

Mazengarb Surprise

Let's try to be honest here: how often have you heard of the word 'Mazengarb'? Before you read about the Barry Sainsbury story in the Jan-Feb 2022 edition of *Minor Torque*? For me, never - and I suspect that would be the answer for most readers.

So, on a recent tour to northern NSW (see *Minor Minis* this issue) with my brother and our wives, to my utter amazement, I stumbled upon... a Mazengarb head!

Sydney to Maclean was the first leg of our journey (in that horrendous rain, in a Morris Minor, 650km!). The next morning, on the way to a well-earned breakfast in Maclean, we drove past a Morrie Van, so being the editor I stopped for a photo, with the thought of dropping in to chat to the van's owner later in the day. Later, the van wasn't there, so I knocked anyway...

"That was my mate's van" was the answer I received, thinking I had just wasted my time re a story. "But I have a Morrie with a Mazengarb head." "Huh? What?? A Mazengarb head???" I had only heard of Mazengarb a few months earlier, and here I was in Maclean on the far north coast of NSW, talking to a total stranger about Mazengarb heads.

The total stranger was Dale Collins - and what a tale he had to tell... His father bought the BMC dealership in Maclean in 1955, when Dale was an apprentice mechanic, and Dale took over ownership when his father passed away in 1973.

Bill Petrie was the original owner of the Minor, a 1950 MM, and when he traded it in on a Morris 1100 at Easter 1970, Dale bought it - and has owned it ever since. Dale fully restored it in 1975.

"The Mazengarb head went in in 1951, bought from western Sydney, near Penrith, for a cost of 50 pounds. It made a difference!" admitted Dale. And what a sight it was, my first ever view of a Mazengarb head. Don't ever hesitate to knock on the door of a Morris Minor owner, you might be surprised with the outcome.

Owen Sinden



On the way to breakfast in Maclean...



1950 MM was in excellent condition



Once seen, never forgotten: the Mazengarb head

