

ELFIN

OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 152 - JANUARY 2020



REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NUMBER VBH-4024

ELF - IN



❖ Small, slight, and delicately - made or proportioned, quick, agile and delicate (as in movement or thought), having an otherworldly, unearthly or magical quality.

- Webster's Dictionary.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

Well what an exciting time it was for Elfin in 2019! The celebrations started with the EODC display at the Phillip Island Classic in March, continued at our annual barbeque a week later, moved on to the spiritual home of Elfin at Mallala in May, and then really went into overdrive at the special dinner and track experience morning at The Bend... The display and parade at Winton Festival of Speed in early August, display at Classics on the Park (Perth) mid August, luncheon at Lockyer Valley Convention Centre (near Brisbane) later in August ensued, leading into a great reunion evening at Bellerive Yacht Club and a myriad of events at Baskerville (Hobart) in September prior to the final display at the HSRCA Summer Festival (Sydney Motorsport Park) in late November. Thank you to all those members – past and present – who attended these occasions and supported the Elfin marque in very many ways. There were so many stories shared, cars perused and joy spread throughout the year. A huge thanks to all the organisers who put in countless hours to ensure their success.

In competition on the track, Elfins made their mark too. **STEVE WELLER** again dominated events in the UK and Europe, Tom Tweedie broke records at Morgan Park in father **BOB TWEEDIE**'s MS7, the restoration of **MARK GOLDSMITH**'s 400 caught many a journalist and photographer's eye and **RICHARD NITSCHKE** took out a national title. Great work fellas!

Many owners and drivers worked very hard to have their Elfin's restored for 2019 and your efforts are to be celebrated too. So many were out participating at numerous events across the country. What a great effort! (Large or small, remember to let me in on all your triumphs....)

One sad note in May 2019 was the death of a man who played a significant role in building many Elfins over the years. Several members caught up with **JOHN WEBB** prior to the dinner in South Australia, but unfortunately he passed away soon after. Later in the year previous Clubman of the Year **GRAHAM HOINVILLE** also passed away. A tribute to John, Graham, Bruce Went, **TREVOR POUND** and **ROD BARRETT** have also been included in this edition.

It was great catching up with many of you at the celebration events in 2019 and sharing Elfin stories. Roll on the rest of 2020!

Cheryl.





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. BITS 'N' PIECES

The 30th anniversary of the Phillip Island Classic was a fitting setting for local resident **PETER LARNER** (at right) to be presented with his EODC Lifetime Achievement Award, and plenty of Elfin members were present to acknowledge Peter's triumphs.

24 Elfins graced the Phillip Island track while five other Elfins were on display at various times during the meeting. The display in the pit area proved a great spot for members to catch up with one another, and share their various 'exploits'. One gentleman from Singapore was particularly excited to stumble across our display. I watched him wander past, stop, turn, reread the sign and then charge over calling out "Garrie Cooper Garrie Cooper!" He had witnessed Garrie win the Singapore Grand Prix in 1968 and been fascinated by the marque ever since. (I couldn't join him up as a member but he revisited the site several times to chat and buy several pieces of memorabilia. It made both our weekends!)



One of our newest members, **MALCOLM BOYD** (at left) was also on hand to put the first of his three 792 rebuilds through its paces for the first time. Here the car sits proudly with **BILL HEMMING's** MR8, and (below) reunited with original driver John Bowe.



It was also great to see **TREVOR LAMBERT** (below) in one of his last races in the ME5. (Yes, Trev has put the beast up for sale... but we're hoping to lure him into another Elfin in the future.)



Take a look at the interview for *In Pit Lane* recorded at Phillip Island 2019 by Brett Ramsay with **MARK GOLDSMITH**. Found (20:02) in the third segment of the program a number of other Elfins and EODC drivers can be seen in some of the additional footage while Mark is talking about the Globe Elfin. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_XKCa2A3bc



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. BITS 'N' PIECES

Barely a week after Phillip Island, around 60 members and partners fronted up to the Elfin Heritage Centre, to catch up with old friends, meet new members and discuss all things Elfin (or not), over a glass or two and **ARTHUR's** famous barbeque. The AGM was held, a special Anniversary cake was cut, and then it was back to checking out the cars on display or picking up some Elfin merchandise.



(**TIM WRIGHT** also used the evening to pick up the new body work (at left) for his latest project - Mallala S6316. He now needs the gearbox, and an 8 day week.)

All in all, another successful Elfin barbeque....
If you haven't been before, add the event to your 2020 calendar!

With "youth on their side", many members were up early the next morning and off to the Australian Grand Prix. Whilst the historic cars are on display each day of the event, 2019 saw the Historic Parade only run on the Sunday morning, so to have four Elfins included in their number, was particularly gratifying. **GEOFF MUNDAY's** 1974 F5000, **JAMES LAMBERT's** 1966 Mono MK2C and **BILL HEMMING's** 1963 Mallala and 1977 MR8 were all there to fly the Elfin flag and looked great as they graced the track. Thank you guys!



It was a trip down memory lane for former Elfin Mono, 600B and 630 driver **CLIVE MILLIS** (at right and in action at left) who also paid a visit to the Historic Display.



In the meantime enthusiastic Tassie member **GRANT TWINING** was recovering from his dash from the Apple Isle to Queensland and back to collect his latest acquisition, the ex - Jack Bono Elfin 600B F2 to fill the breach of another Elfin 600 F2 he sold 32 years ago. "There are some who might call me foolhardy.... One can never have too many toys!!" Twining quipped.





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

BITS 'N' PIECES

EDDINGTON SPRINTS - "Managed one run without missing gears... 15.6 sec quarter mile. Bit more work needed on the gear selector linkages before Mallala." **TIM WRIGHT.**

MALLALA HISTORICS

Spiritual home and testing ground of Elfin Sports Cars, Mallala Historics in late April was abuzz with Elfins of all shapes and sizes. One in every three cars was an Elfin and the familiar gold and black 60th anniversary caps bobbed up and down all around the circuit. Drivers, past and present, faces beaming, were on hand to congratulate **BILL BENTLEY** on his renovation of Streamliner No 1, and relive the stories of past exploits in their favourite machine. With quite a hefty contingent of cars from Victoria, the enthusiastic 'Team Tas' along with the **BYERS/CLARK** 700, and visitors from as far as Western Australia - great to see you again **STUART KOSTERA** - there was quite a carnival atmosphere and the South Australians once again made us feel very welcome. Highlight for everyone there, was the final event of the meeting when 28 Elfins, took to the track in an Elfin Regularity. Cue lump in throats for all those watching on in the late sunlight. There were hugs, there were tears and there were shouts of "More! More! More" as the cars encircled the track. *(There were smiles all round!)*





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BRIAN MORRELL'S ELFIN STREAMLINER -

HER LAST RACE MALLALA APRIL 2019

The ex Brian Morrell Elfin Streamliner (No.8) travelled to the Mallala Historic meeting last April to join in the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of Elfin Sports Cars and to run her last race at the very track that she had her first race on the October 9 1961, when the 26th Australian Grand Prix was also held. Brian brought her home in third place in the Div.2 sports car race.



As we are now going to keep her for historic hillclimbs, sprints and 'show and tell' events, it was fitting to take her back to the race track where she had her first race 58 years ago and where she secured a national gong, winner of the 1501 to 2000 class in the 1962 Australian Tourist Trophy.

It was also pretty special to have Brian and his family there to see his old race car compete in her final race at the very place where he started competing in this Streamliner as well as **GRAEME WRIGHT's** Mallala, which he purchased in 1963 after selling the Streamliner through Rod Murphy's Esquire Motors to Frank "Snowy" Elkins.

It was a great weekend of historic motor sport at a very famous and historic Aussie track thanks to the Sporting Car Club of South Australia. As Brian looked down on his old race car, he made a very special remark, when he said " Bill, this is just as she was when I raced her". With the exception of her modern tyres and mini lights, yes she is. She still has the same old Mark 1 Consul 1529cc motor, MG TC gearbox and swing axle front suspension.

Her final moment of fame came when we joined the other Elfins in the final event of the weekend, the Elfin Super Sprint. It was changed to a Regularity event given the vast range of Elfins from the 1960 Streamliners to the Formula 5000 MR8s in the 1970s. But once **GARRIE COOPER's** race cars entered the historic Mallala circuit where most of them had their first test day, long long ago, the race was on!

Graeme Wright in Brian Morrell's second Elfin, was lined up next to me in the paddock. (I just wished that a photographer had been nearby to capture this iconic shot.) Brian's two Elfins were about to go out together in this iconic Elfin event. Once out onto the track Graeme was very gracious in letting me through to chase down **DAN JEFFRIES** in his ex **LEX LAITY** Streamliner. Entering 'Penfolds Straight' before the final S bends into the home straight, Dan let me through thinking that we could run together across the line, but behind us were some very fast traffic in the guise of **BILL HEMMING** in the MR8 and **LAURIE BENNETT** in his very quick 600.



I belted Brian's old Streamliner through the Esses as fast as I knew how, and we entered the home straight with Bill's MR8 right on my tail. How good was this, as one of the first production Streamliners from fifty nine years ago, was heading to the chequered flag alongside one of the fastest Elfins ever made!

We screamed to the chequered flag, with Brian's old Streamliner saluting the flag for her final race and Bill's MR8 roaring off onto her victory lap. The flaggies gave me a big cheer as we entered the pit road. Elfin Streamliner No.8 had run her last race on the very circuit where she started her racing career in October 1961. It was a magic end to a fantastic weekend to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our beloved Elfin marque.

Many thanks to **CHERYL REID**, **MARK GOLDSMITH** and **BILL HEMMING** for organising such a wonderful weekend, capped off with the Anniversary Dinner at Tailem Bend on the Monday night and the sprints on the Tuesday morning. And thanks **JOHN LEMM** for your brilliant photos.

BILL ATHERTON



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THE BEND

Following Mallala, all eyes then focused on the intriguing new facilities at The Bend where owner and EODC member **DR SAM SHAHIN** was on hand to warmly welcome fellow enthusiasts. At the dinner on the Monday night, devotees raised a glass to 60 years of Elfin whilst **GRAHAM BOULTER**

(right) nimbly encouraged notable 'Elfinites' to share their recollections. Amongst the 100 guests were **JULIE** (Vihermaki) AND **STEVEN COOPER**, **VERN SCHUPPAN**, Kevin Bartlett, **BRYAN THOMPSON** (left), **BARRY CATFORD**, **STUART KOSTERA**. **PHIL MOORE**, **HENRI MICHELL** and **MALCOLM RAMSAY**. All had wonderful memories and some great stories to share so it was quite a nostalgic night. Thank you to **MARK GOLDSMITH** (and his merry crew) for organising the evening.



STEVEN COOPER
cuts the cake.



SCHUPPAN

STUART KOSTERA



DR SAM SHAHIN and VERN

The Track Experience the following morning saw excited drivers up early, dressed, fed and lined up in their cars eager to the experience some of the many configurations of the new track. Their ardour was a little dampened after **SAM SHAHIN** lay down another welcoming mat an oil leak from one of his cars but track staff were soon on the job and the fun continued. Loved ones and friends also joined in the action for a slow lap before the morning finished with an Elfin group photo. All in all a fitting way to finish a very special time in South Australia.





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

BITS 'N' PIECES

"Thanks again for welcoming me so warmly into the club. What a great few days (in SA) it was. As a longtime fan (and former competitor) of Elfin it was an honour to meet so many people who have been a part of the Elfin story." **ERIC IRVINE**

Steven and I would like to express our gratitude to you all. It gave us a sense of great joy and pride to see such a celebration of Elfin and to know that the Elfin "spirit" continues on in all of us. Many thanks. **JULIE and STEVEN (COOPER).**

MORGAN PARK - AUTUMN HISTORIC WARWICK

With the Warwick district at its driest for many years, a very welcome day of patchy rain on the Saturday was readily accepted, before its usual brilliant autumn sunshine on the Sunday, allowing for spirited racing and the re-setting of several lap records on the challenging 3km circuit. Perhaps the highlight of the May meeting was the first visit to Morgan Park circuit by the famous Ansett Elfin MS7, well-driven by Tom Tweedie (at left) to a new lap record for Group Q Sports Cars (1970 - 77) of 1:15.346, smashing the previous record by 3.6 seconds. Well done Tom!



WINTON FESTIVAL OF SPEED

In July a display and track parade at the Winton Festival of Speed allowed Elfin drivers from rural areas of Victoria a chance to enter into the spirit of the celebrations. Whilst this was a more low key affair, those who participated thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it gave road car drivers a taste of circuit racing as well as the Winton track. (Even some who have yet to reach the pedals).



ANDREW MANNING
leads the
parade above)
MATT SCOTT
in action (at
left)

LAURIE BENNETT and
grandson Tom

JOHN EVANS (at right)





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

BITS 'N' PIECES

Elfin Type 60RC

The latest Elfin open wheeler was been prepared for its first event - Rocker Cover racing at the Sporting Car Club of SA in July. What a good look Richard Blanden.



CLASSICS ON THE PARK

There are relatively few Elfins in Western Australia and we are always amazed at the effort that owner/drivers put in to bringing them across to the Eastern states to compete in many circuit racing events. A small number of Elfins were on display at the Classics on the Park event in August to highlight the marque and inform other Western Australians of their importance and beauty. Thank you to **STUART KOSTERA** for organising this.

QUEENSLAND

In August the Lockyer Valley Convention Centre was the focus of a great rollup of Elfinites for a luncheon and afternoon organised by **ELAINE** and **VERN HAMILTON** with MC of the event **BILL HEMMING** a huge crowd pleaser. "He knows how to work an audience and his wealth of information on Elfins knows no bounds..." The attendees included past and present drivers as well as owners of modern clubmans who were keen to discover the history of such a fine Australian marque. (After 60 years there are a lot of stories to tell.) Six Elfins were also on display at the venue and everyone was excited to see the rare ex Bob Jane Elfin 350, on show. This car, owned since 1980 by the late John Holmes and family, had undergone a huge makeover, paint still drying, to make it to the important event.

"The car display was a huge success and not just with our group. The area was open to the public and their reactions when they saw the cars was almost enough in itself to make the effort all worthwhile." Elaine enthused. What a successful day!

TASMANIA - BELLERIVE YACHT CLUB

The HRCCT (Historic Racing Car Club of Tasmania) keen to honour the role of Tasmanians in the Elfin story found the 60th Anniversary a fitting occasion. Around 150 of the Elfin faithful, locals and from the mainland, packed the Bellerive Yacht Club to enjoy an evening of reunions, laughter, tall stories, nostalgia and great warmth. Presentations were made to Don Elliott and **RON LAMBERT** in recognition for their contributions to the Elfin marque and the display of Elfins significant to Tasmanian racing history was hugely popular.





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

The ME5 was transported from South Australia especially for the event and it was hugely nostalgic to see the late **LYN ARCHER** Formula Junior again. Thank you to **GRANT TWINING, RON** (below right) and **WIN LAMBERT** for your organisation and to the HRCCT for your hospitality.



Don Elliott
(left)



Evergreen HRCCT patron **JOHN MCCORMACK**
interviewed by Barry Oliver



HISTORIC BASKERVILLE

For those motorsport fans on the mainland who have not attended the Baskerville Historics, please add it to your "TO DO" list. It is wonderful! This meeting is held in a unique setting, nestled in the hills on the outskirts of Hobart. A challenging and exciting track with unparalleled spectator views the Elfin contingent were pampered by an army of warm and friendly volunteers all weekend. Baskerville features a Grid Walk on the Sunday and as one of the featured marques it was wonderful to have all the cars together on the track and see the public pouring over them in admiration. Locally it was also a fantastic moment for Tassie hero **MAX THOMPSON** who was reunited with **MARK GOLDSMITH's** 400 in which he staged many battles in the 70's. The two took to the track for a couple of nostalgic laps and there was



barely a dry eye around the course. (Max had barely slept the night before in anticipation). Nice one Goldy!

Thank you to all those at the Hobart Sporting Car Club for their great organisation and for making us so warmly welcome. We'll be back....

(There was even a complimentary track day at Symmons Plains for mainland visitors on the Monday - bonus!)





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

HRSCA SUMMER FESTIVAL

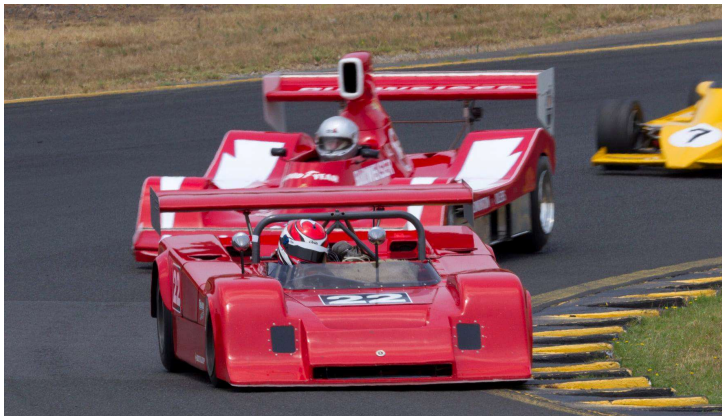
The finale to the year of celebrations was held in late November at Sydney Motorsport Park .It featured both a sprint tribute as well as a fine display of Elfins. Thank you to **GEOFF RUSSELL** for all your efforts in coordinating this celebration, the great Elfin posters, and your wonderful photographs. Thanks also to the HRSCA for highlighting Elfin's 60 years of Champions.,



MATT SCOTT (left)



ROBERT SVIDERSKAS (above)



STEVE WEBB (above)

CHRIS NEIL (right)



AND FINALLY IN WRAP UP....

SHANE LEE's tribute to Elfin's 60th anniversary was to add the name of the marque to the visor of his racing helmet, and I notice that several others have now joined him. What a great touch!



Congratulations **RICHARD NITSCHKE** taking out the National Formula Junior series for Australian built cars. He, in his little Elfin Catalina FJ, raced at Mallala, Warwick, Winton, Baskerville, Sandown and Eastern Creek. Other than a few minor hiccups the car ran faultlessly, with no DNF's. A fantastic effort!



2019 CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR - HERB NEAL

If you have been around the tracks for the last 60 years, chances are that you have witnessed our 2019 Clubman of the Year - **HERB NEAL** - in action. Chances are that you have also seen his supportive wife Jan by his side. (She has only missed one meeting and that was whilst heavily pregnant!)

Herb's interest in motorsport goes back to when he was about 10 or 12 and his father took him to Parramatta Park to see the cars racing. His first competition event was in an Austin 7 at Foleys Hill, and later he built both the Neal Ford Mk1 and Neal Ford Mk2 (the



now familiar yellow twin cam F2 car) In 2001 he purchased the badly damaged ex Johnny Walker Elfin 600B #6907 and conducted a stunning restoration for historic racing. Over the years Herb has also spent countless hours conducting restorations of other Elfins - **STEVE WELLER's** 600B #6804, **MARTIN DUNLOP's** 600FF #70006 to name a couple, as well as his current project - helping **GEOFF RUSSELL** get his Elfin 600B/E #7122 back on the track. (The rolling chassis of which was displayed at SMPS December 2019 for the Elfin Tribute.) Herb, a master restorer of racing cars, is always thinking of the future, sharing his knowledge and time with those who are willing to learn. Without his dedication, many owners, especially Elfin owners, would not have had their dreams of participating in historic motor racing realised. We recognise his great qualities - self effacing, humility, caring and an incredible knowledge and love of Elfin cars qualities we value so highly in the EODC and across historic motor racing generally.

Geoff Russell writes " For me, Herb has not only been restoring my Elfin 600E but is a trusted friend, mentor, teacher and confidante. He is always welcoming and, as I have no formal mechanical training, he demonstrates techniques then sets me tasks and supervises what I am learning and doing in his workshop. I highly value that he is teaching me the correct way to plan, assemble and set up my car and he explains his rationale that he has built through his experience. He has been sharing his time generously and I feel very privileged that he has taken me under his wing and is steering me in a good direction for the years ahead in my Elfin."

Thank and congratulations Herb; we look forward to catching up with both you and Jan at the Phillip Island Classic, and seeing you in action, cracked ribs or not!

Herb joins previous EODC winners:

1984 - IAN HOBBS; 1985 - PAUL HAMILTON; 1986 - BOB MINOGUE; 1987 - HARLEY BOGGIS; 1988 - ALBERT MIDDLETON; 1989 - BARRY CATFORD; 1990 - STUART KOSTERA; 1991 - GRAHAM HOINVILLE; 1992 - GRAHAME WARD; 1993 - BRIAN LEAR; 1994 - ROSS WILLIAMS; 1995 - JOHN BLANDEN; 1996 - RICHARD HARRIS; 1997 - STEPHEN KNOX; 1998 - BRIAN LEAR; 1999 - AARON LEWIS; 2000 - GEORGE SPANOS; 2001 - BILL PROWSE; 2002 - IAN ROSS; 2003 - CLIFF COOPER; 2004 - BILL HEMMING & NICK KOVATCH; 2005 - BRIAN SAMPSON; 2006 - BILL HEMMING & NICK KOVATCH; 2007 - LAURIE BENNETT; 2008 - TONY PARKINSON; 2009 - The HAMILTON FAMILY & LAMBERT FAMILY; 2010 - LAURIE BENNETT; 2011 - IAN BROCK; 2012 - JEFF BROWN; 2013 - MIKE BARKER; 2014 - MARK GOLDSMITH; 2015 - SHANE HUGHES; 2016 - BRIAN REED (Life Time Achievement Award); 2017 - GRAEME WRIGHT and 2018 PETER LARNER.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. FOR SALE:

ELFIN 620B

1974 Ford 4 cylinder 1600.

Fresh engine, new seat belts.

Winner of State Championship 2018.

Fully covered registered trailer and lots of spare parts.

\$25,000 ono

Enquiries to Coach on 0437 642 542 or frontin@bigpond.net.au



ELFIN ME5

\$250k (May consider a trade)

Contact **TREVOR LAMBERT** - 0412 567 440
tbl@bigpond.net.au

1976 ELFIN 700

Raced by PETER LARNER and won 1977 Formula 2 Championship as well as numerous other titles.

Restored by Peter (Peter Larner Engines) and features a re-skinned tub and floor, brand new Bilstein shockers and Eibach springs. 5 speed Hewland has also been overhauled, and engine, fitting a brand new head and front waterpump chest. Comes with spares - front noses, rear wings, 3 sets of wheels, spare starter motor etc.

This Group Q car comes with Historic Log book and C.O.D., and is prepared and ready to race!

\$65,000

Further information; Jamie Larner 0400 144 819 / 03 9439 8986





ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. FOR SALE:

60th ANNIVERSARY ITEMS:

(Contact CHERYL REID - 0419 581 815
reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au)



60th Anniversary Caps -\$25 plus \$10 postage

60th Anniversary Car Stickers
\$15 each or 2 for \$20

EODC MERCHANDISE:

(Contact BILL HEMMING -
bill@elfinheritage.com.au
polo shirts (S,M,L,XL,XXL,XXXL) -
\$35 plus postage
caps - \$20 plus \$10 postage
(polo and cap - \$50 plus postage)

elfin owners & drivers club
New embroidery right sleeve



ELFIN circle logo
existing embroidery
left breast

ELFIN existing embroidery with 50 years removed
Centre Front of cap



ELFIN circle logo
existing embroidery
left cap panel

elfin owners & drivers club
Existing embroidery over back cap arc

ELFIN TRIBUTE DRAWING:

\$25 plus \$5 postage.
Contact ERIC IRVINE - eirvine45@gmail.com or 0418398547.

See also Garage Gallery Facebook page.



ELFIN - THE SPIRIT OF SPEED:

At last, a 5 year labour of love has arrived! - the new 700 page tome "ELFIN - The Spirit of Speed"! This important piece of history and accompanying photos is available for immediate delivery. NB: Elfin owners have 6 months to take advantage of 350 limited edition copies which include the signed (by the author) book and a special embossed slip case with a hand stamped replica aluminium chassis plate of your car - strictly one per car. (After 6 months, unsold copies of your plated edition will be offered to the public)



See www.elfinspiritofspeed.com.au for details and how to order. To save on postage (\$30 for this 6 kilo book!), your copy can be picked up from The Elfin Heritage Centre or from Historic race meeting venues.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

MEMBERSHIP:

We wish to introduce our newest members, and wish them many years of enjoyment with the EODC.

No 683 - GAVAN DEARIE (VIC)

Having his 'toyshop' close by, Gavan is part of a group of motorsport drivers/owners who are regularly found at The Elfin Heritage Centre. His 1964 Pegasus Australian Special was designed and built by Tony Bowden in Adelaide utilising Elfin Monocoque type suspension as a one off build. For the last seven years Gavan has raced Pegasus at most of the VHRR events. Check out his car next time you see him!

No 684 - JOHN BARRASS (TAS)

John owns a yellow 2007 Clubman Type 3 and is another great Tassie Elfin supporter. Welcome John!

No 685 - JOSH BURDON (TAS)

Josh and father John (see below) are part of the friendly support team (known affectionately as Elfin Team Tas) for the Noel Clark/Steven Byers Elfin 700. Josh enthusiastically joined up to the EODC, leaving his father to follow in his footsteps.

No 686 - ERIC IRVINE (VIC)

Eric is the ex-owner of Elfin NG Vee 7612 which he bought new in 1978 and raced at the Formula Vee Nationals at Calder and AIR, winning the 1979 SA Formula Vee Championship. He sold the car in 1980. Still an Elfin fan, both Eric and his father attended the 60th anniversary celebrations in South Australia. (He is quite handy as an artist too!)

No 687 - JOHN BURDON (TAS)

John is a mechanic for the Byers/Clark 700 and an integral part of the friendly Elfin Team Tas. He is always willing to help out at any race meetings and/or make you a cup of coffee.

No 688 - GRANT ELLIOTT (QLD)

Grant is the proud owner of a silver 2006 Streamliner MS8 previously owned by Martin Grange.

Welcome back **SHEZ HOBBS (#33)**, **IAN EDGAR (#145)**, **MIKE GLYNN (#342)**, **KIM SHEARN (#383)** and **JOHN VAN LEEUWEN (#425)**.

60TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

Photos from the 60th anniversary celebrations in South Australia - Mallala, the Dinner and The Bend Track Day - are still available from **JOHN LEMM**.

\$60 for a package of hi res copies of all of the shots of your vehicle.

Please contact him at jl998@iprimus.com.au, 0419 816 826 for further information.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - THE FORMULA JUNIORS / CATALINAS

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| SP1 - Prototype September 1961 First owner GRANTON HARRISON/ANDY BROWN Currently MARK POOLE | | | |
| 612 | Nov 1961 | First owner ALAN FERGUSON | Currently BRIAN LEAR |
| 621 | Jan 1962 | First owner ROY MORRIS | Currently BILL HEMMING |
| 623 | March 1962 | First owner JOHN MCDONALD | Currently IAN BARKER |
| 624 | Jan 1962 | First owner JIM DESIRA | Currently BRUCE CARTER |
| 625 | Aug 1962 | First owner ELFIN SPORTS CARS (driven by Frank Matich) Currently DOUG ANDERSON | |
| 626 | August 1962 | First owner VERN WHITE | Currently JOHN MEDLEY |
| 627 | Aug 1962 | First owner GRANTON HARRISON (driven by Frank Matich) Currently CHARLIE MITCHELL | |
| 628 | Oct 1962 | First owner GRAHAM LEWIS | Currently RICHARD NITSCHKE |
| 629 | Oct 1962 | First owner RON TONKIN | Currently DAVID WATKINS |
| 6214 | Nov 1962 | First owner TOM EDGAR | Currently ??????? |
| 6310 | Jan 1963 | First owner SCUDERIA VELOCE Currently NATIONAL MOTOR RACING MUSEUM | |
| 6312 | Feb 1963 | First owner JACK HUNNAM | Currently LYN ARCHER ESTATE |
| 6313 | Mar 1963 | First owner DUNLOP (Lake Eyre Test Car) Currently DEAN RAINSFORD | |
| 6315 | ?? 1963 | First owner JACK HUNNAM | Currently TODD MILLER |
| 6316 | ?? 1963 | First owner JACK HUNNAM | Currently GEOFF DEAN |
| 6317 | Nov 1963 | First owner KEITH RILESTONE | Currently GRANT PATULLO |
| 6418 | July 1964 | First owner JIM/CARMEN MCGUIRE | Currently MAX MCPHERSON estate |
| 6319 | 62/63 | First owner VERN CERCHE | Currently BRUCE EDGAR |
| 6320 | June 1961 | First owner NOEL HURD | Currently PETER JOHNSON |

(Please let us know of any updates to this information...)



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

VALE: JOHN WEBB 3 Jan 1926 - 3 May 2019

John Webb, "The Manager" at Elfin Sports Cars, was all set to join the Elfin celebrations trackside at Mallala on the Saturday of the 2019 ANZAC meeting, only to suffer a stroke on Friday arvo and pass on a few days later in the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

To say that John loved Elfin is an understatement. He joined Coopers Body Builders in 1953 and stayed with them as **CLIFF** and **GARRIE** transitioned into building racing cars as Elfin Sports Cars, starting with the Streamliner in 1959. Years later John still had the softest of spots for the Streamliner. He felt Garrie had produced a car far ahead of its time, and starting an industry with just the initial batch of six. Of course, John deserves plenty of credit too, as his skills as a motor body shaper gave the form to Garrie's designs. John, when asked "Which was his favourite car of the lot of 'em?" admitted his bias and then nominated the Streamliner. Next on John's list was the type 300. He reckoned it was aesthetically "right"! (No argument from me on that one John!!)

Ten years ago during the Elfin 50th Anniversary Bash when re-visiting the Elfin Works, John came out with a very dry remark that struck a chord with me. In so far as the process of designing and building race cars went back in the sixties and seventies was concerned, he reckoned that they were in the "What if...." business. That is, after getting a basic concept down, then "What if we try this?" and "What if we try that?" I thought it was a great way of describing the experimentation, the test and development process that the Elfin crews dedicated so many years to, in their quest to produce near perfect racing cars!! From laying radiators down to reducing frontal area, redesigning anti-sway bars, designing and manufacturing monocoques and space frames, doing their own aero, right up to and including doing their own ground effect cars. Absolutely fantastic stuff and Webby was there for the lot of it!!

John can also be credited for the gorgeous shapes of Garrie's sports racing cars as well as the open wheelers. To be able to "see" those shapes and then wheel them into reality, freehand, requires a sublime skill that only the most talented can produce. MAL RAMSAY perhaps said it best, when telling John that "He had the best hands in Australia."



At left: John's curves on the Hartnett Streamliner Climax.

At right: Garrie's Mk2D Mono and the exquisite prototype 300. Webby's "signature" on both.



JOHN McCORMACK describes Webby as Mr 100%. Besides travelling to Sydney and staying with Frank Matich to guide Frank's men in finishing off their new Traco powered 400 back in the sixties, Webby also spent a fair stretch working with Super Mac after Garrie's death; always doing whatever it took to prepare or repair a car.



ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC. VALE JOHN WEBB cont.

Super Mac had Jim Keogh ride his Capri across the bonnet of the McCormack XJS Jag after Jim's suspension failed, a bonnet that Webby had created from alloy sheet. SuperMac then came into the pits with the bonnet looking decidedly secondhand. Webby just growled "How long have I got?" before ploughing into rectifying it. Mr 100%, right there!



(Above right: The Matich 400. Garrie "loaned" John to FM so Frank could take the car and John back to Sydney to finish it off)



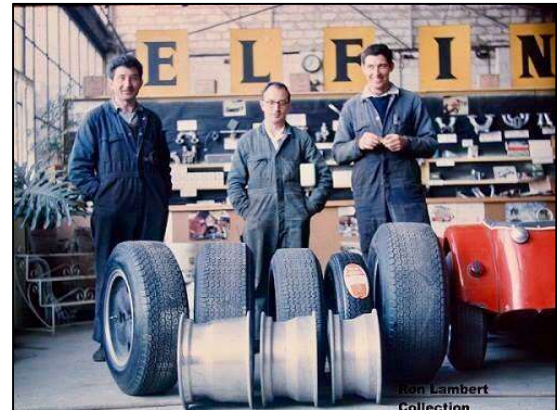
John's eldest daughter, Sue, remembers 'galavanting around' the Elfin Workshop as a youngster, "John's Corner", and the plants inside the workshop.

(Pictured at left near Webby's corner are Cliff Cooper with John Webb (right), standing alongside the Mono jig, presumably discussing modifications for the next batch of open wheelers. Garrie's personal Mono is in the foreground, still with a pushrod motor fitted).

I'd like to also send out a special thank you to **MARK SCOTT**, **BILL BENTLEY** and **DAN JEFFRIES** for using their Clubman and Streamliners to form an Honour Guard for John at his funeral.

And thank you John, for being such a big part of building all these gorgeous creations - these cars will continue to represent your passion, dedication and quest for perfection. Respect!

JAMES LAMBERT



VALE TREVOR POUND

We were saddened to hear of the passing of past EODC member **TREVOR POUND** on November 7 2019. Trevor served in the FFA committee for many years and was a key supporter of the category in South Australia. A founding father of the Open Wheel Race Car Club, his passion for the sport was unwavering, whether it be in his early days on

2 wheels, racing in Europe when you were lucky to make it home or in his later years on 4 wheels, helping to set up new clubs or helping a driver break into the sport. A genuine nice guy, his goal was to see motorsport thrive and prosper and was never afraid to put in the hard work on and off the track. The EODC would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Margaret, John, Graeme, his family and friends.



VALE GRAEME HOINVILLE OAM

On July 16, 2019 Australian motorsport lost one of its greatest contributors, **GRAHAM HOINVILLE** at age 90. Hoinville's racing and rally career is legendary. He raced a supercharged MG TC from the late 1940s, then an Elfin Mono for many years. He also won the Grand Prix Rally with his son Greg in an Elfin Clubman, the first car to win the event other than a Porsche. (Photo right)



He navigated for the late Harry Firth in rallies, and the pair dominated. They won everything worth winning including the Alpine Rally on five occasions, the 1964 Ampol Round Australia trial, the first Southern Cross Rally in 1966 and the inaugural Australian Rally championship in 1968. Graham was co-organiser of the International BP Rally of South Eastern Australia with John Pryce and Donald Thomson, and a leading member of the Ford Australia assaults on the East African Safari rally in 1962 and the 1968 London to Sydney marathon, navigating for Firth. The team finished 3rd, 5th and 8th in the marathon and won the teams' prize.

Hoinville was also one of the founders of CAMS, and together with Thomson and Pryce, wrote the rules under which motorsport is run. A qualified engineer, Graham understood the technical side of motorsport very well, and was instrumental in the creation of the CAMS judicial system, which in turn saw the establishment of the CAMS Eligibility Committee (CEC), which he chaired for more than 30 years. He was Australia's delegate at FIA Historic Racing Commission meetings in Paris for a number of years.

1991 EODC Clubman of the Year, Graham Hoinville was a gentle, fair, knowledgeable and highly respected person and motorsport will be the poorer for his passing. Thank you Graham!

VALE ROD BARRETT

Passionate motorsport enthusiast **ROD BARRETT**, died recently at 59, following his long battle with cancer. Born in Hobart, he was introduced to Elfins by father **JIM**, who owned and raced Elfin Catalina 624 in the late sixties and early seventies. Later, as the owner of the Elfin Aero Formula Ford, Rod began writing articles for the EODC when living in Kuala Lumpur way back in 1994 and, despite not owning the Elfin since 1996, had been a member ever since.

Rod's passion for motorsport saw him move to Europe to chase a career in the industry and he worked as part of Bob Holden's team at the Spa 24 Hour in 1986. In England he had several jobs, including part of management at the Brand Hatch circuit, as well as success in production car racing as a driver. On returning to Australia he worked with Coca-Cola where he was heavily involved with the sponsorship of Frank Gardner's BMW two-litre team and Wayne Gardner's V8 touring car team.

He eventually joined Ford Performance Racing (FPR) as Commercial Manager in 2005 and then took up the role of General Manager of Ford Performance Vehicles where he had a major influence on product development and marketing. During these years Barrett also followed his passion as a racer in production car and V8 ute events as well as being involved on the management side of grassroots competition like Formula Ford.

Rod excelled at motorsport nights where his skills as an interviewer were second to none. His knowledge and love of the sport, combined with a relaxed style and deadly sense of humour, was a rare combination that made you want to listen to him all night.

The EODC offers their condolences to Rod's son Luke and family.



VALE BRUCE WENT

Bruce passed away on the 1st of July 2018. He was a bedrock of grass roots motorsport in Adelaide from the 1950's onwards, and a life member of the Austin 7 Club. Bruce knew **GARRIE COOPER** from primary school and contacted him with a view to hotting up the engine an Austin 7 station wagon in 1955, which they did. He was also one the "original six" with the Streamliner project no less! In 1959 Garrie started to build the first of those Streamliners - one for himself, one for Bruce, Rob Brosnan, Murray Lewis, Peter Wilkinson and Russ Court.



In an interview in 1980 Bruce advised that the Streamliners were supplied as a kit and fitted with a motor and gear box of your own choice, initially a side valve Ford 10 motor and transmission. As such they were quite fast, doing 110 mph with acceleration to match and (for that time) excellent handling qualities. Bruce described being held up behind an Austin Healy going through the esses at Pork Wakefield the very first time he drove the track,

"I couldn't understand why he was going so slowly through the corners. Tyres (on the Streamliner) were standard road tread and they lasted for the four years that I owned and raced the car."

"I made quite a few modifications to the Elfin, the first of these was to install a 1.8 litre Ford Consul motor and Morris 10 gearbox, and of course the car then needed better brakes, so I fitted disc brakes to the front, I made the discs myself from mild steel plate and they were quite satisfactory"

Bruce was perhaps the greatest PMG Man ever, mild mannered Post Master General man by day, incognito hero of Elfin Racing Car wiring by night.... Years ago when handed the photo of him wiring up a Clubman, he said "How do you know that's me, I was only there at night?" Gone but not forgotten.

The EODC sends our condolences to the Went family. **JAMES LAMBERT**

PHOTOS WANTED:

Grant Craft has purchased SS69-10 from Phil Segat who had owned the car for over 30 years. The car is currently in Hobart, in the custody of resident magician Denis Cooper, who is returning the car to the form it ran in when new. Denis seeks any photos of the engine bay of this car, or of any other Elfin 300's to ensure he puts A,B & C, where A,B & C are meant to go. This car has a fine pedigree being first owned by **MALCOLM RAMSAY**, then being used by **PHIL MOORE** to come second in the 1970 Sports Car Championship, with a twin cam no less.





2020 AGP ELFIN BBQ

Our Grand Prix barbeque will be held at the Elfin Heritage Centre, 29 Capella Crescent, Moorabbin.

Date: Friday, March 13rd

Time: 6:30pm onwards

Cost: Free for current financial members and their partners,
\$20 per head for visitors.

It's a great way to get into the Grand Prix spirit, enjoy master chef Arthur's culinary delights and share an opportunity to catch up with other members at this fabulous venue. The cars on display are pretty good too!



**FOR CATERING PURPOSES PLEASE
LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING.**

Please contact Cheryl on 0419 581 815, or email reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au

DAVID DOWSEY

(author of ELFIN - The Spirit of Speed)

will be in attendance to sign copies of the book .



2020 EODC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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wish to renew my annual membership of the EODC for 2020.

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I enclose cheque for \$25 (no cash please)

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ELFIN OWNERS AND DRIVERS CLUB INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Postcode.....Fax No.....Mobile No

Phone No.....(home)(work)

Email.....

I am an owner/ex-owner/entrant/driver/mechanic/enthusiast of Elfin cars. (Please circle)

CAR.....YEAR OF MANUFACTURE.....

CATEGORY.....CAPACITY.....

ENGINE.....ENGINE NO.....

CHASSIS NO.....COLOUR.....

Any other significant mechanical details?

- HISTORY OF CAR -

EVENTS CONTESTED (include results and dates)

PREVIOUS OWNERS (and years)

◆◆◆ Please include a photograph of your car ◆◆◆

I wish to become a member of the Elfin Owners and Drivers Club, and

☐ have enclosed a cheque for \$25 - membership fee (no cash please).

☐ have paid my membership via direct credit -

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THE SPIRIT OF SPEED

- ▶ A book on an epic scale worthy of Garrie Cooper!
- ▶ Four years in the making from exhaustive research!
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"Ultimately Elfin The Spirit of Speed is about life, it's about birth and death, growth and decay. It's about all the things that make life worth living, and all the hellish things too." **John Bowe**

SPECIFICATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2019 ELFIN | The Spirit of Speed | WEIGHT | 5 kgs |
| SIZE | 290 x 270 x 55 mm | BUILD | 1350 limited print run |
| CAPACITY | 704 pages | OPTIONS | Standard, Limited & Ultimate Editions |

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