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BEACon July 2026

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The Wilton, Bingara Gorge **10/6/2026**

Organisers: Gary and Mary-Ann Clarke

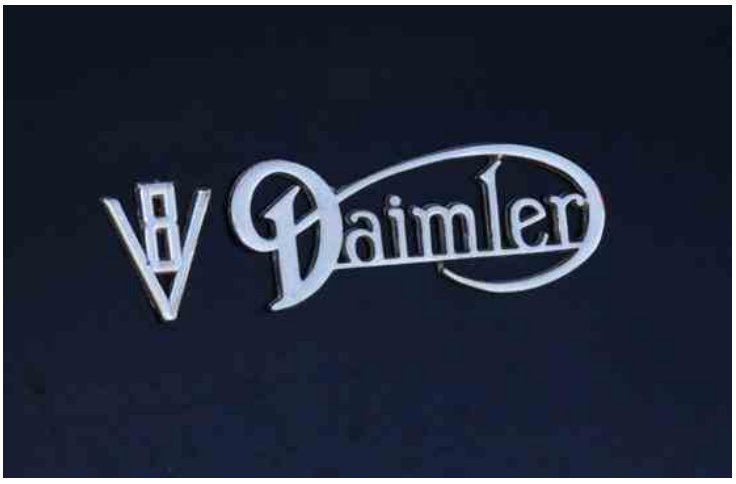
"I'll be back." It's a bit of an intimidating utterance, considering it is associated with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 1984 sci-fi movie 'The Terminator'. However, "I'll be back" was uttered time and

again in the serene and relaxed atmosphere of a BEAC outing on Wednesday 10 June and no-one was at all worried.

The reason? Simple; the Gary and Mary-Ann Clarke BEAC run to The Wilton at Bingara Gorge was superb, and less than a month after the venue's official opening. What a venue! And what a well-organised drive through some superb scenery!

And before I forget… Whatever you're doing next time The Wilton is a destination for BEAC, drop everything else and turn up, you won't regret it.

It all started on another one of those balmy, sunny mornings at the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens car park (when will winter arrive?), with a host of classic cars on show.



3000

MINOR
1000

KMB 101

Southern Highlands
Botanic Gardens
Watch us Grow

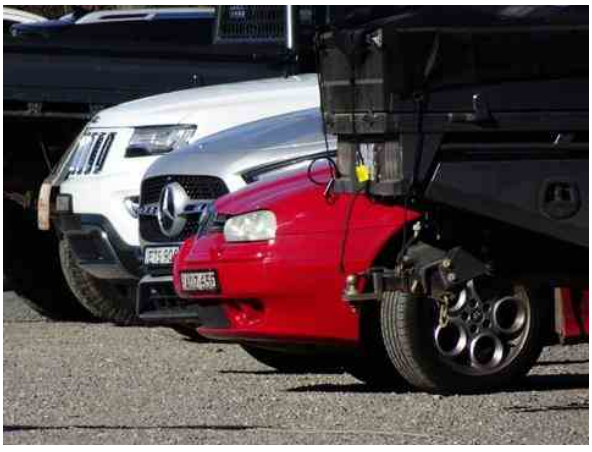
Steve Miller's MGA.

Kevin Bell's Capri Turbo.

Mike and Annie's Austin-Healey 3000 - the keys were in it, and a thought entered my head...

Steve's MGA's interior.

LCG·327



Of course, up went a bonnet (this time prospective members Mike and Annie's Austin-Healey 3000) and the crowd came to look.

Ralph Ierace admiring the 3000's engine bay.

Phil's Daimler attracted a crowd too.

Being a slightly longer than usual run, we set off at 10.30 in a northerly direction, with the convoy remaining largely intact all the way.

Beware the speed camera….

Morris Minor Series II, elegantly located in a paddock up on Razorback

Then it was 'The Wilton'. Wow, what an impressive set-up, the new $50 million country club with a 1000-capacity beer garden, complete with an on-site golf course. The food matched the venue, delicious, with a 2-for-1 meal offer for people who downloaded the app - which most of us did. And dessert matched the meal. And the coffee matched the dessert.

Join the golf club...

Oil-covered rubber boot in the car park - but which car did it belong to?

THE
WILTON
TABLE #
PL 5
TIME
GUEST
PAX
12:00
mary-Ann
40

Allan watches as Lyn fills out the BEAC membership form. This was Allan and Lyn Ray's 5th run - welcome to the BEAC family.

Smallest car on the run…

"I'll be back." Really? More like "We'll be back." No pressure, Gary and Mary-Ann, springtime at Bingara Gorge sounds perfect.

Owen S

BEAC Members Survey

British & European Automobile Club (Southern Highlands NSW) Inc

Member Survey
(aka 'Get to know your BEAC members')

Name: Peter Carpenter

Years of BEAC membership: Approx 12 years

Work: what did you do (or still do)? was National Customs & Shipping Manager of Toyota Australia

Life outside of work (tell us a little about yourself)
Retired at 54 – received a good payout – Carol & I took some months to evaluate various financial options, eventually decided on purchasing & leasing houses. From (say) 56 YO to 68 Y.O rode Motor bikes all over Queensland, NSW, Victoria & South Australia with mates, after that Carol & I became Car Race Marshalls & did duty at Targa Tasmania, many Wakefield & Eastern Creek. Raced & continued to muckabout with Cars

Cars you have owned: 1ST = Standard 8, Vauxhall Victor Renault Floride, MG M MG B's. Sunbeam Alpines, bug eye sprites Rapiers Tank Fairlanes both sedan & Waggon many Valiants & Many Toyotas

Best car you ever owned - and why? Can't define one! However liked VG Valiant Pacers 65 Mustang GT, Jaguar XJC + 2017 Mustang & Subaru WRX STI All exhilarating!

Classic car(s) currently owned: Merc SLK 230, Mini Cooper S (08) MX5 (89) & Ford Mustang Convertible (65)

Put one over corporations

An old French lady had a small shop in her village for years until one day a huge corporate supermarket set up across the road from her little shop.

They put up signs advertising their prices, including one that said:

Butter – 10 francs.

In response, the old lady added a sign to her own window:

Butter – 9 francs.

The next day, the big supermarket had a new sign:

Butter – 8 francs.

Sure enough, the day after the lady's sign now read:

Butter – 7 francs.

This went on for a while until eventually one of the lady's customers pointed to the sign and said,

"Madame, you cannot keep your prices so low for long. These big companies can use their buying power to sell products cheaper, but a little store like yours can never compete."

In response, the old lady bent forward conspiratorially and muttered,

"Monsieur, I don't even sell butter."

The Hillman Zimp

The Italian styling concern Zagato is famous for classics such as the Aston Martin and Alfa Romeo Zagatos. There are Ferraris and Maseratis with a Zagato body, and there is the Zimp.

A Dorchester-based company was formed in early autumn 1964, headed by Peter Thomas and Anthony Charles: British Zagato Ltd. in Kingston-on-Thames. Zagato saw possibilities on the British market for a car with Hillman Imp mechanicals, and an aluminum bodyshell styled the Italian way. They intended to produce them, with the blessing of Rootes, in Britain (thus avoiding import duties).

Peter Thomas bought two Imps from a dealer in Oxfordshire. Peter and his wife drove these to the Zagato design studio in Milan. The studio was already working on another Hillman Imp Deluxe, which had been bought second-hand in the U.K. In just nine months, the cars were transformed into Zimps so that Zagato could exhibit its Zimp at the 1964 Earl's Court Motor Show.

Zagato was famous for making their versions of the body shells a lot lower and lighter. The Zimp weighs 630 kg. Its height is 128 cm. (The Imp has 138 cm.). This and the better streamlining means an increase in top speed to about 140 kph.

British Zagato Ltd. planned to tune the Imp engine from 39 hp. to 46 hp.

When Chrysler heard about the cooperation between Rootes and Zagato, they used their 50% holding in the company to block the project. So, to the advantage of the later upmarket Imps, only three prototypes were produced.

(Pity, it looks like it could have been a success. -Ed.)

CLUB CALENDAR – July 2026

- **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**

July

Wednesday 8th July
Club Bundanoon
Download run sheet. Club Bundanoon 8 July 2026
Numbers needed – please sms Owen Sinden on 0412 687 135
Our club meets at 10am for Runs at Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens car park,
1 Old South Road Bowral – at the roundabout Cnr Kangaloon and Eridge Park Road.
Organiser Owen Sinden

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

Second Sunday of the month Cars & Coffee at Picton.

Gathering of the Faithful

MG Car Club Canberra Inc. is pleased to confirm that the 2026 Gathering of the Faithful event will be held in Canberra over the weekend 18-20 September 2026.

An outline of the event program and accommodation details can be found here gof-canberra-bulletin-1

Grenfell Lights Poker Run - 18 to 20/21 September

BEAC members and friends are invited the Car Poker Run, an important fundraiser for the ***Grenfell Lights*** initiative by our Grow Grenfell Group, www.growgrenfell.com.au, part of the Grenfell Lights promotion.

https://aboutregional.com.au/new-light-shines-on-historic-town-of-grenfell-and-its-famous-silos/444026/

Attached is the poster for our 2026 Grenfell Lights Poker Run which is a 3 day event with the $2,500 Poker Run on the Saturday 19 September 2026. We have a hold on 20 units at the Grenfell Motel for our Poker Run weekend. The motel is situated in the main street.

Best regards
Jeff Gallimore

Grenfell Lights

Car Poker Run

Saturday 19 September 2026

Presented by the Grenfell Lions Club Inc

CALLING ALL

British & European

Automobile Club Members

Come and support this 3 day fundraiser event !!

$2,500.00 in Prize Money

Friday 18 September – Cruise and Car Quiz

- 5:30pm - Park-up of cars in lower-end of Grenfell Main Street and cruise to Grenfell Silos Lightshow
- 6:30pm – Car Quiz at Grenfell Bowling Club @ $10 per person with dinner available at Club Bistro

Saturday 19 September – Poker Run

- Depart Grenfell Bowling Club at 9:30am - car cruise to various towns and villages in the district with stops along the way for morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea. Entry @ $50 per vehicle (*provides for 2 x Entries*)
- Vehicles return to Grenfell at 3:30pm for with *Park-Up of Cars* in the lower main street
- 6pm – Grenfell Bowling Club for drinks, prizes, Live Entertainment and Dinner available at Club Bistro

Sunday 20 September – Cars & Coffee & Cruise

- From 8am - Breakfast, Cars & Coffee at Unwind Café – Main St in Grenfell - no bookings required
- 10:30am – Cruise to Grove Estate Winery in Young for lunch – no bookings required

www.growgrenfell.com.au ** Contact Susie on 0402 261 126 for assistance with Accommodation

All Poker Run profits to assist in establishing the *Grenfell Lights* as a tourism drawcard for our historic town

[Grenfell Poker Run click here for further details]

Vale Bob Thomas

Several BEAC members attended a wonderful celebration of the life of Bob Thomas on Thursday 25th June at the Stables at Berrima.

Bob was the oldest of 4 children he left school when he was 14yrs old and started working in his father's garage, he joined the navy as an engineer and served on HMAS Melbourne before he joined QANTAS as an aviation engineer. He had always tinkered with trucks and cars, loved anything with a motor, so he left QANTAS and started his own transport business All Star transport. After a family tragedy left him as a sole parent to his 3 children, he joined the Berrima bus service and did the school run. He met and married Sandy in 1987

His passion for racing began with go carts, the speedway and later historic racing. He continued on to racing MG's, sprites and open wheelers his last race car was a Morris major, which will now be raced by his grandson. His race number was 32 and he was known as " Hot Rod Thomas " at the track.

Bob restored many classic cars at a very high standard. His first restoration was an MGTC and BEAC members will all be familiar with his current Aintree green MGB, which gained him an award at last year's Gathering of The Faithful in Wagga Wagga.

Bob was always happy to share his extraordinary knowledge with others and was a well-respected member of the club.

Terminus Hotel Marulan 24/6/2026

I'm glad that my first run back with BEAC after time spent travelling was to the Terminus Hotel at Marulan. I have fond memories of the club's visit there last September - good food, good atmosphere, the warming fire in the open fireplace and the happy vibes that seemed to pervade the place. And I'm glad to say they were all there again this time.

Yet again the Bot Gardens car park played host to a varied selection of classic cars, on a day of warm sunshine following a below zero temperature morning. Alan and Lyn's TR6 caught the eye, as did the yellow Karman Ghia and the Wood's Morris Minor Traveller (a car I've always had an affection for). But all of our classic cars are a delight to behold, especially in convoy. I noted an instance today of a local gentleman in Penrose waving to us as we passed by.

At the run briefing we were reminded not to park on the tarred area around the water tower, as the water trucks have to use it to turn around to fill up there. I was also told by Richard Holmes that his E-type is being repaired after its accident at Picton. It will be a great day when we can welcome the car back into the BEAC fold.

So off we went, through Moss Vale and Exeter to Bundanoon, where we joined Penrose Road/Highland Way all the way to Marulan. This road traverses a wide range of Highlands scenery, passing though the villages of Penrose, Wingello and Tallong on the way. Like most Highlands Roads, it can be quite bumpy in places, but on a good weather day such as today, it is a delightful drive. After approximately an hour we arrived at Marulan. It is a typical small country town, with a selection of shops and food outlets catering to locals and tourists. It's a popular stopover for motorbike riders and car groups such as ours. On the way

down the main street, I noted another car group stopped at the Lazy George Café. The group included a red/black roof classic Mini in fully restored condition.

Inside the pub, the fire was going and it took us no time at all to settle in. I ordered the bangers and mash (surprised?), and was very impressed with them when I ate them (a sentiment seconded by another

member at our table). I also heard a strong recommendation for the Barramundi dish, so I might have that next time we go there. I had to leave early, but the club was very much in full swing when I left.

On behalf of the club, I thank organisers Rob and Edith Stenvert for providing us with a very enjoyable day out.

Phil O'

MOTORING MIRTH

Thank you to all contributors to this edition.

(especially Owen, who contributed a record 63 photos for The Wilton run)

Phil O'