

TORQUE TUBE

NEWSLETTER OF THE RILEY MOTOR CLUB QUEENSLAND INC.

JANUARY 2026



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NEXT MEETING

AGM Sunday 8 February 2026 | 38 Showgrounds Drive, Highvale

JANUARY 2026

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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy new year and welcome to 2026! I hope you all have a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling year ahead!

A lot of housekeeping at the start of the year with membership fees due and our AGM upcoming in February. Also a feature story on Willard's Farm and its link to Riley cars and our club.

If you have any items you'd like to see included in a future edition please drop me an email TorqueTube@outlook.com by the last weekend of the month!

Stay cool,
Ange Henderson
Editor

Cover image: Riley Sprite in snow courtesy of Riley Cars 1925 – 1955 Facebook Group, post author Simon Corry.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 6 January

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and coffee provided.

Tuesday 13 January

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and Coffee provided.

Tuesday 20 January

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and coffee provided.

Saturday 24 January

10:15am Caloundra Air Museum – President's Run.

Monday 26 January

6:00am - Midday Ormiston State School Car Show. Free Breakfast 7:00am.

Tuesday 27 January

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and coffee provided.

Tuesday 3 February

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and coffee provided.

Sunday 8 February 2026

Brekky Run to Bullocky's Rest
11:00am Annual General Meeting, Samford Clubhouse

Tuesday 10 February

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch and drinks. Tea and Coffee provided.

Tuesday 17 February

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and coffee provided.

Tuesday 24 February

Enthusiasts at Samford Clubhouse. BYO lunch & drinks. Tea and coffee provided.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Reminder that membership runs from 1 January – 31 December each year, meaning if you haven't yet processed your renewal, you are now overdue!

This is especially important for those with vehicles registered under the Queensland Government Special Interest Vehicle Concession Scheme (SIVS) whereby your club membership must be maintained where your vehicle is registered under this scheme.

Membership costs for 2026 are:

Membership Type	Cost
Annual Membership Fee	\$50
Family Membership Fee	\$75

The best way to renew is online at our [Riley Club Store](https://www.rileymotorclubqld.org.au/store) (<https://www.rileymotorclubqld.org.au/store>) where you can pay by Credit Card, Debit Card, or PayPal.

Alternatively you can also renew online and direct deposit as follows:

Account Name: Riley Motor Club Queensland
BSB: 633 000
Account Number: 156 635 229
Reference: Your Name

Only 40% of last year's members have renewed at the time of publication! We'd love to see you all back in 2026!

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

With the Annual General Meeting fast approaching on the 8th of February, it's time to get considering how you can help your club.

One of the key functions of the AGM is the Election of Officers. Per the updated Rules of Incorporation (our club constitution - distributed by the Secretary on 7 November 2025 by email to all members):

- The Management Committee consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer and up to 2 ordinary members;
- The Management Committee may delegate any of its powers to a sub-committee of the

Association as the Management Committee thinks fit;

- The Secretary will call for nominations at least 14 days prior to the AGM;
- A list of candidate names for each position will be posted in a conspicuous place in the usual place of meeting for at least 7 days prior to the AGM.
- At the commencement of the AGM, should there be an insufficient number of candidates nominated, nominations may be taken from the floor.
- Candidates must be over 18 years of age to be eligible for nomination.

Small clubs thrive when they have a group of interested, engaged individuals working together as part of committees for the benefit of all club members. Is this something which interests you? If so don't be afraid to nominate, even if there's already someone filling the role. It's not about offending someone, or about ego, or about conflict, it's about having a genuine conversation about who is the best candidate to help the club. And you never know who might be looking for a break! At the end of the day, we don't survive without individuals volunteering, putting their hands up, and saying "I can give that a crack"! So if that sounds like you, why not fill out a nomination form or have a chat to someone? What have you got to lose? 🤷

DI PHILLIPS

One which missed the press last month was this update on past member Di Phillips from Trevor. Those with a long association with the club will know of Ross, Di and family who were long time members and supporters of our club. Di's health has been declining in recent years, but by chance Trevor received a call which reconnected us with Di. He wrote:

"I recently got a call from the Manager of a care home in Ipswich. A resident of his facility had seen an advert for our Car Show on 5th October and knew he was trying to get a car club to bring a couple of Classic Cars for the residents to see. They had no success in asking around in the Ipswich area. When he spoke to me he said he had a lady with him who used to be a member of the Riley Motor

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Club based in Samford. Her name was Di Phillips. I immediately said YES to his request and arranged that on Monday the 3rd November that I would get 2 classic cars from the Riley Club to be at his premises at 10:30. So I arranged with Bill White to make the trip to the care home and we arrived at exactly 10:30 to be greeted by patients and their carers ready to something from their earlier life. Many knew the marques and some had relatives who had owned a Riley or a Jaguar. I even took my Kelpie called Riley and everyone loved seeing him. The manager was really grateful to bring something different to his patients and asked if we would do it again. Of course I said yes.

Di Phillips' late husband used to race a Riley-engined special and her family still have that car at her home in Ipswich and we have a photo of the car in our clubrooms at Samford. A very rewarding day enjoyed by all involved. Thanks to Bill and his immaculate black RMB, my wife Karenina and our Kelpie Riley in my Jaguar S Type."



Bill with Di Phillips and his RMB



Di with Karenina and Kelpie Riley



Trevor's S Type Jaguar



RMB, Bill, Di and the Jag

I note Ross and Di were both committee members of the club and there will be another run there planned for February, so if you are interested in saying hello to Di or helping out perhaps get in touch with Trevor.

TECH TALK

The meeting in November approved the establishment of a Riley Motor Club Queensland mailbox for the secretary (secretary@rileymotorclubqld.org.au). This has now been actioned, with Brian McMillan having access to this mailbox for official club communications.

Aside from providing a more 'reputable' address for club communications, this will allow the RMCQ to have continuity when there are changes in this important position, with the address able to be transferred from the



outgoing position holder to the incoming position holder with all contents of the mailbox maintained.

PRESIDENT'S RUN

The 2026 President's Run will be to the Queensland Air Museum, Caloundra on Saturday 24 January. Meet there 10:15am or a coordinated run from Samford for those interested. Club Captain Karen to confirm details by email closer the time.

Admission costs:

- Adult - \$25
- Concession - \$18
- Child - \$12.50
- Family (2 adults + up to 3 children) - \$60

Tickets can be bought online in advance, or at the museum on the day.

Saturday the 24th the Air Museum will include an engine run at approximately 11:00am.

'HORIZONTAL' STRIKES AGAIN!

I called on life members Brian and Lyn Jackson and daughter Cheryl recently to say hello and see how they were doing. While their health is failing them, it was quite a good day with Lyn her chipper self and Brian out of bed and quite lucid by recent standards.

We chatted with them about Brian's connection to Toogoolawah (my husband Troy's hometown) and past National Rallies. Brian recalled taking the Pathfinder across the Nullarbor to WA several years ago. He also had a good laugh when he heard that Troy and I were planning on driving the Roadster to Murray Bridge later this year! I'm not sure if I should be offended by that or not!

I couldn't help but laugh with Cheryl when Brian first joined us in the Living Room and she and nurse Jackie helped him into his favourite chair... Brian slouching there at a god-awful angle, Jackie trying to get him to 'sit up more' and Brian just giving her a gob-full telling her 'no, I'm alright, I'm comfortable like this!' Reminded me of

his old club nickname of 'Horizontal'! I couldn't help but think they were fighting a losing battle there, right from the start! 😊

WILLARD'S FARM "THE PINES"

In February, RMCQ will be assisting Redland City Council with the opening of the recently renovated, Queensland heritage listed, Willard's Farm at Birkdale by providing 6 Riley's for the day. But what is Willard's Farm, why is it significant and what do Riley's have to do with it?

Let's start with the basics and some history.

Willard's Farm is located on Old Cleveland Road East at Birkdale in Brisbane. The 45 acre parcel of land was bound by Old Cleveland Road East in the east and Tingalpa Creek in the west.

James Willard, the property's original owner, arrived in Australia from England in 1858 and worked splitting timber and fencing at Kedron Brook. He purchased the property with another man in August 1863 and lived in a hut near the creek until he built the family home using timber he removed from the block. The title transferred exclusively to Willard in 1866. The farmhouse grew in stages, along with the family (James and his wife bore 11 children!), as did the collection of outbuildings including a milking shed, cream shed, water tanks, garage, etc. The property hosted a thriving dairying and agricultural business until the passing of James and his wife in 1914 and 1916 respectively, and the property is widely regarded as one of the oldest surviving farms and residences in the Redlands and an excellent example of a nineteenth century building techniques.



James Willard and the original homestead



Following the passing of the Willard's, title transferred to one of the sons and one of the daughters, and from 1927 – 1937 it was leased to share farmers due to the difficult economic circumstances of the time. The Toms family resided there in the 1930s and they were the ones who adopted the name 'The Pines' for the property.

In 1938 the next generation of Willard's sold the property, before the property was sold again to the Cotton family in June 1941. Douglas Cotton, the son of AJ Cotton – one of Queensland's biggest pastoralists, and his wife Rosemary held the property until 1980.

In 1943 most of the land behind Willard's Farm was requisitioned by the US Army for a Communications Centre and it was used as a US Army Radio Receiving Station during World War II. It is likely that the message from General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, announcing surrender of the Japanese on 2 September 1945 was received at this station before being transmitted to the Brisbane Signal Centre.

Following the war, Douglas Cotton purchased a Riley RMA 1½ and here is where our Riley story really begins. The car became the family car driven by wife Rosemary, and son Tony, a friend of Secretary Brian Mc, grew up at the property and learnt to drive in the RMA there. With the RMA being used for family purposes, Douglas went on to buy an RMB 2½ for himself and they became a dual Riley household! When the time came, Tony also purchased a Riley and a strong bond between family and marque was formed!

After the Cotton's and a short spell in the hand's of others, the property was then purchased by early RMCQ member and past President Neal Brandt and wife Esmai and they lived there until their passing in 2013. Neal had a number of Riley's during his time there including a Drophead (which is now owned by Peter Lee), an RMB and a fabric-bodied Brooklands Special project car (Neal also had a Riley V8 engine at the property amidst some past club controversy!).

While Tony notes the Cotton Riley's were always parked in a shed, Brian recalls the Brandt Riley's being parked in the bails (milking shed) when he'd visit.

Following widespread community support, the property was purchased by Redlands City Council in 2016 in order to save it from demolition, and invested \$5.06M in the restoration of the homestead and buildings as part of the [Birkdale Community Precinct](#). The restoration of the farmhouse and outbuildings are complete as part of the first stage of development of the precinct, with work progressing on the landscaping and public amenities at the site. In future years the site is also slated to house the Redlands Whitewater Centre, an Olympic-standard whitewater facility and potential competition venue for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which is currently undergoing project validation assessment. There are some



The restored Willard Farmhouse

fabulous videos available via the link above regarding the restoration of the property.

The public reopening of Willard's Farm is planned for February 2026, and the Riley Club, through Brian McMillan, has been invited to take part in the opening. When you know a bit of the history, I think that seems quite fitting don't you?

Those interested in bringing their Riley to the event are asked to nominate with Brian, and other members are also welcome to attend. Further information will be provided once they become available.



Tony Cotton on right at recent Marberg run

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CARS FOR SALE VIA RMCQ WEBSITE



1951 Riley RMA Saloon | \$18,000

Very good condition and with full history back to the original owner in 1951.

Restored in 1997 by a Queensland Riley Club member and has done very few miles by subsequent owners. Believed to be very low original mileage on speedo.

It has been professionally detailed recently to bring its external appearance up to equal that of the very sound wood coachwork. Very sporty and well-balanced car to drive.

Currently fully registered in Queensland on personalised plates 'RLY 51'

Please contact Raneet on 0406 900 664.



RMB Project | \$5,000 ONO

Please call Richard on 0407 565 844

Vehicle located in Peeramon Qld (near Atherton)

For more photos, visit the 'Qld Cars for Sale' page of the website: www.rileymotorclubqld.org.au.

SEEN ONLINE

Note: Cars and items available at the time of publishing – vehicles and items listed here may be sold or delisted at any time



carsales
1951 Riley RMB Saloon
\$22,500
VIC



carsales
1950 Riley RMA Saloon
\$15,000
WA



carsales
1954 Riley RME Saloon
\$18,000
QLD



JUST CARS
1936 Riley Falcon Saloon
\$18,000
NSW

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★ NEW
JUST CARS

1933 Riley Special

\$49,999

📍 SA



JUST CARS

1952 Riley RMB Saloon

\$12,500

📍 VIC



JUST CARS

1949 Riley RMA Saloon

\$19,900

📍 NSW



JUST CARS

1951 Riley RMA Saloon

\$14,000

📍 QLD



JUST CARS

1950 Riley RMB Saloon

\$19,500

📍 SA



JUST CARS

1951 Riley RMB Saloon

\$22,500

📍 WA



JUST CARS

1959 Riley 4/68 Series Nine

\$16,000

📍 NSW



JUST CARS

1950 Riley RMA Saloon

Project

\$6,000

📍 VIC



JUST CARS

1950 Riley RMA Saloon

\$15,000

📍 VIC



JUST CARS

2 x 1950 Riley RMB Saloon

Project

\$5,000

📍 QLD



JUST CARS

1967 Riley Elf Project

\$4,500

📍 TAS



Facebook Marketplace

1951 Riley RMA Saloon

\$21,000

📍 QLD



★ NEW



Facebook Marketplace

1950 Riley RMB Saloon

\$14,000

📍 QLD



Facebook Marketplace

1951 Riley RMA Saloon

\$14,000

📍 QLD



Facebook Marketplace

1950 Riley RMA Saloon

Project

\$5,000

📍 QLD



Nomination for Office

Annual General Meeting of the Association

February 2026

Nomination Details

Nominee Full Name	
Position Nominated For	
Nominee Declaration	I agree to the above-mentioned nomination and understand the responsibilities of this position. I declare that I meet the requirements of Section 61A of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.
Nominee Signature	
Date	
Proposed By (Full Name)	
Date	
Seconded By (Full Name)	
Date	

Office Use

Date Nomination Received	
Financial Status	Financial Unfinancial
Received By (Full Name)	
Received By (Signature)	

Please forward all nominations to the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the Annual General Meeting date. If a position receives no nominations by the date of the AGM, nominations will be taken from the floor.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
President	Trevor Taylor	 
Secretary	Brian McMillan	  secretary@rileymotorclubqld.org.au
Treasurer	Lynne De Groot	 

SUB-COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Vice President	Mark Baldock	 
Club Captain	Karen Heffernan	 
Spare Parts Officer	David Maudsley	 
Editor	Angela Henderson	  TorqueTube@outlook.com
Webmaster	Peter Schwenderling	 
Assistant Spare Parts	Mike Bramwell	 
Registrar & Membership	Ian Henderson	 
Librarian	John Hansford	 
Shed Coordinator	Trevor Taylor	 

