

## Sydney

Hello fellow Morris Minorists and Happy New Year!

As a relatively new member to the club, I have taken on the role of the Sydney region co-ordinator this year.

I know the calendar of events might look a little bare in places at the moment, but I hope (with the right direction, encouragement and help) that I can contribute by filling it up so that we can make the most of this year.

I remember when we would go and visit Nan, she would let me sit in the driver's seat. With her in the passengers seat we'd go on many 'pretend drives' all over the place, picking up family and friends and having a great old time laughing and singing in her little blue Morris Minor 1000.

As I grew older, I was allowed to reverse the car out of the garage. I would wash it for her in the driveway, making sure to blacken the tyres as well, then carefully



I have already received some good suggestions from a few members and am also looking forward to chatting with the other regional co-ordinators to try and get some more combined events on the list.

Who is this guy (you might be asking), well let me share a little of my story, if you will...

My name is David Bursill and I was born and raised in the inner west of Sydney. I can recall, at a very young age, being fascinated with my Nan's little blue car.

drive it back in and line it up so that it was perfectly positioned over the old baking tray on the garage floor, to catch the oil drips.

Sadly, my Nan was soon unable to drive her little blue car any more and it sat in the garage all alone. Somehow (and my memory won't recall exactly how) but her little blue Morris Minor 1000 ended up at our house and then soon after Nan passed away, it was transferred into my name.

I loved my little blue Morris Minor 1000 and drove it to school and back as soon as I had my license. Some safety gear



New home in my garage

was added (Major brakes and a brake booster, as well as seat-belts). I would wash it and shine it up (making sure to blacken the tyres) and spend some considerable time just looking at it, admiring it.

Dad and I joined the Morris Minor Car Club of NSW when the meetings were held at Croydon Park (as member no. 486) and I remember some of the names of people back then who are still current members of the club today! I went to one outing at Warragamba Dam where I won a prize for... wait for it... the blackest tyres (I knew all that hard work would pay off one day).

As a young fella in my 20's I felt that I needed something a bit newer, with a bit more pace, so I acquired a 1975 Mini, but in no way was I going to get rid of my Nan's little blue Morris Minor 1000.

We stopped going to the club meetings, I cancelled the rego, returned (one of) the plates, and moved it to the carport of the family home, where it sat for several years. Gladly, Dad would occasionally start it up or give it a wash, and report back to me (I'd moved out by then and left the car behind), which always brought a smile to my face - one day (I'd think to myself)...

Many years (and cars) went by, and I was engaged to be married. With less than a year to go until the big day I decided to join the club again (member number 913) with the hopes of getting the car ready to use at our wedding, but that was not to happen (as it turns out, I was quite lazy). And so, my membership lapsed, and the little blue Morris Minor 1000 remained under the carport at the family home.

Then, sometime in 2011, it was trailered from the family home to my family home, where it sat in the garage for the next 8 years, every now and again being 'pushed' out and washed, then pushed back in and covered up again. Mostly just being looked at, and admired.

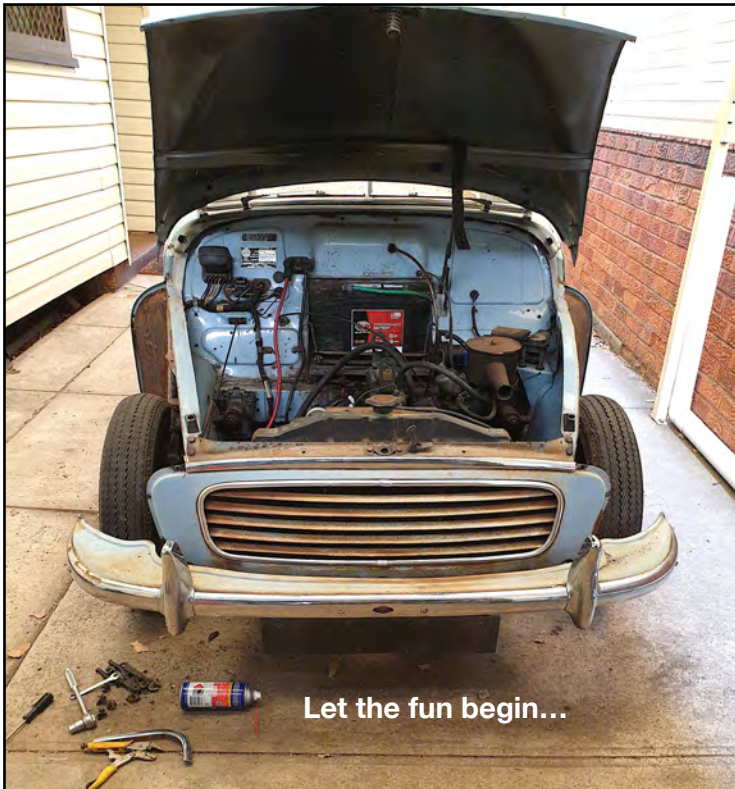
Mid last year I had had enough, it was time, so I re-joined the club, ready to be motivated. After going to several meetings and chatting with various people, I was getting more and more excited about driving my little blue Morris Minor 1000 again, but with having no knowledge of whether the condition was 'the worst anyone has ever



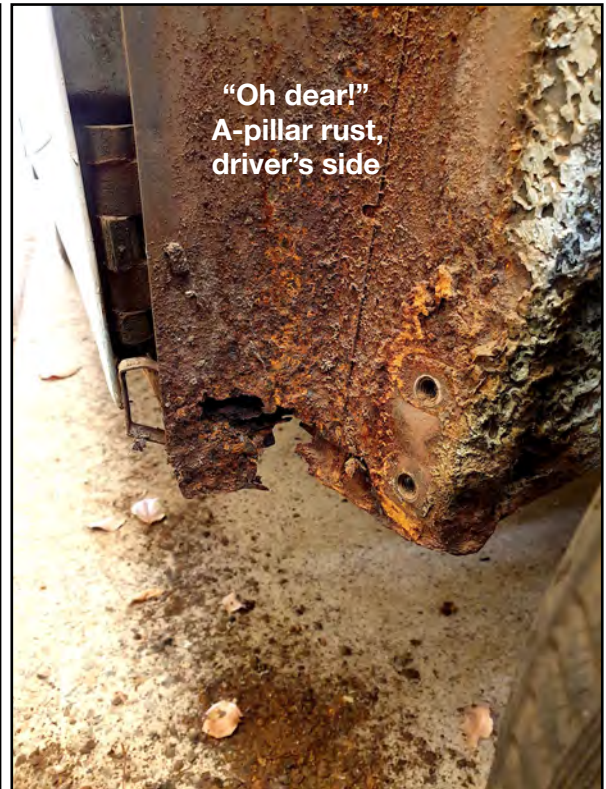
Sitting and dreaming...



Having a wash at home before being pushed back into the garage



Let the fun begin...



"Oh dear!"  
A-pillar rust,  
driver's side

seen' or 'nothing to worry too much about', I started showing some pictures and getting some advice.

I am no-where near close to driving it yet but I am on my way. With some hands-on help and lots of encouragement from the friendly members of the club, I can finally see the dim glow of the light at the end of the tunnel.

I am very much looking forward to taking my family for a drive in it, soon...

My Nan's (my) little blue Morris Minor 1000 is a 1960 model 4 door saloon, Sky

Blue 3 in colour. Nan purchased the car when it was only 3 months old (I still have the original receipt). It has not quite 55,000 genuine miles on the clock, having travelled to Melbourne and back once, and for most of its early life transporting Nan and her sister from their house in Five Dock to the local bowling club, the local shops, and back.

Cheers,  
David Bursill