

Wenona School SMM Restoration Project - Progress Report

From Les Whale

As noted in last year's July-August edition of *Minor Torque*, the third restoration project by the girls at Wenona School in North Sydney ran into some problems. After it came back from the sandblaster, it had been shot full of holes just about everywhere, with the blaster having used a heavy garnet as the medium.

The required welding repairs were beyond the capability of the two volunteer fathers who were helping the girls with the project, so quotes were obtained from specialists, which came in at \$10K, and another for \$7K.

Meanwhile the School had bought many of the parts needed for the complete resto, including later model running gear and wheels, replacement floor panels and chassis rail, and a complete upholstery kit from Newton Commercial. Unsurprisingly, the School Principal was unwilling to



Stuart Treuer - man on a mission

authorise the huge extra expenditure for the welding repairs above what had already been spent, and instructed that the car and parts be sold, and a new project started. That's when the SOS call came to our Club – did we know anyone who might like to buy the project?

We advised that they would be better served financially by continuing the project, and we would seek volunteer assistance for the welding. This resulted in Stuart Treuer volunteering his skill and expertise, with Les Whale as his labourer. Fortunately, Stuart had a narrow window of opportunity between a change in jobs in September, so with the replacement panels already there, work was commenced. There was the advantage that the car had been set up on a rotisserie, making work much easier than Stuart had previously undertaken, and the car was located in a new shed with power laid on. Two full days were put in – every time something was cut out, more holes were found, so more days were needed to finish off!



Before: Morris chassis - Swiss cheese!



After: Stuart strikes again.



Where's the floor?
And more Swiss cheese!

Lowlight at that!) back on the road – as well as helping young people to learn new skills and, hopefully, to fall in love with Morris Minors in the process.

PS If any members have some time to spare on Monday and Friday afternoons after school (during school terms) to assist and guide the girls, they would be welcome at the school. Contact Les for details.

It wasn't until late October that another full Saturday was spent, with a few areas that needed some metal folding up still to complete. As for the holes above and below the rear window, a complete replacement section was deemed the easiest and best solution here, so the call went out for this section. On November 24 another full day was put in at Wenona, which involved doing the front crossmember repair and completing all the welds where sections had previously been skipped. All done except that rear window!

Colin Trusler offered a rear window surround, but it was cut a bit tight at the bottom; subsequently Ray Selby was able to cut the window section out of a body about to go to the metal man, and donate this for the car. This will be welded in after school recommences this year. The rear guards and boot lid were also badly holed, and so replacements have been provided by Club members. All this will enable the girls to continue on with the project which had been stalled for 6 months.

Thanks need to go to Stuart in particular, for his time, effort and expertise – all in the name of getting another Morrie (and a 1950 SMM



Voila, a floor!
And no more cheese...

Check out the quantity *and* quality of welding



Who is that masked man?