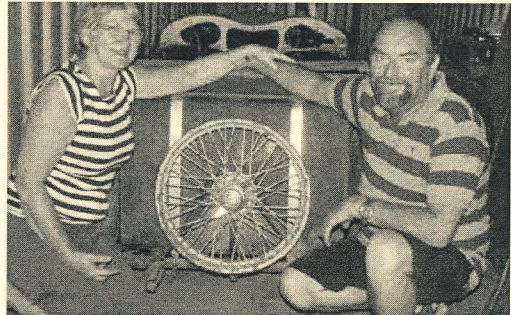


New to the Register - TA1536

It is always exciting when a car new to our Register is "discovered". TA1536 is one such car, discovered earlier this year when Jacqui and Ray Mutton started asking questions on the internet about the car they had owned for decades. They, of course, knew the car was never "lost" and don't understand what the fuss is all about! Here they share their story...

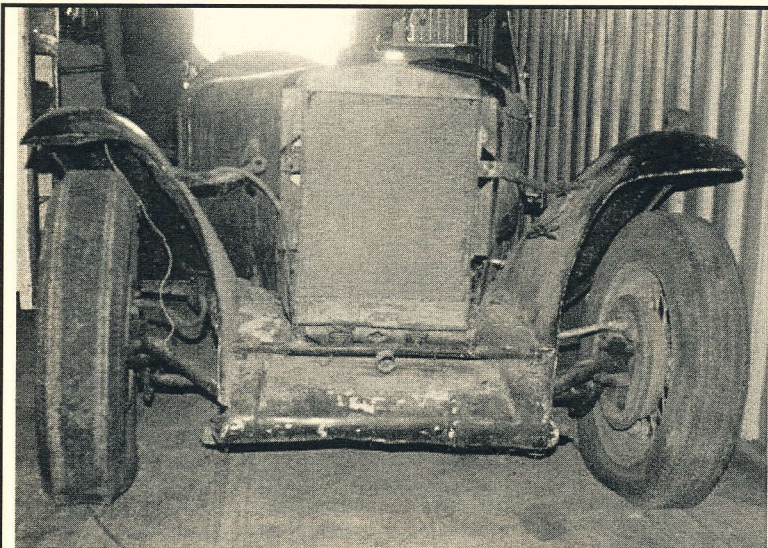
"Oh my! It says TA not TB! It, it,.....it says TA1536!" came the excited call from my husband, lying under our mystery MG, armed with rag, degreaser and emery paper.

It all began when, at 18 in 1968, Ray, my husband, and his brother Gavin, drove to Mundubbera, west of Bundaberg Queensland, to look at and subsequently purchase what he thought was a TB. On the way home to the property, which is about 25 miles, he 'tried it out', as you do when you're 18 and in a sports car! He was totally stoked with its speed and handling ability, easily leaving his brother in his FC Holden behind. He had great ambitions of restoring the rather sad looking body work and began pulling off lights, dash instruments and other extremities. Unfortunately for Ray, and the car, the need to work on his parents' citrus and cattle property took precedence, and so the MG was relegated to the corner of the packing shed.



Taking over the property, getting married and raising seven children, kept our girl well and truly in the background, but not forgotten! In 1986 we sold our property and moved over to the coast to try our hand at macadamia farming living in a place that struggled to contain our large family let alone an extra car, so we had to leave our MG safely tucked away in a shed. In 1993, we purchased property at Bundaberg and finally gave our girl a home with an eight bay shed. In 2007, with all children left home and spreading their wings, we decided to hitch up the camp trailer, rent out the house and see a bit of Oz. So into a 40' container went the MG and all our furniture, to remain there till 2009.

Which brings us to the present, 2012. The MG is still in the container, awaiting the cementing of the floor in our eight bay shed, and imminent retirement, ready to begin the fun part!



Light at the end of the tunnel - TA1536 emerges from storage
Photo from Jacqui Mutton

Armed with information preened out of copious copies of recently purchased MG T series books, in particular Mike Sherrell's, we found out how to find the chassis and engine numbers! And here we are - TA1536 XPAG 804!

And now, apart from the restoration process and purchasing bits and pieces, we are trying to track her history. We know from Matthew Magilton's records that she was imported new into Sydney and that her original motor was MPJG1790 and her present XPAG804 was originally in TB555. We also know that Victor Spoor, the young chap my husband bought her from, had purchased her from Boyd Rasmussen (deceased), a collector, here in Bundaberg. Apparently it was just sitting in a paddock near the airfield, bonnet high in grass. Victor turned the key and she fired up immediately. He then drove her back to Mundubbera, a distance of about 300klm away, never missing a beat.

We wonder how she got to Bundy in the first place. Also what happened to TB555 that gave birth to our XPAG engine? Hmmmm! Hopefully within the next 2 years, we too will be able to turn the key and join you good people in the pride and exhilaration of owning and driving a Pre-War MG. Since registering our magic numbers we have been thrilled to be contacted by fellow enthusiasts with warm welcomes and bits of wonderful information. We are extremely grateful and already feel like family, though we have only just begun!