 2016. But when I looked at that edition, I thought that the President's Report was also worth reproducing, especially for the benefit of newer members. You will also note that the run report does not really cover the run at all – rather it is the story of the trouble I encountered on the run as a result of my own negligence. And, would you believe, I was to go on and repeat that same negligence another two times (making four times in all)! I finally cured the problem by having a new radiator installed in the Cooper as part of its rebuild, and now I don't bother to check the water level at all!

President's Report

You will have noticed that we have a new BEACon Editor. Thank you Phil for accepting the position with a minimum of persuasion. However, he has returned the favour by requesting a President's report each month – sneaky.

Our first run for 2016 to Fitzroy Lake was well attended. The run through Range Road, Tourist Road, Robertson, Pearson's Lane and Myra Vale Road was very scenic. The weather was good and the picnic atmosphere of the venue was enjoyable. Maybe another picnic run could happen this year.

BEAC will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on Wednesday 2nd March at Bistro One46, Kangaroo Valley. Pencil this into your diaries. Most members are aware of the excellence of this venue – we had our 10th HEMA/BEAC Anniversary there.

Originally, our Club began as **H**ighlands **E**uropean **M**otorist's **A**ssociation to provide a mid-week outing for people who were mainly already members of Sydney Clubs. But it grew so quickly in three years that the issues of Incorporation, Insurance and Liability raised their ugly heads. BEAC was born in late February/March 2006 with Martin Frosh as President. In 2012, he was appointed our first, and to date, our only Life Member.

Bob Payne.

Fitzroy Lake Run (by one who almost didn't get there)

As El Presidente has reported, there was an excellent line-up of cars at the meeting point for the first run of the year to Fitzroy Lake. It was a pretty warm day (high twenties), so early that morning I filled up the Coopers S's radiator and, after a break to answer the phone, checked the oil and the tyre pressures. I departed the meeting point pretty much last in line and had only gone a few hundred yards down Osborne Road when I saw the beautiful Austin Healey pulled over, with other club members stopping to offer assistance. I know how that feels, as the Cooper had experienced problems on our last run to Tahmoor Inn and I had to return home (but used another car to make the venue).

As the run progressed, I noticed the temperature gauge was going a little higher than I had expected at times, but seemed to recover each time. On the run up to Robertson Pie Shop from the top of Macquarie Pass we met a couple of members who had stopped to assist the Healey and had driven to intercept us along the way. But by the time we reached the Pie Shop, my temp gauge was going very high indeed and I had to pull over into the parking area. I already had a suspicion in my mind and sure enough, lifting the bonnet revealed that the radiator cap was not on the radiator, but resting where I had left it, in a recess formed between the side-mounted radiator, the end of the engine block, the radiator hose in front and another hose at the rear. (I have done this trick twice now, and both times found the cap still sitting in this space when the bonnet was opened. I am not anxious to try my luck a third time!)

The problem arose when I was distracted by the phone. There is a piece of good advice in the aircraft world which says that if you are distracted when you are preparing an aircraft for flight, **you must go back to the start of the procedure and do it all again**. I didn't do that.

Anyway, I had 750ml of water with me, so I put that in the radiator, but couldn't really see if that was enough. I drove somewhat slowly on to Robertson, but the temp gauge was right up there again, so I parked and bought a 1.5 litre bottle of water and put almost all of that in before the radiator was full again. With the Cooper now happy again, I proceeded to the venue, which indeed was a great spot, but due to another commitment, I could only spend 20 or so minutes there. Ah well, will do better next time!

Phil O'

CLUB CALENDAR – August 2025

- **Runs start at 10 am from the Botanical Gardens Car Park on the corner of Old South Road and Kangaloon Road, unless otherwise noted.**
- **Please Note: all PDF files and links are available on the club's Events Web Page**

August

Wednesday 6th August
Pelican Rocks Restaurant, Greenwell Point.
Numbers must be sent to Chris Brangwin's email cjbrangwin@gmail.com by Monday August 4th.
Download runsheet BEAC Run to Greenwell Point Aug 2025
The club members Meet at | 10am
at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens car park
1 Old South Road Bowral at the roundabout Cnr Kangaloon and Eridge Park Roads
Run organiser. Chris and Janelle Brangwin | 0407260263

Events run by other clubs

Last Sunday of each month - Cars and Coffee at Berrima.
Berrima District Historical Vehicle Club website http://www.bdhvc.com.au

Friday 12- Sunday 14th September 2025

Gathering of the Faithful. Wagga Wagga

Friday 19th – Sunday 21st September Grenfell car poker run.

Annesley - Christmas in July

23/07/2025

Thirty-two BEACers assembled at the Bot Gardens for the Christmas in July lunch run to Annesley. Unfortunately, the cold breeze that has been so evident lately was still with us, but at least there was no rain to bother the open top cars.

Star car of the day was undoubtedly Charles Coode's MG TD Mk 11 Roadster, brought out especially for this event. Also good to see the Woods bring their 'Frogeye' Sprite Mk 1 to battle the elements.

Photo: The Shadow Photographer

Photo: The Shadow Photographer

We ended up taking a shortened route to get to Fitzroy Falls, then on to Robertson and back via Kangaloon Road to reach Annesley where run organiser Ross Pollock had arranged for the nine classics to park within the grounds, so residents could inspect the cars while we were eating.

The Sprite's alternate driver enjoyed his stint in control.

TD Mk 11’s sportier engine.

Mini model display.

Our venue was the Annesley Ballroom, and it was a good location for us – spacious, and without the other patrons that one might find in a hotel or restaurant. The main meal of ham and turkey with sides was a good size and quality, though the turkey was a bit on the dry side. Dessert of plum pudding with brandy custard and ice cream went down well with us all. And there was plenty of wine (at least on our table) brought in by members to see that everyone had a drink to toast the occasion. BEAC's legendary conviviality was well in evidence throughout the afternoon.

Run organiser Ross Pollock put a lot of effort into this event, with liaison with Annesley management, negotiating the parking arrangements, and directing traffic when we arrived, all over and above the normal requirements of putting a run together. We thank you Ross for your dedication.

Phil O'

Whilst looking for content from my first edition of BEACon, I found this table that I provided to the committee when they were considering the viability of venues for 2018 runs. It makes interesting reading now. Some venues no longer exist (under this name anyway), some we have outgrown, some we just stopped going to, and some are still with us.

BEAC Run Venues 2016/2017

	Times Visited
• **Antill Park Golf Club, Picton**	**1**
• **Bargo Hotel**	**2**
• **Courtyard Café, Berrima**	**4**
• **Bistro 146, Kangaroo Valley**	**2**
• **Burrawang Café**	**2**
• **Burrawang Hotel**	**1**
• **Cambewarra Lookout**	**2**
• **Camden Golf Club**	**1**
• **Common Ground, Razorback**	**2**
• **Crookwell Hotel**	**1**
• **Eling Forest Winery**	**3**
• **Fireside Inn, Goulburn**	**2**
• **Fitzroy Inn**	**1**
• **Fitzroy Lake**	**1**
• **Gibraltar Golf Hotel**	**2**
• **Heatherbrae Pies, Sallys Corner**	**1**
• **Jamberoo Hotel**	**1**
• **McVitty Grove Winery**	**2**
• **Merino Café, Gunning**	**1**
• **Milton Park (Special event)**	**1**
• **Moonacres Harvest Kitchen, Robertson**	**1**
• **Penrose Café**	**1**
• **Robertson Cheese Factory**	**1**
• **Robertson Inn**	**3**
• **Scottish Arms, East Bowral**	**2**
• **Shoalhaven Heads Hotel**	**1**
• **Stones Patisserie, Berrima**	**1**
• **Tahmoor Hotel**	**1**
• **Wallacia Hotel**	**1**
• **Wollondilly Heritage Centre**	**1**

Batteries U Need

As it so happened, Jenny and I were told within a couple of days of one another that our car batteries needed replacing. Normally that would mean a phone call to the NRMA, but Tony at AJs told us to go around to Batteries U Need to get replacements. I had never heard of them, but around we did take both cars to this very unremarkable little business frontage in Alcorn Street Bowral.

We got there in time to meet 80-year-old proprietor Bruce, who was just leaving to do a battery replacement out on the road somewhere. Upon his return he replaced the batteries in our cars and another one in a young lady's car which had driven in while we waited. I was impressed watching him lugging the batteries from and to the cars, and his knowledge in picking the best battery to suit our needs. Once inside the building, one could see, as his business card says, that he caters for a wide range of applications.

Talking to him later, I found out that he was born in Bowral 80 years ago, to a mining family. His father told his four boys not to go down the mines, so of course they all did. After his mining career, Bruce opened a battery franchise in Bowral but became dissatisfied with the franchise arrangements and set up on his own. He is still going strong, and though he says he should give the game away, I think that will be hard for him to do.

He struck me as the classic Aussie battler, and as such, I think he deserves our support. So, if you are in the market for a battery, not just a car battery, but anything over and above the Eveready style alkalines, check him out!

Phil O'

MOTORING MIRTH

Thank you to all contributors to this edition.

Phil O'