

E, F & GT Register Meeting at Geoff Mockford's



The business as it appeared last century – colour added to a black and white photograph



And as it appears 113 years later...

E, F & GT Register Meeting (cont)

The August meeting of the E, F and GT Register was held at Classic and Sports Car Boutique, the business owned by Club Member and Technical Officer – Geoff Mockford. The workshop at 126 Sydenham Road, Norwood was established in 1912 as a service station and remains the longest continuously operating workshop of its type in South Australia.

The meeting kicked off at 7:30pm and Register Secretary - Suzanne Jarvis welcomed numerous new members as well as the President and Editor. She also mentioned that Fred will be stepping down as President at the next Annual General Meeting and he received a large round of applause.

Suzanne reminded members that the position of Register Secretary is open. Should anyone be interested, significant support will be provided. A comprehensive Register Secretary Management Guideline document has been written and a suite of precedent documents will be provided to anyone wishing to take on the role. Such information will include pro-forma meeting agendas and reports, run sheets, forms, spreadsheets and the like.

The 'job' can be very rewarding one.

It was also mentioned that Geoff's head mechanic Steve Moule, who was present, had worked continuously at the business for forty-six, yes 46 years to the day. A round of applause was provided for such a remarkable achievement.

Suzanne then handed over to Geoff who provided the members with a summary of his career in the automotive industry.

Geoff described how he was born in England and his father was a mechanic who worked on various marques including Jaguars. His interest therefore developed at an early age and he recounted an occasion when his father had to take a Rolls Royce to Brighton. He picked up Geoff from school in it, much to the envy of his fellow students.

After immigrating to Australia and finishing his 2nd year at high school, Geoff started writing letters to various automotive businesses seeking an apprenticeship.



Geoff addressing some of the 40 members that attended the meeting.



One thing you can count on at an E F & GT Meeting is plenty of food and alcohol

E, F & GT Register Meeting (cont)

Claude Sawley, an ex Spitfire pilot who owned “*Castle Motors*” at Norwood, took Geoff on. There were 5 or 6 mechanics on duty and Geoff’s knowledge gained pace.

A move to Bryson Industries enabled Geoff to learn even more from a team of very experienced staff and in his 3rd year, he studied Auto Electrics and Transmissions as post trade courses.

In those days Brysons had an excellent rapport with customers, many of whom were farmers and their cars were picked up at Gepps Cross for servicing as the owners were reluctant to drive into the city.

Unfortunately, a move to West Terrace was detrimental and the atmosphere changed completely. Many of the original Bryson employees were made redundant.

Geoff eventually left and became the service manager for “*Prestige Car Sales*” of Walkerville.

Geoff was proud when in 1987 the business won the State Service Excellence Award, and then in 1989 they won the National Services Excellence award which was repeated for three years.

After this, with a partner, Geoff established “*Sovereign Auto Service*” where he remained active until he bought “*Classic and Sports Car Boutique*”.

At the end of his summary, Geoff then announced that he had recently been in the UK and had negotiated to become the National distributor for “*Holden Vintage and Classic*”. [Nothing to do with Holden cars].

This company was originally founded in 1988 as a Lucas electrical parts specialist, re-purposing existing Lucas tooling to manufacture period automotive parts for classic cars and motorcycles. Today, Holden Vintage & Classic continues to be a leading authority on Lucas parts with a library of historical documents and diagrams and a wide range of classic and

modern Lucas parts for Aston Martin, Caterham, Jaguar, Triumph, Mini and other leading marques. The business is part of the SNG Barratt Group with whom most members would be familiar.

This significant event will require the Sydenham Road front section of the workshop to be refurbished as a sales and showroom area. The renovations will be sympathetic to the era of the building.

As a finale, Geoff gave a practical demonstration of the installation of a rear main bearing rope seal.

Many thanks to Geoff and Steve who went to great lengths to prepare the workshop for the meeting. The numbers who attended was testimony to the appreciation. Thanks also to all members who attended.

END

Peter Thomas



Geoff demonstrating the installation of a rear main bearing rope seal.